Safeguarding Natural Heritage: Native Animal, Plant, and Wildlife Youth Program

Navajo Technical University
By: Amberlynn begay
Program Background

• For the last 4 years Navajo Technical University has hosted a Youth Camp titled “Safeguarding Natural Heritage: Native Animal, Plant, and Wildlife Youth Program”
• NTU is an accredited Institution of higher learning by the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission.
• Member in good standings with AIHEC.
• First University on the Navajo Nation.
Objectives

• To create a program to encourage high school students to study, pursue career opportunities, and to provide hands-on training in agriculture, veterinary medicine, wildlife biology, plant science, environmental science and natural resources.
Activities

• Veterinary small animals
• Equine clinic work
• Heard health field work
• Traditional food demo
• Tour of NAPI
• Other activities
IMPACT

- Students reported that they learned
- About the jobs and internships that USDA offers
- Vaccinate and deworm
- How to work with large animals
- Also..
- Communication skills
- Team work
- Responsibility
Future Plans

• The program plans to increase the number of applicants to the Safeguarding Natural Heritage Summer Youth Camp.
• Continue to expose students to career choices that relate to agriculture and natural resources both locally and nationally.
Student Feed Back

- “I kinda find NAPI interesting because they have a college agreement where they pay some of your school and you get scholarships. During your breaks you have to work for them which is okay with me. NAPI is a pretty good deal for me. USDA provides a lot of career that are good for the environment and they help you with school and stuff.”

- Reyna - Camp participate 2017
Student Feed Back

• “I kind of like the whole thing despite my phone not being with me and I’m usually glued to my phone but overall this camp was pretty fun.”

- Ednei - Camp Participate 2017
“I would like to be a veterinarian, so this was a good exposure for me. It gave me a taste of what I will be doing. This camp has showed that I do enjoy working with animals, and helping them get healthy and stay health and yeah.”

Chrissa - Camp Participate 2017
Outcomes from Former Campers

- “The camp was fun and I wish I could attend again. I love working with animals and making new friends. Although we did not have our phone I didn’t mind because they kept us busy and it was not boring.”

- Camp Participate 2014
Outcomes From Former Campers

• “I learned more about animals. They taught us about Vio-Tech on dogs. Now I know when my dogs are dehydrated and I know what to do to help them.”
• “I either want to become a Veterinarian or Zoologist.”

- Camp Participate 2015
Outcomes From Former Campers

• “I learned how to vaccinate sheep and take care of livestock.”
• “I want to be a veterinary because I enjoy working with animals and love taking care of them.”

-Camp Participate 2014
Thank You

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