The National’s Yavapai- Apache culture department visited with tourists at the Montezuma Castle on Saturday, November 5.

This was an opportunity to share with the public the special songs and dances of the Yavapai and Apache people of the Nation. Troy Kasa, traditional Yavapai, led the youth in singing traditional Bird Dance songs as the girls danced to the rhythm of the songs and guards.

Delmaundo Cellgrass, traditional Apache singer from Middle Verde, Ethan Lewis-Beauty and brother, Joshua, Ethan Beauty, singers shared with the audience the songs and drumbeat of the Apache people. The voices echoed off of the canyon walls. "A lot of our dances we kids aren’t suppose to do-do the medicine man voices taught us and it took a long time to learn..." said Cellgrass. "The drum is our heartbeat, our body, the skin (on top of the drum) is our sticks... the stick (drum) is our bones and the boom that you hear from the drum is our heartbeat."

Donna Nightpipe, Yavapai Apache basket weaver also demonstrated her art of basket making in front of tourists.

The girls from the Nation take time for a photo at Montezuma Castle who watched close by as Nightpipe, who is considered master basketweaver in Yavapai and Apache country, talked about the special plants that are used in basket making.

Interestsingly, Nightpipe sold a basket during this event.

Reba Franco, Yavapai culture specialist and Troy Kasa work closely with the Nation’s youth.

The Nation’s Yavapai-Apache flag was shown by a skycam video from the sacred grounds, the Lakota people.

Mrs. Erin Ortega said that the local people at the gathering started they had never seen so many pipe carriers in one place at the same time in the history of the Lakota people.

Mrs. Ortega said that after their arrival at the sacred grounds, the runners and their guides were shown by a skycam video from the sacred grounds, the Lakota people.

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This memorable tour was sponsored by the National Park Service and the Native American Heritage Week held this time of the year.

There is no admission fees for Nation’s members visiting Montezuma Castle.