



Seattle Clear Sky Newsletter

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

March | 2017



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.**

Standing Rock and Water is Life Resolution Workshop



On Saturday February 25th, 2017 Clear Sky Youth Leadership gathered at Bitterlake C.C. for a workshop on Resolution writing for supporting Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Water is Life Movement.

Youth in attendance included; Emad, Celeste, Joanne, Asia, Albert, Ravi Smith and Reese Elliott. Volunteers in attendance; Mark Peltier, Jeff Smith, Elder Tom Speer, Dallas P., Sarah SW, Laura G. Guest presenter and Idle No More Chair for Washington Chapter Sweetwater Nannauk shared about the recent history and unfolding events taking place at Standing Rock.

Sweetwater urged youth to take action and find ways

of making a difference through divesting, writing/calling political leaders, contributing in whatever way possible, Sweetwater emphasized the importance of prayer and offering prayer as another form of support to the Water Protectors and efforts to stop DAPL.

The youth compared two different resolutions; Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Resolution in opposition to DAPL and the Seattle City Council Resolution in support of Standing Rock Sioux Tribes opposition to DAPL.

Youth shared their interest in finite resources, and expressed concern about polluted water resulting from Industrial use of clean

water, youth also expressed concern about Climate Change and Environmental racism experienced by Native tribes and marginalized communities. Youth did draft a resolution with guidance from Instructors and supportive team of young leaders Reese and Dallas P. Ultimately the youth expanded their knowledge about how social justice, treaty rights and tribal sovereignty is tightly intertwined with the big Oil industry and U.S. Governmental policies and practices.

Student thoughts about the Workshop Process: What was most Helpful about the Workshop?

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Standing Rock and Water is Life Resolution Workshop continued

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Asia " Learning about Resolution writing, and creating a resolution"

Celeste "The most helpful part was small group partner work, because I got ideas about what to do"

Emad "Group work, working with others was helpful and fun"

Reese "The power point slides, and speaker Sweetwater, because I learned more about what happened at Standing Rock and current events"

Ravi "Most helpful was the end process of actually constructing the resolution"

Joanne "Most helpful was learning about Resolutions"



Student of the Month

Asia Gellein, Cherokee, 13

Asia excels in many subjects including; Math, Science, Art and PE.

Asia enjoys basketball and running with NWA, and this year she is playing volleyball and has discovered that she really enjoys rowing. Asia has been a Clear Sky member for 3 years, she participates in many Clear Sky activities, and this past year she joined Clear Sky Leadership Council. Asia loves Clear Sky because she gets to learn about Native culture and she loves being with her friends. Asia is also involved with the Natives Girls Code and Red Eagle Soaring Native theatre group. Asia loves to play the saxophone and she also enjoys drumming and singing.

Her favorite animal is the panda bear and her favorite food is strawberries and cupcakes. Asia was selected as student of the Month because of her exceptional involvement with the Mural Project and her contributions with co-authoring the Standing Rock Resolution. Asia is a joy to be around, she has a generous heart and she is a critical thinker who enjoys discussions about Native issues.



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.



Native Warrior Athletics Guiding Values

NWA guiding values: Sacrifice, Loyalty, Discipline, and Responsibility. These values embody our coaching philosophy and helps provide us a framework for our coaching approach.

NWA coaching staff has always supported these values in all our work with Native Youth.

Basketball is the perfect sport for reinforcing these important values; Sacrifice, Loyalty, Discipline, and Responsibility, these values align with cultural and traditional teachings reinforcing the purpose and intention of having a program specifically serving our urban Native Community.

Our Native youth are barraged on the daily with messages which devalue and ignore our cultural and traditional value system. We want to provide our youth with positive messages which strengthen their tribal and cultural identity.

Affirming and reinforcing cultural values will build confidence, self-esteem, and pride. A natural outcome of our Native youth participating in NWA is a sense of connection with community, our kids experience the warmth of love we have for them, they see we care and we value them as individuals, not as a commodity and not as disposable.

We want to impress on each and every youth participating in NWA



a sense of importance, place and power, on and off the court. We are so very thankful for the opportunity to continue to provide equipment, gas cards, gym bags,

and warm-up gear for youth enrolled in NWA. Special Shout out to Greg K., and our two Interns Lauren and Zoe for their assistance with practices, games, and Scrimmages.

