

COMMUNITY NEWS

News from the summer recreation program

BY MINA EPPINGER,
Recreation Manager

This year's Summer Youth Program has been one for the books as our Recreation Department has partnered with a variety of Departments and organizations for the youth. As the previous year, we have divided our Summer Program up into four age groups: 5-7, 8-10, 11-13 and 14-18. While we still provided our daily crafts and gym activities, our goal this year as a department was to provide a balance of fun and learning to the youth.

Our first partnership was with the Agriculture Department and we went over to the Cloverleaf Farm and Ranch to begin the day, we got to indulge in zucchini pancakes made by the Agriculture Staff. The kids had the chance to walk through the garden and to pick a couple of squash to take home. The kids also got to check out the new chicken coop and the opportunity to hold and interact with the chickens and the geese.

The kids were so excited that they didn't want to leave! To end the visit with the department, they made "the life cycle of a chicken" crafts, which told the kids the four changes in a chicken's life cycle and their importance to us in each stage.

We also had the chance to work with our Utilities Department, where Marti Blad and her Youth worker came out to teach the kids the importance of knowing what to flush and what not to flush down the toilet. The kids gained a better insight into the details of the job and how our clean water system works through a hands-on demonstration of cleaning river water with coffee filters, sand, water and Alum.

We had the opportunity to have Reba Franco visit from Yavapai Culture to provide crafts for the kids. Each child had the chance to weave their own cradleboard with a simple cross-stitch pattern. This craft taught the children patience, as it was not a craft where they could rush through. We also got to work with the Wellness Department who provided head checks for the kids to ensure safety for all as well as teaching the kids to make their own healthy snacks. The kids made "healthy burritos" out of wheat tortillas, all natural peanut butter and sliced bananas, and to wash it down, the kids enjoyed red berry juice mixed with apple juice which they enjoyed with a smile. To show the kids where the red berries were from, the Wellness Department took the kids out to pick the red berries off the bush by the Marketplace. They demonstrated how

to make the juice so that the kids could go home and make the recipe themselves.

And lastly, through the Higher Education Department we partnered with Yavapai College- Clarkdale Campus, who hosted a college course for the kids ages 11-13. In this course, the kids studied Geology on Tuesday, July 11th and 13th. The first day of class was hosted in the classroom, where the kids learned about when the Earth was first created and the different types of rocks. The second day of class was a "lab day," where the instructor took us and the kids out to Sedona on a hike to see first-hand the variety of rocks and the layers of rocks that we have in our "backyard." The kids had a chance to sketch the various mountains and explain the type of rock it is and they learned why the rocks are red in Sedona.

On the fun side of recreation, we took a series of field trips with the kids. We went to Stratum Laser Tag in Mesa with the second and third age groups. We also went to Harkins Theatres to watch Cars 3, Transformers 3 and Despicable Me 3. To keep cool in the increasing heat and humidity, we cooled down at the CV Heritage Pool, Beaver Creek, Tuzigoot, Slide Rock and Fossil Creek. With our teens, we will be going to watch Spiderman, go-kart racing at K1 speedway in Phoenix and other fun activities!

To end our summer, we will be going to Big Surf! with all of our Summer Youth kids on July 27th. As a manager of our tribal youth, the highlight of this summer was watching our kids come together for community member Shaq Watahomigie who had recently been a victim of a hit and run. Our summer youth kids hosted a car wash and Lunch Plate Fundraiser in which we raised \$923 and every penny was donated to him.

This has definitely been a great summer as we had so much fun engaging and interacting with so many people along the way. The Recreation Department will be closed from July 31st to August 4th to prepare for our after-school program with shopping and re-decorating, however our office will remain open. Our Afterschool program will begin on August 7th in Middle Verde and Clarkdale.

I'd like to say good luck to our youth in their upcoming school year and remember to study hard!

Photos courtesy of recreation department



The 'outdoor experience' in Sedona, Arizona with YAN teens and Yavapai College



Checking the terrain out with YAN summer recreation program participants in Sedona with Yavapai College teacher.

Yavapai College Culinary & Hospitality Program Preview Day at the Sedona Center



- Hotel Management Certificate Information
- Restaurant Management Certificate Information
- Culinary Certificate Information
- New Faculty Introductions
- Industry Partners On-site
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Expert Panel for Q & A
- Academic and Financial Aid Advisors Available
- Tour of New Kitchens and Classrooms

Wednesday,
July 26th
9am to Noon

Yavapai
COLLEGE

Sedona Center | 4215 Arts Village Dr, Sedona AZ 86336 | (928) 649.4265

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