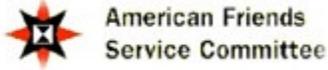




Seattle Clear Sky Newsletter

"Rising to justice. Learning with joy. Creating our future"

January | 2017



Clear Sky Native Youth Leadership Training

About Us!

Seattle Clear Sky Native Youth Council (SCSNYC) provides:

- **Academic Support:** instructional tutoring and mentoring.
- **Cultural Learning Activities:** song and drum instruction, beading, talking circle, mural painting, storytelling, and art projects.
- **Individual Recognition:** student of the month, monthly birthdays, and Native graduation acknowledgments.
- **Community Involvement:** Spirit Walk, social justice rallies, and field trips.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** circle discussions, fundraisers, community organizing, and leadership building projects.
- **Basketball Program.**
- **Student Service Learning.**

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On Dec. 18 youth convened at Bitterlake C.C. for a full day of leadership training with young adult brother sister duo facilitators Becca Kirk, Dyami Thomas.

The training was well attended by parent and community volunteers. This leadership training was planned for purpose of building on the Clear Sky Leadership Council efforts at establishing a solid group of young leaders grounded in cultural values and with collective mindset in growing a voice for Native youth in Seattle.

Youth participated in several ice breaker activities, and practiced techniques for projecting their voice and strengthening their physical presence.

Youth brainstormed with guidance to create a list of qualities, attributes and traits of leadership, they also identified why a council is important to our Seattle community. Our goal is for youth to gain confidence in public speaking, practice team work, collaboration



and consultation with each other in decision making.

We hope to reinforce importance of inclusion, tolerance, and empathy as well as encouragement and open mindedness for all our youth participants.

Students each received gift cards, Clear Sky backpacks, folders and notebooks, youth enjoyed healthy snacks and a nice lunch as they socialized and

familiarized themselves with each other.

They day was a grand success, special thank-you to the volunteers; Anita B., Clarissa and Jobey, Vicki and Scott, Dallas P., and Alumni Youth Assistants; Reese Elliott, Julia Wilson-Peltier and Molly Pinkham. Great Job to the youth for dedicating a full day to learning in a fun and exciting, but challenging training.



My Experience @ Clear Sky Youth Leadership Training @ Bitterlake Community Center

Amaye Oguara: I enjoyed my time at the Clear Sky Youth Leadership Training a lot. I learned a lot on having presentation skills, something I deeply lack. Talking in front of people is a huge weakness for me. Although I haven't completely shaken off this fear, going to this event and getting training has helped me be much better. It's been a key step in getting more comfortable talking in front of a larger group of people. So that being said, not only was it interesting, it was fun. I had a good time and it was nice meeting everyone there and also having a discussion about Standing Rock towards the end. The guests were also wonderful and I thank them for taking their time to be a part in the Training (Dyami Thomas is handsome).

Amanda Oguara: The Clear Sky Youth Leadership Training was amazing. It felt great to be around so many other Native youths, which is something I don't get to experience often. Giving presentations is something that I have a hard time doing and is not my strongest skill so it was great to be able to exercise the skill. Talking and being around other people also helped me a lot, even though most consider me a social butterfly. So not only was this a great experience to exercise different social skills, it was also a great chance to learn and expand on issues I've known about that plague the Native community. For example, the Pipeline being built in North Dakota and Nestle's extreme threat concerning water. It was informational and now I have some news to tell my school's Black Student and Native Student unions. Not only is all this already but

our amazing speakers and guest were always engaging in all the activities they put up. The CSYLT was a fun, interactive, and overall great experience and I cannot lie when I say thank you to all who put it together and the guest who came to share with us but also those who came to the training.

JoAnne Sayers Pinkham w/ Molly Pinkham

• **What are 3 useful takeaways from the experience?**

I am Creative
I am Talented
I am Beautiful

• **Specific leadership skills I learned.**

I need to speak louder.
I need to speak from my stomach and not from my throat. I need to make sure to listen to every one's ideas.

• **What does leadership mean to me?**

It means that when we come together as a community, that we have the same goals and that people agree that change is needed and that we have a certain outcome that we want to make things better. Make sure that as a leader that I hear all the voices of the community and to try and make them equal. I need to ask for help from the elder's council and from the youth. I need to make sure that we stand together as one, so that we have the support of each other, because if we try to stand alone, we are easily defeated. Together we are stronger.

