

COMMUNITY NEWS

Summer youth employees train on-the-job



BY DON DECKER
YAN News

The WIA (Workforce Investment Act) is giving many of the Nation's youth an opportunity of hands-on experiences in 'holding down a job'. It's about understanding proper work ethics such as being on time, full-filling job requirements and learning to accept supervision in completing the various tasks assigned by their supervisors who are permanent employees of the Nation. Its adults mentoring youth for six weeks within the government sector of the Nation.

Whether it's mending fences at the Agriculture Resource Department or working in the Nation's fleet management office or organizing stories in the public relations department, WIA youth employees are gaining valuable work experience.

Michael Loring is a 17-year-old who is entering his senior year at Mingus Union High School (MUHS) in Cottonwood. Loring, who

is the son of Sherrie James Loring and Michael Loring of the Nation, is a recreation specialist for the duration of his summer work experience.

Loring, this day, is sitting down with some children ages 6-8 year old at a table at the Nation's recreation center where the children are working on a beading and stitching class. "I make sure these kids aren't naughty-I help set up tables and help with the crafts. It's a big responsibility. If they (children in the recreation program) get hurt or something like bleeding, I take them to the office to get the older workers in case something happens," said Loring.

Loring spent two years in the FAA (Future Farmers of America) at MVHS where he learned about animal husbandry. This coming November, Loring will be turning 18 and it's decision-making time about the future after high school. He is impressed with the Maricopa Skills Center in Phoenix on Buckeye Road where he will enroll in the meat-cutting program.

Any training or skills that he has acquired through the WIA program will be transferable skills that Loring will adapt to his meat-cutting training.

Another WIA summer youth employee is Anthony Green who works with Loring at the recreational program for the Nation.

Green's favorite subject in school is American History and he has high hopes to enroll in the Job Corp Training Program in Phoenix. "I checked with them," said Green about Job Corp.

For now, he enjoys advance P.E. where he works with light weights by getting in shape. Green was asked to assemble a workbench for a neighbor near his home in Cottonwood.

"I could sure help get it done. I drilled holes in the bench. It's working with your hands," he said about his experience with woodworking.

Green's leadership skills shines through this day as he helps align some beadwork for a 7-year-old in the recreation program.

In another department at

the Human Resource Department of the Nation, George Rocha is an office management trainee working with the WIA department - a department that sponsors his participation in the work experience program.

Rocha has the vocabulary of a college student and he'll be an 11th grader this coming fall at the American Heritage Academy in Cottonwood.

Rocha, 16-year-old son of Buddy Rocha Sr. and Linda of Cottonwood, is a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) summer employee-trainee.

"The job I have is more like an office job. I've learned many skills-learning to work in an office such as filling out papers, filing, and copying a lot of work," said Rocha.

Rocha was on the WIA summer program last year where he worked in the IT (Information Technology) department at the Nation where he built a computer.

"It was learning how to build a computer, operating it and basically to get it running. I really enjoyed it. So, that's

the reason why I want to do it (working with computers)".

Rocha credits the WIA program for giving him the opportunity to be exposed to computer information systems (CIS).

Rocha has big plans to get his feet wet even before graduating from high school as he plans to enroll in Yavapai College during his last year of high school in 2016.

"I want to do a two-year program at Yavapai College so I can get my degree (Associate of Arts). I can build my own system or fix them and transfer to A.S.U. (Arizona State University) to get a Bachelor's Degree (in computer science)."

His hobbies are closely related to his interest in computer technology. Rocha is very adept to the coding procedures for video games. His other interests are listening to jazz and rock classic.

Far into the future, Rocha sees himself somewhere in the state of Washington "to get away from it all," he said.

WIA students study river bugs

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Ever wondered what a Sowbug is? How about a Caddisfly larvae?

Throw in Riffle beetle for good measure. That is what YAN summer youth WIA (Workforce Investment Act) employees studied with Dr. Frederic Amalfi, a scientist from Tempe and Terry Geiselman, a water specialist who works closely with the Nation's EPA department on July 22 on the Verde River next to Middle Verde.

"They are checking to see how healthy the river is," said David Lewis, the Nation's EPA manager. It seems like an easy answer but studying water quality is much more than that according to Lewis.

The YAN wants clean water for the environment and the EPA department is trusted with this responsibility by conducting an in-depth analysis of the water quality on its lands.

Amalfi really gets into his work as he slushes into the river with his collection gear while trying to coax the summer youth workers who remain on the banks watching Amalfi.

Each youth is given a 'Macroinvertebrate Identification Sheet' that has a picture of these creatures that would scare anyone.

Read the sheet and it clearly states that an "insect is an in-

vertebrate with no spine that has three pairs of legs and three body divisions".

This is a teachable moment for the scientists.

Geiselman is a water quality specialist and says there is a direct correlation with the quality of the water and the neighborhood it keeps. In this case, insects with varied characteristics that only live in certain environments.

