



Experiential Learning & Healing Programs for Native Youth

March 30, 2023



Tribal Youth Resource Center
www.TribalYouth.org

▶ BEFORE WE GET STARTED...

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Opening In A Good Way
March 30, 2023



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WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



**Moderator: Jeri Brunoe,
Consultant Tribal Youth
Resource Center**



**Panelist: McClellan "Mac"
Hall, Executive Director,
Project Venture**



**Panelist: Dolores Winn,
Consultant, Youth
Programming**



**Panelist: Delaney Apple,
Grass Roots Organizer,
Healing With The Horses**

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & HEALING PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE YOUTH

- Introduction to the only Native American adventure science-based curriculum, “Project Venture,” with Mac Hall, Executive Director
- Learn about Saginaw Chippewa Tribe's success with “Project Venture” with Dolores Winn, former Youth Program Coordinator
- Learn from Delaney Apple about how horses bring healing to Native youth



Project Venture

An Evidence-based Program for
Indigenous Youth



PROJECT VENTURE VIDEO

<https://www.facebook.com/113530140730/videos/10155613444600731/>

Or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kh3VA26QYLQ>



WHAT IS PROJECT VENTURE?

- Year long program, in school, after school, weekends, school breaks, summer (Curriculum)
- Mid-school youth
- 150-200 hours of contact over a year
- Outdoor adventure
- Culturally-based group development process with positive norms
- Service learning
- Qualitative & quantitative evaluation



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Connection to the natural world
- Strength-based approaches
 - Experiential Learning
- Ethic of Service
- Connection Building to family, community and culture



▶ BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES



- * Culturally-based group development, building trust
- * Full value commitment
- * Be Here, Be Safe, Speak Your Truth, Set Goals, Let Go and Move On
- * Healthy relationships (defined and discussed)
- * Communicating and listening Intentionally
- * Group problem solving and decision making
- * Asking for and giving help
- * Emotional health
- * Body language



▶ WELLNESS BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES

- * Social Competence, short/long term
- * School attendance/grades
- * Family functioning/relationships
- * Pro-social behavior
- * Substance abuse reduction/elimination
- * Gang Resistance
- * Cultural Pride/Skill-Building
- * Positive community involvement

READINESS

1. Is there a plan in place to implement Project Venture?
2. Have you attended PV training?
3. Do you have adequate funding in place?
4. Do you have key partnerships in place, schools, community, MOUs?
5. Do the key people understand Positive Youth Development?
6. Are there qualified staff (the “right” people)?
7. Are there Elders, cultural experts available?



LESSONS LEARNED

- Communities must build capacity to support/sustain programs
- Must have community support/buy in
- Must use culturally appropriate approaches
- Must develop culturally appropriate evaluation approaches and measures
- Must have the “right “ staff
- Multiyear grants needed to successfully implement programs that get results
- Coaching and mentoring is needed for success



UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

- Only Native-developed EBP being replicated
- 30 years of experience implementing Project Venture
- 20 years of experience helping replicate PV in Native communities in many different settings
- Developed 350-page curriculum for in school, after school, weekend, and summer
- Well-developed training approach
- 20 years of PV training
- Developed readiness assessment tool



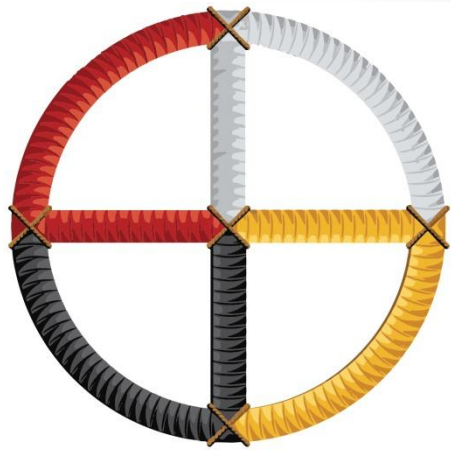


Website: projectventure.org

Phone: 505-554-2289

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PROJECT **VENTURE**

TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

**Empowering Native Youth to embrace their Potential through Outdoor
Adventure and Service**

Presented by Dolores Winn, former Youth Program Coordinator



▶ OBJECTIVES

- Keys to implementing a positive Tribal Youth Program in your community
- Important partnerships created & sustained for program sustainability
- Guidelines for the success of your program



▶ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM

Know Yourself:

1. Be willing to open your mind and learn new ways and walks of life.
2. Identify your strengths & weaknesses.
3. Focus on finding your balance.
4. Ask yourself if you are willing to learn what it takes to facilitate a Tribal Youth Program.

Get to Know Your Tribal Community:

1. Take the time to get to know your community-attended events, workshops, trainings; be involved in community activities.
2. Learn more about the culture, traditions & existing relationships and current programs already in place.



