

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Youth Wilderness Program plans for out-of-state trips

BY DON DECKER,  
YAN News

Monica Marquez, manager for the Wilderness Program plans for extensive travel with area youths this coming summer. This year, already, she has conducted mountain climbing activities first with a company that provides indoor training located in Prescott. Other plans include trips to the Mesa Verde in southern Colorado and on to Pagosa Springs to hike the Chimney Rock area.

"It's a good grant. A prevention-mentoring program that teams up youth with older youths, structuring positive interaction with each other, provide conflict resolution and to see what their (the youth) strengths and weaknesses are," said Ms. Marquez about her program.

There 2 other individuals on the team with Ms. Marquez: Casandra Stouder Community Coordinator and Codell Norman, field coordinator, who recently came on board.

In the Prescott wall climbing experience at a place called Rock & Gym in January, participants were just getting introduced to traversing across the short walls with hand-holds that were fastened to the plywood make-believe rock wall under the special care of the facility owner.

And on the floor, Ms. Stouder was teaching the youth how to use one's senses.

"In the outdoors, they have to be aware of everything around them," said Ms. Marquez.

The youth recently participated in a kayaking boating in Lynx Lake in Prescott as well.

Other experiences included taking youth on hikes to Granite Dells and the boys learning the Bird Dance songs that amplified their voices among the rock formations of the red rocks in Boynton Canyon in Sedona.

"The children were really proud and gave them pride to hear themselves sing," said Ms. Marquez about the Boynton Canyon experience.



Youth wilderness program participants experience kayaking on Lynx Lake in Prescott.

Submitted photo by the project

rience.

To assume the role of coordinator of the Wilderness program Ms. Marquez had to be certified for different abilities and knowledge. This included a course in First Responders 75 hour course held in Flagstaff. All the staff members of the Youth Wellness Program took the course. Ms. Marquez also said that the youth participants will take courses in first aid as well so that the

youth will know how to respond to different emergency situations.

Fast Forward-Update: The Youth Wilderness Program is now on their way to the Pai Gathering to be held on the Yavapai-Prescott reservation starting June 22. After this, traveling and hiking in the Flagstaff-Grand Canyon region toward the end of June.

Ms. Marquez is working closely with the Nation's WIOA program to teach cultural assess-

ment classes during both sessions this summer. This 16 hour class involves imparting information about the test that is usually administered to youth turning 18 years old who will take the final test about the culture of the Yavapai and Apache people in order for them to receive their per capita distribution.

On July 29-31 they will travel to Los Angeles area to the La Bria Tar Pits and further north to

visit the Santa Barbara, California.

La Bria in Spanish means "brave and noble" which describes this actual tar pit located in central Los Angeles in Hancock Park on Wilshire Boulevard. This is the place filled with intrigue about bubbling tar pits that captured animals such as the mastodon in their tracks as they became mired in tar 10,000 years ago.

## Nation's youth are enrolled in Wilderness Program

BY CASANDRA  
STOUDER AND  
MONICA MARQUEZ

YAN Wilderness Youth Program staff members Monica Marquez (Manager), Casandra Stouder (Assistant Coordinator), Codell Norman (Field Coordinator) and three Prescott Rocks and Recreation professionals (a local business and program partnership) created and completed a very fun rock climbing activity for the YAN youth. Twenty-eight YAN youth were in attendance for this awesome outing!

YAN youth learned about safety, climbing techniques and overall equipment and rock climbing preparedness. The youth also learned about the importance of trust and each child

experienced overcoming fears.

This outing was well organized and ended successfully! Our outdoor adventure took place at Granite Basin Recreation area in the Prescott area along the Matate Trailhead.

A total of 35 (including adult volunteer Leahla Garcia) completed this outdoor adventure together on Friday April 26, 2019 from 10 AM - 2 PM.

Youth participants engaged in rock climbing with harnesses and safety cables attached to them as they were safely guided by rock-climbing professionals who instructed the youth how to climb a well-prepared attainable rock area. Each child climbed as high as each child felt comfortable (most climbing as high as 20



Fast stick game with opposing teams using goals for scoring by the Youth Wilderness Program during Earth Day.

feet). Prescott Rocks and Recreation professional developed a fun team building activity for those waiting to climb.

The purpose of this outdoor activity was

to build a stronger self-awareness amongst YAN youth and stronger connections as a community. The efforts put into this activity encouraged positive self-

growth through outdoor education and incorporated wellness benefits through physical activity and community involvement.

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YAN Youth Wilderness Program

Mission Statement - "Reconnecting the past to the future."

The Yavapai Apache Nation Wilderness Program's goal is to build connections for our youth with their family, community and culture through outdoor adventure based education.

Furthermore -- as a preventative program, YAN Wilderness Program employs experiential education methodologies in an outdoor setting to aid YAN youth gain a sense of cultural identity, personal responsibility, and self-agency in an effort to promote college and/or career readiness.

"Re-connecting"/ building, family community and culture.

## Dagoteh!

As a freshman at Camp Verde High School and member of the FFA program, I raised Willard my lamb for my project. I learned with hard work and dedication to Willard he would be an outstanding lamb for the Verde Valley Fair.

As a participant of the Verde Valley Fair I placed 2nd in Showmanship and Willard was auctioned successfully to a family who will be keeping him as a pet for their family.

It was a wonderful experience and encourage the youth who have FFA or 4H Programs in their schools to participate. Thank you to all those who came out to support us this past weekend.

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Taylor Lewis-Moore

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\*Editor's note: Taylor is the daughter of Tanya Lewis executive administrative assistant for the Nation and Trapper Moore, media consultant in Verde Valley.



Taylor Lewis-Moore with her prized lamb she raised 'Willard'.



'Willard' getting the red ribbon with owner Taylor Lewis Moore daughter of Trapper Moore and Tanya Lewis of Camp Verde.