

# River Run

December 2017 Vol. 7



## Young River People's Council Newsletter



**L to R: Alyssa Andrews, Elias Fulwilder, Sommer Lopez, Nalani Lopez and Ky-Mani Harney**

In December, YRPC held their annual elections. All positions were filled by members and all ran unopposed. Results are :

**President– Sommer Lopez**

**Vice President– Alyssa Andrews**

**Clerical Secretary– Nalani Lopez**

**Correspondent Secretary– Ky –Mani Harney**

**Treasurer– Elias Fulwilder**

**\*Photo credit: Daniel Martinez**

On Dec. 3rd, the YRPC hosted a Toka tournament along with the Salt River Toka team. Our tournament had a great turnout. I was happy to see many teams from the 4 sister Tribes. My favorite part was gifting the winners and teams with gourd dolls and gift baskets. During the game, I had broke my stick and my sister, Sommer gave me hers so I could continue to play. I'm glad we have that kind of special bond! We had a good turn out and I hope we can host another tournament in the future.—**Nalani Lopez**



**YRPC Toka Team**



**1st place team**



**Gourd Trophies**



**YRPC doing Stick Dance**



On Dec. 8th, the YRPC was asked to share some O’odham songs and dances at the Pueblo Grande Museum. As we shared the swing dance, the Gila River Youth Council helped us sing. It was nice to share a bit of our culture with others. During the event, they served different kinds of Native American traditional foods. Overall, it was an enjoyable night filled with culture, food and friends.—**Alyssa Andrews**

On Dec. 28th, our Youth Council travelled to Sells AZ, to the Tohono O’odham Cultural Museum. We had a late Christmas party with the sister Tribe Youth Councils. It was very fun, we played musical chairs (which Salt River won), ate lunch, played O’odham bingo and danced together. It was a great bonding experience for our youth council and we are very thankful for the Tohono O’odham Nation Youth Council for their hospitality this year. - **Sommer Lopez**



**Christmas Dinner hosted by the Tohono O’odham Nation Youth Council**



**YRPC Making Traditional Dresses**

The days leading up to the 2018 Young River People’s Council Inauguration, the youth made their own traditional dresses and shirts. Thank you, Valerie Lewis and parents who came to help the ladies get their dresses finished on time. Special thank you to Ramon for making Eli’s shirt and a special thank you to Ky-Mani for making Gabriela’s dress. Thank you Cultural Resources for allowing us to use the building. We pulled it all together like family does! -**Christine Porter**



**Christmas Celebration**

For our Youth Council Christmas party, we chose to have a fancy dinner at the Olive Garden. We had a good time with each other and talked about our family Christmas traditions. Afterwards, we went to the Phoenix Zoo Lights and had hot chocolate. We had some memorable times together and even got a picture with Santa Clause! - **Ky-Mani Harney**

**\*For questions about joining the Young River People’s Council please email Christine Porter at [Christine.porter@srmic-nsn.gov](mailto:Christine.porter@srmic-nsn.gov) or call 480-362-7527.**  
**Facebook @Young River People’s Council—YRPC**

Thank you Salt River Police Department for helping us prepare for Legislative Day! We had a chance to sit and brainstorm ideas on ways to address substance abuse during Legislative Day and how to bring substance abuse awareness to Salt River.