

ZYEP News



Big News! ZYEP Youth Complex



Zuni needs a safe, fun, centrally-located space for Zuni children to play and grow and ZYEP is making that happen! Thanks to the support of the Tribal Council, a Tribal Resolution was just passed granting acreage in the central village area to ZYEP .

ZYEP has a lot of plans for this space, but needs your help to make these a reality!

After 6 years of playing on uneven dirt full of treacherous prairie dog holes and ball-popping stickers, ZYEP aims to build Zuni's first turf field to give youth a safe, level space to play soccer and hone their skills. Our traveling soccer team (see below) has

been a huge success, but just as our rec players need a place to play, our Thunder Strikers need an appropriate practice space to be able to compete with teams from around the state.

We will also be expanding our gardening program by creating a youth garden at the new site. Zuni youth will be able to learn hands-on about the importance of good nutrition at the A:ho' A:wani Doyenkakya Dehwanne ("People's Garden").

We are also planning to put in a covered teaching space and in the longer term, hoping to build a small Youth Center. This will allow ZYEP activities to

take place in a location that many local children can walk or bike to, as well as support our many programs.

Work will start this winter with physical, archeological, and environmental surveys, and then we plan to get to building as soon as we have the resources.

This is an exciting time for ZYEP and a critical step in our growth as an organization. A safe, central, fun space to play and grow brings us closer to our mission of creating fun, healthy activities for all youth in Zuni!



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Zuni Thunder Strikers

A few short years ago, virtually no kids in Zuni had the chance to play soccer. Since the start of our teams in 2009, it has quickly become a very popular sport for Zuni youth and a great form of physical activity. Not only does our league include more than 130 players ago 6-12, but we've taken soccer a step further.

Now children showing excep-

tional interest and skills play on the traveling Thunder Strikers soccer team. The U12 team has competed in 4 tournaments and several friendly games throughout the state and we fielded a girls' and a boys' team that competed in the Gallup league this fall. We also have a brand new U6 team, Zuni's youngest soccer stars!

Traveling soccer gives Zuni youth the unique opportunity to put in the work and make the commitment to take their play to the next level. Congrats to the Thunder Strikers for all of their success so far!



ZYEP Sports

Introducing: ZYEP Baseball!

ZYEP's youth soccer and basketball leagues have been a huge hit with more than 130 youth participating in our average season.

In 2014, 12 basketball teams named after collegiate teams played in exciting and fast-paced games showing how much our youth have improved since the start of the league. Our soccer teams were named after World Cup teams allowing players to learn about different countries while they had a blast improving their soccer skills.

Our DY MESA students provided nutrition

education for our young players as well.

This summer, ZYEP had our first ever ZYEP baseball league which was another huge success! During its inaugural year, the league drew over 135 youth and a group of highly committed volunteer coaches. Families loved coming out to watch their young players throughout the summer. Much thanks to the Notah Begay III Foundation and Aaron Yuselew for making this league such a success!



Hope to see you at the ballpark next year!



Summer Camp

Summer Camp 2014 was another great success! 65 youth participated in a summer of fun, learning, physical fitness, and Zuni culture. Despite a short summer, campers learned traditional Zuni dance, engaged in soccer clinics, tended the camp garden, and much more. The camp was even fea-

tured as the site of the Let's Move in Indian Country national celebration (see page 3).

This year we were proud to welcome Kelly Chapman as co-coordinator with Chad Rail. Kelly worked her way up from camp counselor to the coordinator position and we are proud to have a camp alumnus leading the way!

Summer Camp has long been the backbone of ZYEP and this year we need your help. Summer Camp funding is not yet secured and we will start planning for camp soon, so please give us a hand to keep this great opportunity available to Zuni youth.



Community Trails



With support from the CDC and New Mexico Department of Health, ZYEP has worked with the Zuni Health and Wellness Coalition to create a series of 6 walking and running trails totaling 28.5

miles throughout the community. These trails are named after the Zuni directional system and include markers every 1/2 mile and inspirational phrases in Zuni to keep community members motivated. Different lengths and terrains accommodate a range of fitness levels. Our first marked bike trail is currently underway.

Community feedback has been outstanding, noting what a difference marked trails make to motivation and feeling safe. Next time you are in Zuni, pick up a trail map and check out our trails!