Without helpers we would not have NWA program. Finally, Parents/Guardians AND Community our fiscal sponsors: Nisqually Tribe, AND City of Seattle Get Moving grant.





Student Voice

What have you learned about Mural art?

Elena "When painting the colors going dark to light."

Reina "There are a lot of Native American symbols in the Mural."

Reese "That you can create objects relative to today's world events that are culturally relevant."

Logan "I learned that everyone's voice in matters in making a mural. It's a collaborative effort where people come together to paint a large picture addressing the same issue."

Sadie "I am having fun doing the mural project, I got to do my most favorite thing on earth." Making art that you can share and, it tells a message and it was also very good for us to learn."

Leon "It is kind of fun to do it's colorful and bag and you can put it on the wall."

What is the Mural message or story? Explain

Elena "Please do not poison the land and water just protect it."

Reina "Please take care of the land we live in and the water we drink. We need clean soil to grow vegetables and fruits. We need water to drink and bathe."

Reese "I'm here all messages about the past, present, and future of the water protectors."

Leon "It's about the pipeline and to protect the water from oil spill."

Logan "I learned that everyone's voice in matters in making a mural. It's a collaborative effort where people come together to paint a large picture addressing the same issue"

Why is protecting our water important?

Elena "Without water we can't take a bath and water is life."

AJ "Protecting our water is important because life cannot exist without water. We can go without food longer than we can go without water. Water is necessary for all organism's internal biological systems that allow us to function and live. Without water, no life, without clean water, we die."

Reina "If it is not clean we cannot drink it."

Reese "Important because without the water protectors, big oil companies would be polluting our water"

Matthew

- water keeps us alive
- water is blood
- water is good for you
- keeps animals alive
- keeps plants alive

Renee

- keeps us alive for the fish!
- drinking clean water when people are sick
- for watering plants!

Elder's Voice

AND NOW ITS THE WATER

Every year our white intruders become more greedy, exacting, oppressive, and overbearing Wants and oppressions are our lot Are we not being stripped day by day of the little that remains of our ancient liberty? . . . Unless every tribe unanimously combines to give a check to the ambition and avarice of the whites, they will soon conquer us apart and disunited, and we will be driven away from our native country and scattered as autumnal leavers before the wind.

*Tecumseh, a Shawnee chief,
In a speech in 1812*

CJ

- Water is blood
- it is healthy
- water loves fish
- fish loves water
- water is the home of many animal species

JoAnne "So the water won't get polluted and so we don't die because of the polluted water. Also, so the fish don't die and also for our personal hygiene. It's important for community to come together. In conclusion,

people should protect their land and water."

Emad "Protecting water is important because water is life and that means we need to protect our water to live. So there is no reason to treat the water and the fish that live in it. So, protecting the water is protecting the people who drink the water and the fish that live in it."

Leon "It keeps us alive and it is important for animals".





