



Washington State University Mentoring Project

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Mentoring Project Provides Valuable Experiences for Youth of the Colville Confederated Tribes

by WSU Extension Staff

Adult mentors have been hard at work for two years, providing hands-on experiences for youth and their families through afterschool programming, Summer Day Camps, and Family Night Out events on the Colville Reservation through the Youth and Families with Promise (YFP) Mentoring project.

The YFP provides support for community mentors to work with youth to explore and learn cultural traditions and other life skills. This includes everything from developing archery skills, to increasing self-sufficiency through gardening, to building, nutrition, cooking, shooting, and performing arts. Additional skills development and enrichment is conducted through 4-H club programs where youth have the chance to explore new fields of interest, increase knowledge, and develop mastery.

The Keller area programs help preserve Native American traditions, including songs, drumming, and helping youth learn how to make regalia along with other activities.

Archery instruction is a new project where youth have been introduced to the sport to build marksmanship. Competing in the annual Ferry County 4-H Fair and the 4-H Shooting Sports Jamboree provides youth an opportunity to demonstrate their acquired skills.

A Science Service Project provided 5th and 6th graders at Inchelium Elementary School with the opportunity to learn about riparian habitats, forest health, and noxious weeds along with the bioagents at work to reduce their presence. They also did community service through planting trees to address erosion concerns. Funded in part by an additional mini-grant from the National Wildlife Federation, the day-long project introduced youth to mentors working in potential future career roles in the field of conservation.



Keller area youth demonstrated their cooking and sewing skills during "hands on" workshops and activities provided by community mentors.



The YFP project is funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention through the National 4-H Council. The WSU Colville Reservation Extension office works in conjunction with the WSU Ferry County Extension office to manage the YFP program. The work has expanded from serving the Keller area of the reservation the first year, to the Inchelium and Keller area this year, to hopefully



serving across the reservation by next year if renewed funding is granted!

This project is made possible by Project Director, Janet Edwards edwardsj@wsu.edu working in consultation with Dan Fagerlie, Extension Tribal Liaison, fagerlie@wsu.edu to fund onsite Coordinators Janine Koffel and Linda Mclean over the last 2 years.

Tribal youth explore a riparian habitat with the guidance of Amy Martin, Colville Confederated Tribes Environmental Trust department, as part of a science service project on the reservation. Students visited stations to learn about erosion control by planting trees, forest habitat needs, and noxious weeds and the bio agents at work to defeat them.

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