DY MESA

DY MESA, ZYEP's after school program for middle school students, is going strong into year three! Students participate in fun and enriching activities each day after school, as well as weekends and school breaks.

With help from First Nations, this year DY MESA students are tracing the Zuni Migration Path from the Grand Canyon all the way back to Zuni via a series of camping trips at key sites. Grand Canyon and Mesa Verde trips proved transformative for these students who learn from Zuni cultural educators along the way.

Recently, DY MESA students also advocated for recycling in ZPSD, learned canoeing and rock climbing in the Lifetime Individual



Sports Component, and made money for their savings accounts by serving as peer educators teaching our young baseball and soccer players about good nutrition. DY MESA student

art was even featured in a local gallery.

DY MESA students have made great strides academically and socially and are well on their way to being the Zuni leaders of tomorrow!

Let's Move in Indian Country



This summer, Zuni and ZYEP were honored to host the 3rd anniversary celebration of Michelle Obama's Let's Move in Indian Country initiative. ZYEP was chosen for the event as a great model for what LMIC is all about — communities collaborating to improve fitness for youth.

IHS Director Yvette Roubideaux and Governor Arlen Quetawki (left with ZYEP Director Dr. Tom Faber) were on hand to hear our young participants talk about their experiences with ZYEP and to watch the summer campers perform the Zuni butterfly dance.

It was great to see Zuni and ZYEP celebrated as examples of the great things happening to promote good health in Native communities!



Head Start Garden

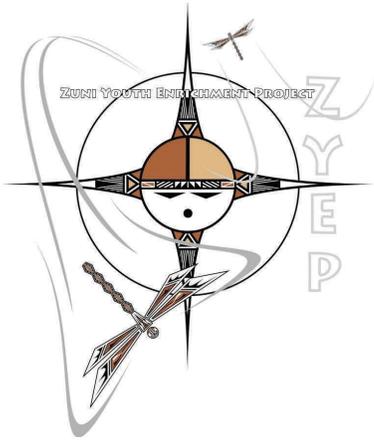


ZYEP's school and community gardens are a long-standing success with gardens at 3 local campuses and the IHS hospital. This year, we worked with Zuni Head Start and the Head

Start Fatherhood Initiative to create a new garden for Zuni's youngest students! Zuni's three and four year olds learned about where food comes from first-hand as they planted and tended their very own garden. Every Head Start classroom and teacher chose to participate in this first year of the garden site, and the joy and curiosity on the faces of the kids said it all.

Thanks Con Alma Health Foundation for making this new garden possible!





Staff Highlight:

Zowie Banteah-Yuselew, born and raised in Zuni, has been an integral part of ZYEP since our first summer camp. Starting out as Camp Coordinator, Zowie now serves as Coordinator for the DY MESA Program, overseeing 7 staff members and assists with almost all other ZYEP projects and activities. Her two children, Aidan and Kioko, are huge fans of Summer Camp and ZYEP Sports Leagues themselves!

ZYEP Mission Statement: *To promote the development of healthy lifestyles and self-esteem among Zuni kids by providing them with opportunities to participate in empowering and enriching activities which will encourage them to grow into strong and healthy adults who are connected with Zuni traditions.*



Albertson's Partners Program

Here's another easy way to give to ZYEP. Any time you shop at an Albertson's store, just scan the enclosed key card and of your purchase will be donated to ZYEP. Seeing this electronically? Contact us to have the key card mailed. Thanks for your support!

How You Can Help

We need you! As ZYEP continues to grow rapidly and take on many new projects, we rely on and very much appreciate the support of our generous donors and volunteers.

Contributions in any amount are greatly appreciated and can be made through our website - www.zyep.org—or by check to ZYEP at the address shown. For any questions, please contact Val Wangler (see box) or Tom Faber at tomfaber@zyep.org or 505-782-7301.

ZYEP is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible and will

be used solely for the goals of improving the health and wellness of Zuni kids.

Interested in volunteering? Local volunteers are needed to assist with the afterschool program—come be a tutor and help Zuni youth to reach their fullest potential! Volunteers near and far are invited to join ZYEP's Fundraising Committee and help to get the word out about the great work going on here in Zuni.

Help get the word out—like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/zuniyouthenrichmentproject



ZYEP Thunder Strikers with the UNM Lobos Men's Soccer Team

Any Questions? Want to help?
Please contact
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