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

March 2 nd Thursday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky- Native Sign Language and Potluck	NHHS
March 2 nd Thursday	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	NWA 9 under Practice	Bitterlake C.C.
March 3 rd Friday	5:00 p.m.	NWA 9 under Game	Bitterlake C.C.
March 4 th Saturday	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Tulalip Scrimmage Games - all ages 7-14	Tulalip Boys and Girls Club
March 5 th Sunday	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	NWA Practice- All ages	Bitterlake C.C.
March 7 th Tuesday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky - Mural Project and Mentors on the Rise, Tutoring and Dinner	NHHS
March 9 th Thursday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Clear Sky - Native Sign Language and Potluck	NHHS
March 9 th Thursday	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	NWA 9 under Practice	Bitterlake C.C.
March 10 th Friday	3:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Rally at Westlake - Clear Sky speakers and unveiling of Mural	
March 12 th Sunday	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Tulalip Scrimmage Games - all ages 7-14	Tulalip Boys and Girls Club
March 14 th Tuesday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Native Spirituality, Prayer, Ceremony and Traditions- Guest Presenter Crawford White (Arapaho Elder) Mentors on the Rise , Tutoring and Dinner	NHHS
	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	UNEA BOD Public Meeting	NHHS
March 16 th Thursday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Native Spirituality, Prayer, Ceremony and Traditions- Guest Presenter Crawford White (Arapaho Elder). Mentors on the Rise , Tutoring and Dinner	NHHS
March 16 th Thursday		Bball practice cancelled.	
March 18 th Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Teen Action Fair - 440 5 th Ave N. Seattle, 98109 Clear Sky Leadership Mural Presentation and Resolution	
March 19 th Sunday	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	NWA Practice - All ages	Bitterlake C.C.
March 21 st Tuesday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Native Sign Language with Lalo V. Mentors on the Rise, Tutoring and Dinner	NHHS
March 23 rd Thursday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Native Sign Language with Lalo V. Mentors on the Rise, Tutoring and Dinner	NHHS
March 23 rd Thursday	6: 30 - 8:00 p.m.	NWA 9 under Practice	Bitterlake C.C.
March 26 th Sunday	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	NWA Practice- All ages	Bitterlake C.C.
March 28 th Tuesday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Native Sign Language with Lalo V. B-day Celebration and Student of the Month Recognition, Mentors on the Rise, Tutoring and Dinner	NHHS
March 30 th Thursday	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Native Sign Language with Lalo V. Mentors on the Rise, Tutoring and Dinner	NHHS



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The Elders Circle at Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA)

"Resolution supporting the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe & Water Protectors" workshop



Clear Sky Stands with Standing Rock Mural Project.

On Saturday February 25, UNEA presented a hands-on workshop at Bitter Lake Community Center (135th & Linden Avenue) focusing on advocacy for justice and equality for our First Nations communities.

Our immediate goal was creating a formal Resolution of Support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Water Protectors everywhere. This workshop was part of UNEA's continuing mission of empowering our First Nations learners to strengthen themselves, their families, and their community.

Our educators were Sweetwater Nannauck (Tlingit Nation), Coordinator of Idle No More - Washington, and Jeff Smith (Makah Nations), Executive Director of United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. "We thank these talented educators for sharing their knowledge, experience, and insights."

Sweetwater and Jeff taught our youth how to express their demands for justice by creating Resolutions and using Parliamentary Procedure. Students learned the concepts of this important work and participated in the process of creating our 2017 "Stand with Standing Rock" Resolution. *dáxəədubš čəx*, *siʔiʔab* (I-thank-you, Honorable-Ones)

Our young learners were Celeste, Albert, Emad, Reese, Asia, and JoAnne. Dallas and Ravi were our volunteer Videographers and Photographers. Parent volunteers included Laura, Mark, Vicki, and Sarah. Elder Tom opened the workshop with a blessing and admonition and was presented with a pouch of Native Tobacco wrapped in a Bandana, traditional symbols of appreciation.

lakw'alas ti ds'dá?

Place-of-the-Fire I-am-named

dxw'dəwʔəbš čəd tul'ʔal dzidzəlál'ič

People-of-the-Inside ("Duwamish") I-am, from Little-Place-Where-One-Crosses-Over (Chief Seattle City)

säkmänábš čul

Sackman-People (Chief Seattle & Princess Angeline's family) we-are



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Call North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum at **701-328-2200**. You can leave a message stating your opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline.
- Call the Army Corps of Engineers **(202) 761-5903**
- Donate to legal defense funds: https://fundrazr.com/d19fAf?ref=sh_25rPQa
- **Tech support:** solar chargers, boosters, webinars
- **Divest:** tell you parents and school to divest from the banks supporting DAPL, be sure to tell them why you're closing your account
- **Organize fundraisers, teach-ins.** There were hundreds of Native youth that rode to Washington DC to deliver a petition to President Obama. Hundreds of Native youth have run thousands of miles to raise awareness. The Native Youth Council organizes actions, a silent walk and prayer.
- **Fundraise** to send a delegation, winter supplies to Standing Rock.
- **Focus on solutions** and just transition from extractive industry to sustainable, renewable energy
- **Advocate** for more sustainable, renewable energy at schools, and places of business
- **Share** the news with others
- **It's a spiritual movement**, pray, organize prayer circles, vigils. The most powerful thing we can do is pray!