GOALS OF PROJECT VENTURE

- Assist youth in the development of a positive self-concept
- Build effective social and communication skills
- Community service ethic
- Decision making and problem-solving skills
- Self-efficacy



Providing a sense of community and safe, neighborhood outlet that fosters youth support systems

Building a strong community and cultural identity



Beading at the Park

SIX GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF PROJECT VENTURE:

- Culture & tradition
- Strength-based approach
- Experiential education
- Service ethics
- Engagement with nature
- Connection-building: family, community & culture



Traditional Game Night

▶ OUR PROGRAM

- A year-long sequence of challenges and growth implemented out of school during weekends, multi-day trips, and adventure summer camps
- Youth will participate in community service projects and other cultural elements
- Involves a holistic life skills learning approach
- Community-building through intensive and positive peer interaction
- Role modeling
- Intergenerational community events



▶ PROGRAM PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

- Recognize & respect that each Tribal Community is unique
- Community & Tribal Leadership is critical to success of program
- Start your dialogue on the right foot by learning cultural protocols, such as offering sacred medicines to community members when looking for support and collaboration
- Get to know the strengths & needs of your community
- Attend board meetings if possible to learn more about current issues
- Start identifying key members in Tribal Community that you can work with to start your Advisory Board
- Build partnerships with schools, organizations, and other places with similar goals for youth



▶ KEYS FOR SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM

- Providing a safe, positive, healthy and nurturing environment for Tribal youth: posters of cultural teachings, paintings or artwork from their culture, cultural history books, journals, art supplies. Offer cultural materials to work with: beads, leather, jewelry, fabrics, sewing machines, patterns.
- Major emphasis on incorporating their culture into every day programming.
- Supportive relationships with all people who are part of Tribal Youth Program.
- Moments of recognition for everyone who helps create cultural connections with your Tribal Youth.



SAGINAW CHIPPEWA PROJECT VENTURE SESSION



SAGINAW CHIPPEWA PROJECT VENTURE



THANK YOU!



What are some
curricula you have
used?

Share in the chat box!



Tribal Youth Resource Center
Strategic Planning Resource for
Tribal Youth Programs

www.TribalYouth.org



▶ SUNKA WAKAN UN WICOZANIKTE (Healing with the Horses)



DELANEY APPLE



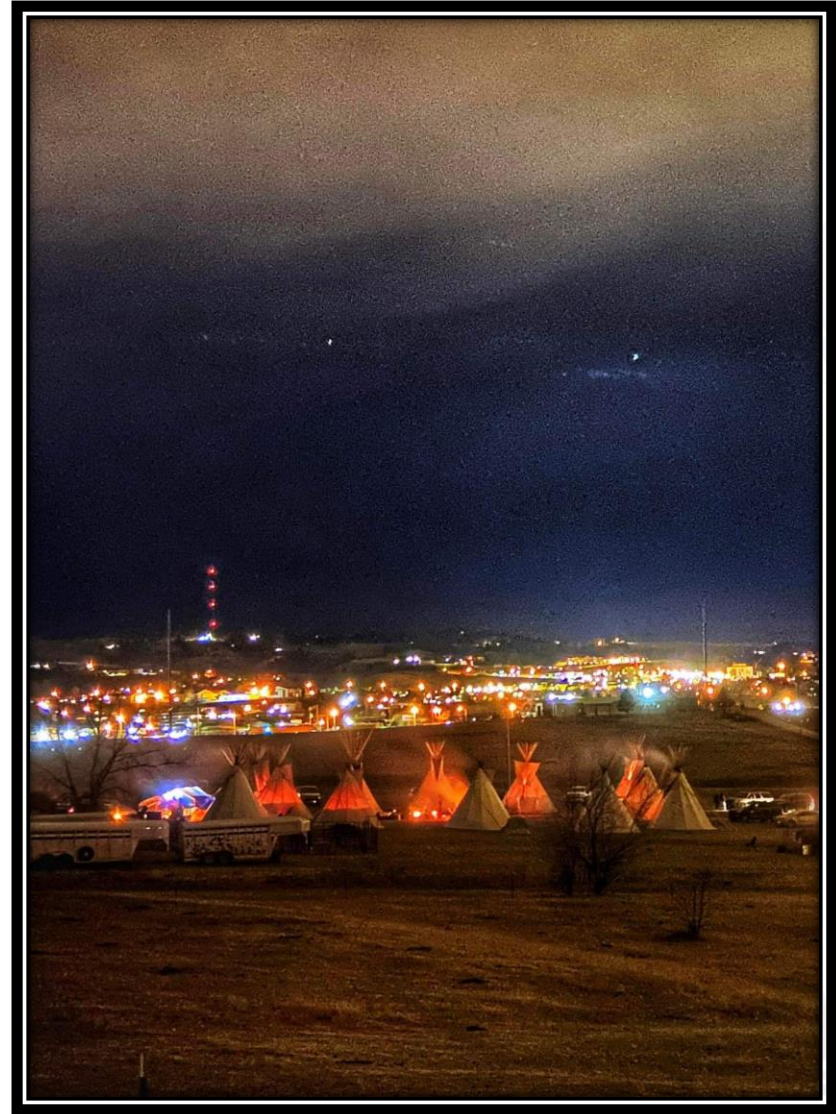








THANK YOU!





▶ EVALUATION





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