

River Run

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Young River People's Council Newsletter



YRPC attends UNITY Conference in Denver CO.

This July we have been lucky enough to travel to Denver, Colorado for the annual UNITY conference. This conference is always a joy for us because we make so many connections with native youth across the country and we gain experiences that empower us for the future. During the conference there was a culture night, where youth councils were able to share their cultures. Every year the four tribes work together for one big presentation of O'Odham culture. Salt River shared the swing dance and featured our hand made sticks. UNITY is a great time for us to get to know our sister tribes. Our dances and songs are beautiful when we perform together. During the conference we attend different workshops to learn about many topics that affect native country. This year we hosted our own workshop entitled, "How to address substance abuse in your community". We had a pretty big turnout. First we had an icebreaker to hear everyone's perspective, thoughts, and experiences with substance abuse. Then we had them break off in to groups to plan an event that they would like to host in their community to bring awareness on this subject. There were many great ideas and we encouraged them to use these plans in their own communities.

UNITY for me has always been an amazing experience because we get to meet new people and network with other Tribes from around the Country. At this conference I ran for the National UNITY Council to represent the Western region. Unfortunately I did not get the position, but I'm going to take what I learned and run again next year! I enjoyed hosting a workshop and I enjoyed watching other youth council's work together. — **Ramon Lopez**

I learned about leadership roles that I can have within our community. I'm going to try to apply everything I learned into youth council and even possibly take more leadership roles in the community and within my school. — **Sialik King**

Being the female representative for the Young River People's Council was an honor. I attended the business meeting where we voted for the National UNITY Council Western Representative, National UNITY Council Co-Presidents and gave an update on our Youth Council activities. I learned that the UNITY conference is a place where all Native Youth are brought together in a positive environment. I hope YRPC can host more youth events to help distract them from substance abuse and negative environments in our Community. — **Gabriela Fulwilder**



YRPC Identifies Need for a Preservation Ordinance

Earlier this year YRPC was informed by a community member that the Saguaro Cactus was being mistreated in the Community. They also learned there is no ordinance in the Community to protect the Saguaro cactus. This information was alarming to the YRPC, because the Saguaro cactus has been used by our people for a very long time as a source of food and living. As a result, they would like to create an ordinance to protect the saguaro cactus from further mistreatment.



New Pathways for Seniors and Youth Ron Carlos Teaches Pottery Class

President Ray has encouraged YRPC to collaborate with the seniors of the Community . With the assistance of Senior Services, they have been able to spend time with the seniors and share. Currently they are working with community artist, Ron Carlos, to make pottery. So far these collaborations with the seniors have been a success and they hope to make new connections with the Community seniors.



YRPC helps with Earth Day

This year YRPC participated in the community earth day event by helping build a Vato next to the museum. They also helped with the face painting, planting, and Paper Mache planter booth. While it was very hot that day, Ramon Lopez still suited up to be this year's Enviro-Boy. Overall it was a fun day for the YRPC. With all the activities they were happy to help out.



Feeding the Hungry Around the World

YRPC volunteered to package food for starving children that will be sent to other Countries. As a team building activity the YRPC prepared packages of rice that included vegetables, chicken stock and soy. This day there were many youth groups from the East Valley that also volunteered to package food. The YRPC hopes the food packages will feed many needy children.