• **This is how I plan to practice leadership skills...**

Helps me get out of my comfort zone and helps me to meet new people and find interests with others. Go out and meet new people.

A.J. Oguero: The Native Youth Leadership Training is an event that I had attended and participated in along with my younger sisters. It had taken place at the Bitterlake Community Center, not far from where I live.

I had attended this event because I myself care about attending Native Youth events and gatherings for Native people. I was told that the speakers for this training have traveled around the country, to different cities and reservations, to speak. Then I had wanted to give my time to participate, contribute, and learn from people who have traveled so far just to be here.

The speakers were Becca Kirk and her brother Dyami Thomas. They had gathered everyone together and we all had introduced ourselves to everyone else at the event. The speakers had told much about themselves to everyone. Becca is a talent agent and her brother Dyami Thomas is a model and an actor. They have been doing motivational speaking for a good amount of time. What activities they had us engage in throughout the meeting were various games and exercises that had gotten us to talk louder, clearer, and more frequently.

We got to have plenty of fun during these activities. One had us read out loud to a significantly distanced audience, even with moderate noise. This really gave some voice control to all of us since almost all of us had went through

the exercise. It allowed me to better understand the levels that my voice is projected towards other people.

Then, we had a fun story-telling activity that everyone participated in that really focused on keen listening skills.

Finally, we had a very deep discussion on the critical situation in North Dakota with the issue of how the lives of the people around there, the animals who live because of the water, and that this really does affect people around the country. No living thing can live deprived of water for most or all of its life. I had said that when you take away water, you take away life. It is what is key for growth and sustenance for living organisms. That was the last thing we discussed before reflecting and sharing our experience at this event with each other.

This event was a significant event for me since I got to work on improving my public speaking, got to have fun interactions with other people within or close to my age range, and had gained more amazing people for me to look up to as inspirations and Native role-models.

I had clearly seen during and heard afterwards that my younger sisters had gotten much enjoyment out of the event, and that alone gives me plenty to be joyous about. This is all how this Native Youth Council Leadership event was enjoyable and important for me.





Native Warrior Athletics

Leon (11yr. old) Lummi

"Practice games, drills, and scrimmage games is exciting, the scrimmage games against Tulalip was a lot of fun and to compete with other Native kids"

Jonathan (9 yr. old) Klamath

" Sometimes its a lot of fun, shooting techniques and form, working together as a community"

D.J. (10 yr. old) Assiniboine

"NWA is GREAT"! I learn different types of passing, shooting and rules of basketball" "It was cool to go against another Native team. I learned I need to get better on defense"

Emad (13 yrs. Old) Tlingit

"Develop skills and meet other Native youth." After scrimmage game against Tulalip I realized I need to work harder and practice more"

Joanne (12 yrs. Old) Ojibwa

"NWA is a lot of hard work and pushes you hard to improve as a player. We make friends and prepare for the next level of bball"

Student of the Month

Clear Sky Student of the month for November is JoAnne Sayers Pinkham, Ojibwa (age 11). She is in sixth grade at Hazel Wolf is an environmentally focus K-8 school. JoAnne is peer mentor at school where she has read to younger students and is working hard to bring her grades up. She is working very hard in school Her favorite subject is Science. Additionally, she likes to play soccer, volleyball and basketball.

JoAnne participates in Native Warrior Athletics, the Native Youth and Leadership Council and she also participates in Na' halli (a girl's club for young Native girls). JoAnne is compassionate about her brother (Giovanni) and sister (Molly) and family. JoAnne has consistently grown into a youth leader and has been part of Clear Sky Native Youth for the past seven years.

Her mentor, Anita Rocha stated that she knows that JoAnne has a bit of a shoe fetish. She has fourteen pairs of shoes (most of which she has outgrown).

Congratulations, JoAnne for being November's Student of the Month!



Announcement

We are excited to announce a new column in our Clear Sky Newsletter devoted to our 'Elders Voice,' in keeping with UNEA's commitment to inclusivity and our mission to support multi-generational learning we are providing ongoing opportunities for Tribal Elders to share their thoughts, concerns, ideas, experiences and creative expression for purpose of enriching the lives of our urban Native youth and community.

Elder Frieda Kirk (Klamath) (kirkfl@gmail.com) will be volunteering to facilitate Elders monthly contributions to our column. Please share your idea for an appropriate title for our new column. We want to encourage participation of Elders in all our programming, planning and organizational support. This first selection is from Frieda, enjoy!