Geiselman works closely with Lewis on the two main components of the Nation's clean water project known as "106" and "319" each of which are synonymous with specific activities.

Soon, Amalfi directs Franklin Garner, a young boy who seems very interested in what is happening in the river, to turn over a good size rock.

Amalfi directs Garner to begin scraping the surface of the rock which acts as host living environment for insects that live underneath rocks buried in the river.

Most of these insects are very small but visible to the eye. There are collection jars with lids and each are labeled for packing and easy identification.

Amalfi will take these jars back to his laboratory in Tempe where he will get a closer look at the insects. He is looking for trends and population of species that may be relevant to the study.

Vivian Stevens, EPA employee along with Lewis en-



Dr. Frederic Amalfi leads an investigation of insect life on the Verde River as others look on. WIA interns look on as Vivian Stevens (l) and Terry Geiselman look on. Photo by Don Decker

courages the summer students to get closer to the demonstration by the river.

The best part of this day is the opportunity to wade in the water for most of the youth. But more important, is that professionals like Amalfi and Geiselman get to mentor the young people. Maybe, create a spark of interest for the students.

George Rocha is a 16 year old who is participating today although he would be more happier building a motherboard for a computer.

He listens intently as Amalfi explains the procedures for collecting the species.

WIA is exactly designed for people who want to explore various careers or maybe train

for a specific job. It's also a program for displaced workers and retraining of people who want to do something else with their line of work.

This river activity is already working as young Garner begins asking several thought-provoking questions-and they are good questions. "How can an organism live under water that can't

breath?"

One youth is photographing the presentation while Rocha videotapes the investigation.

This is a very valuable learning program and the WIA program director Kitty Roberts is adamant in changing the course of direction for many of these YAN youths who are just now beginning to think about careers.

Nation's members participate in Regulatory Training Academy for Yavapai-Apache Gaming

By ANDREW WRIGHT

Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Gaming Office

Three Yavapai-Apache Gaming Office Compliance Agents recently attended the 2015 Regulatory Training Academy.

The Regulatory Training Academy is a three day seminar put on by the Arizona Tribal Gaming Regulators Alliance and the Arizona Department of Gaming.

The Academy covers a broad range of topics and classes designed to give new Regulatory Agents a solid foundation while still appealing to experienced Regulatory Agents with the latest in game protection and fraud prevention information.

The different classes are taught by subject matter experts from different Tribal Regulatory Agencies and Arizona Department of Gaming.

Compliance Agents Vonda Smith, Shawnee Spurgeon and Matthew Ransom attended the Regulatory Training Academy hosted by the Blue Water Resort & Casino owned



Shawnee Spurgeon, Vonda Smith and Matthew Wright attended the Regulatory Training Academy to gain more knowledge of the rules and regulations governing Indian gaming. Photo by Don Decker

and operated by the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) in Parker, Arizona. Compliance Agent Vonda Smith has been employed with the Tribal Gaming Office for almost two years. Vonda Smith, tribal member, said, "The training was informative and gave me a better understanding of Indian Gaming. It helped me to understand more about my work and responsibilities as a Compliance Agent through

lecture and hands-on training."

Compliance Agent Matthew Ransom has been employed with the Tribal Gaming Office for over a little over a year. "Although I was familiar with most of the topics covered, the depth at which the academy covered those topics in just four days was an eye opener," said Ransom.

Another member of the Nation, Compliance Agent

Shawnee Spurgeon has been employed with the Tribal Gaming Office for approximately eight months. As one of our newer Compliance Agents, Agent Spurgeon enjoyed the Academy. Agent Spurgeon stated, "The courses were fully elaborated on and went into depth on how and what is expected in a Tribal Gaming Regulator. I gained a better understanding and I will use the knowledge that I have gained in these courses for the future as a Tribal Gaming Regulator."

The Regulatory Training Academy is a great opportunity for Regulatory Agencies to develop their departments through training and development.

The Regulatory Training Academy is free to attendees and hosted annually by different Regulatory Agencies around the State.



From left, Anthony Green, Michael Loring, Ashley Loring, Thomas Herrera, Kyla Sandoval, Darien Loring. (Back) Denny Smith, Shushandalynn Lewis. Photo by Arianna Campos

Body walk

By ARIANNA CAMPOS
Summer Journalist Intern

Wednesday, July 15, the Recreation Department held the Body Walk. Each Summer Youth Workers from the Recreation Department dressed in costumes and held a station; the children were informed about their how their digestive system works organs, heart, lungs, what cigarettes can do to your teeth, healthy eating, bones, and exercising.

The summer youth workers made comments about the Body Walk saying, "It was pretty fun and this was really good for my communication skills." Another youth worker said it was "Educational and I learned stuff from it as well"

If you would like to know more about each of the station, please visit the Yavapai-Apache Nation's YouTube Channel and or the Facebook page.