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Yavapai: To Tell Apache: To Talk

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Warrior runners from YAN complete 500 mile Sacred Hoop run June 18-25 in upper midwest

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

Thanks to the generous donation of the Yavapai-Apache Nation council and the administration's full endorsement of this run, several teens from the YAN ran a 4-state cross-country run with 90 other Lakota teens from Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

This 'Sacred Run' began at a sacred holy place of the Lakota people- Bear Butte, South Dakota north of Sturgis and continued through northern Nebraska into eastern Wyoming and a small portion of Montana finally returning to Bear Butte a few days later.

This run directed and sponsored by the Nation's Social Service

Department and supported by the administration, brought YAN teens to the forefront where they joined their counterparts in running along highways while camping out at nights.

This grueling run emphasizing wellness and strengthening communities, gave the youth an opportunity to meet one another and share life's journeys.

The Sacred Run as it is called, was a reunion run for some of the YAN teens as some of them ran in The Long Run from Flagstaff to Cannonball, North Dakota last year during the pipeline demonstration. Riley Ortega, son of Lori Ortega who is a Nation police officer, sponsored the first run which took them

through Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota and finally North Dakota.

The reunion consisted of Lakota teens and a few adult runners from Pine Ridge who had driven to Crescent City, Utah last year to meet the YAN runners to help them complete the run into North Dakota, a distance of 1100 miles from Arizona.

The Beginning:

The long journey to South Dakota began mid-day on June 16 with an all-day drive from Middle Verde to Pagosa Springs, Colorado about 45 miles east of Durango. On the way to Colorado, a stop was made in Shiprock, New Mexico to pick up one of the Nation's male participants. With just

2 hours to the campground in southern Colorado, our group arrived early in the evening with just enough light to pitch the tents and get settled in.

The campground belongs to the Ute Nation and sits at the northern edge of the reservation next the highway going to Pagosa Springs.. The terrain is a lush forest with a beautiful lake next to the campground that attracts many sport fishing.

The next morning the YAN teens reload the 3 vans and depart for the long day to Denver via the back country of Colorado where the youth see the Rocky Mountains beginning in Buena Vista where a pizza lunch is served at the city park that day.

Next stop is in Aspen Park 30 miles southwest of Denver later in the afternoon and finally arriving on the north side of Denver around 6 p.m. that evening and continuing on about 60 miles northeast of Denver close to Greeley, Colorado where the group camps overnight at a campground.

That evening, a slight wind begins to blow across the great plains and a fire is started as the happy campers stay up late that night sitting around a camp fire just talking like teens do.

This is the land of the plains Indians and the Pawnees, Oglalas and Crows roamed this far into northern Colorado



The final run up to Bear Butte to finish the 500 mile run.

for their raids. At the camp, the small cottonwood trees act as a buffer for the slight wind which now picks up speed from the north. It's the second night for camping and the teens seem keen on brushing their teeth after supper and basically accepting the fact that this is a fun trip.

Our chaperones, Erin and Lori Orega (a police officer for the Nation!), Tyler Walls and Apphia Shirley, social workers for the Nation, H e r b e r t Trujillo who works for the water plant for YAN and myself, senior elder of the group meet with the youth around the campfire that evening and share important things about life with them. The kids stare into the

fire and listen intently. No one has their cell phones out or they have put them aside for the moment.

The youth know they are in good hands and there is plenty of food, water and other goodies



Anthony Trujillo, son of Yolanda and Herbert Trujillo waits along the highway east of Rapid City, South Dakota to grab the runner's staff.

supplied by the Social Service department.

The next day, we pass through Cheyenne, Wyoming and into a small town north called

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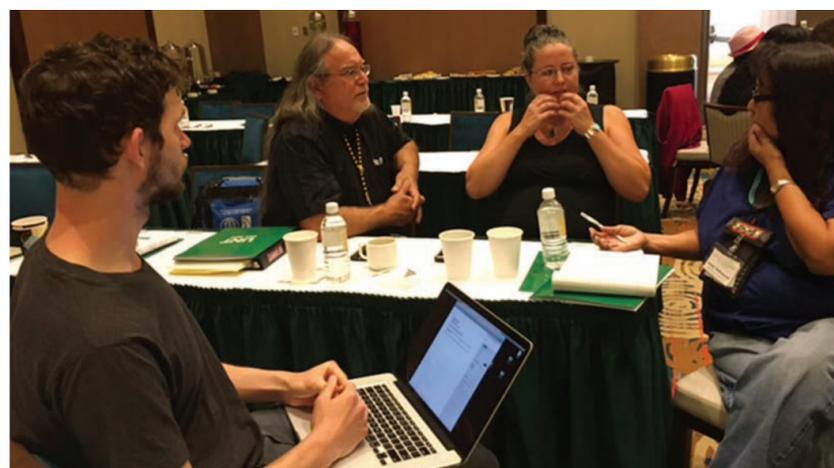
Group photo with motorcycle club of Chadron, Nebraska in Lusk, Wyoming burger shop on the way to South Dakota.

Language specialists converged on Yavapai-Apache Nation June 27-29 for Dene'-Athabaskan conference

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

For the first time a Dene-Athabaskan conference was held in the southwest according to Dr. Willem de Reuse of North Texas State University who sponsored the conference through a National Science Foundation Grant. The conference which drew over 120 participants from various parts of the Nation including Canada met to discuss the various concerns relative to the

Athabaskan language. "The conference has never been held in Apache country before and it's always been about the Navajos [editor' note: The Navajo who also speak the Dene' language. Then, there are pockets of Dene'-Athabascans in Canada, Alaska and northern California who have their own linguists and speakers that are deciphering the differences in the variants of language relative to accents, vocabulary and cultural connec-



Representatives from Ft. Sill Apache Michael Darrow and Lori Gooday Ware, members, (center) facilitate a group discussion with Hedy Kelewood of Cibecue-White Mountain Apache.

tions]. It's never been in Apache territory. I know that you people (the Camp Verde Dilzhe'eh) are well-organized and have a nice place here so I decided to have it here," said Dr.deReuse. Dr.deReuse has worked extensively with Vincent Randall, Apache culture director for Yavapai-Apache Nation who is traditional Dilzhe'eh and Apache elder Elizabeth (Smith) Rocha of Camp Verde for many years and finally have

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