Wellpinit, Washington, 1980

In her youth, my grandmother Etta was over six feet tall,
So when she had babies, she quickly earned the name Big Mom,
And though she shrank a bit over time, she was never small.

She was an epic hero, and our tribe depended upon
Her magic. After she was diagnosed with lung cancer,
Tens of thousands of Indians came to say their goodbyes.
She was photographed with chiefs, professors, fancydancers,
poets, drummers, lawyers, priests, and newspaper guys.
My mother keeps those photo albums lined up high on a shelf
In our living room. There's over six feet of organized grief,
And although I know the photos wouldn't interest any thief,
They are my mother's old money—her most substantial wealth.

Sherman Alexi, FACES

Our Mission

To collectively engage in cultural activities and promote educational achievement. We strive to enhance tribal identities, personal and community growth, and wellness. We advocate for justice, equality, and visibility in the Seattle community.



Natives on the Rise

Natives on the Rise is a Mentorship Project funded by Discuren Foundation, Natives on the Rise Project pairs Native youth with Native Mentors with goal of building healthy relationships, improving academic performance, increasing overall student confidence and pride in cultural identity.

We recognize the importance of deepening meaningful relationships with our youth as key for overall success in life.

Mentorship is a proven approach for enriching the lives of everyone involved. We currently have several youth awaiting a mentor. Commitment is full school year either Tues/Thurs 4-6 hours per month. Meet at Clear Sky 6:00-8:00pm (Nathan Hale H.S.)

Make a difference and get involved today! Please contact me for Mentorship paperwork. markseattl3@aol.com





January 2017 UNEA/Clear Sky/N.W.A. Calendar

January 1st Sunday	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	N.W.A. Bball Practice	Bitterlake C.C.
January 3rd Tuesday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky Program- 'Clear Sky Stands with Standing Rock Mural Art Project', 'Mentors on the Rise' and tutoring/homework help, Dinner provided	NHHS Cafeteria
January 5th Thursday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky Program - Big Drum Singing/Drumming with <i>Instructor Terrance B.</i> / Mural Art Project Potluck Dinner	NHHS Cafeteria
January 5th Thursday	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	N.W.A. 10 under bball practice	Bitterlake C.C.
January 8th Sunday	TBA	N.W.A. Bball	Bitterlake C.C.
January 10th Tuesday	6:30 - 7:30 p.m. 7:30 - 8:00 p.m.	UNEA BOD Meeting and Elections (Open to the public)	NHHS Cafeteria
January 10th Tuesday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky Program- 'Clear Sky Stands with Standing Rock Mural Art Project', 'Mentors on the Rise' and tutoring/homework help, Dinner provided	NHHS Cafeteria
January 12th Thursday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky Program - Big Drum Singing/Drumming with <i>Instructor Terrance B.</i> / Mural Art Project Potluck Dinner	NHHS Cafeteria
January 12th Thursday	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	N.W.A. 10 under bball practice	Bitterlake C.C.
January 22nd Sunday	TBA	N.W.A. Bball	Bitterlake C.C.
January 17th Tuesday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky Program- 'Clear Sky Stands with Standing Rock Mural Art Project', 'Mentors on the Rise' and tutoring/homework help, Dinner provided	NHHS Cafeteria
January 19th Thursday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky Program - Big Drum Singing/Drumming with <i>Instructor Terrance B.</i> / Mural Art Project Potluck Dinner	NHHS Cafeteria
January 21st Saturday	TBA	Clear Sky Leadership Field Trip	
January 22nd Sunday	TBA	N.W.A. Bball	Bitterlake C.C.
January 24th Tuesday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky Program- 'Clear Sky Stands with Standing Rock Mural Art Project', 'Mentors on the Rise' and tutoring/homework help, Dinner provided	NHHS Cafeteria
January 26th Thursday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky Program - Big Drum Singing/Drumming with <i>Instructor Terrance B.</i> / Mural Art Project Potluck Dinner	NHHS Cafeteria
January 29th Sunday	TBA	N.W.A. Bball	Bitterlake C.C.
January 31st Tuesday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky Student of the Month/Bday Celebration and 'Clear Sky Stands with Standing Rock Mural Art Project', 'Mentors on the Rise' and tutoring/homework help, Dinner provided	NHHS Cafeteria



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