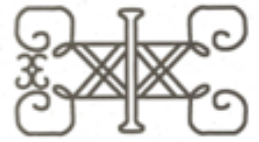


WABANAKI YOUTH SCIENCE (WaYS)

Integrating Technology, Science and Traditional Culture

Newsletter

January 2015



This is our inaugural newsletter for WaYS. WaYS is a long-term program to engage Wabanaki students (grades 6-12) through their cultural heritage and environmental legacy to encourage and promote persistence in sciences through college and into a career. Innovative and unique, WaYS engages students in a year-long multipronged program through a summer Earth Camp (one week), internships/mentorships for high school students (year-long); and Traditional Ecological Knowledge programs through Teen Centers or tribal Boys/Girls Clubs (year-long). Critical for success, it provides each student with mentoring from both cultural knowledge-keepers and natural resource professionals. Look for seasonal updates!

RECENT HAPPENINGS

WaYS First Mini Camp!

"This was such a terrific camp ... as a parent it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm my children had for the activities. As a chaperone for the weekend, it was great to see first hand how the WaYS program brings culture and science together in a great environment." Sharon T. (mom to three camp attendees)

Thanks to a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, WaYS has expanded their summer earth camp to four seasonal "mini-camps". These mini-camps are open to all Wabanaki youth, ages 13-18. The first mini-camp occurred November 14-16. Students from Penobscot Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribe participated Friday evening through Sunday morning at Suffolk University's Passadumkeag location. Participants learned about trapping and hunting utilizing Western science and traditional knowledge as their foundation for the weekend. A great shelter was built using traditional skills and knowledge that 4 students spent Saturday night enjoying the fruit of the labors. Here's what one student had to say from the weekend:

I really liked the camp, It was a life changing experience. I hope to come again I think this camp was one of the best, learning how to trap beaver and skin beaver was different, but yet fun. I really liked the camp and I hope to come again, as I've already said. Anyway thank you



Photo courtesy of S. Tomah



Photo courtesy of S. Tomah

Our next mini camp is Jan 30, 31, Feb 1.

HOT LINK: Recently the mini camp was part of a documentary titled "In Our Veins"
Check it out! <https://vimeo.com/114687727>

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 30, 31 February 1—Winter Mini Camp, Passadumkeag ME : Camp will focus on snowshoe skills, snaring and trapping. FMI: contact Barry Dana at bdananativebar@gmail.com or tish carr at tish.carr@maine.edu

April 19, 20, 21 (tentative)—Spring Camp, Passamaquoddy location TBA. Camp will focus on fishing and water resources. FMI: contact Barry Dana at bdananativebar@gmail.com or tish carr at tish.carr@maine.edu

Earth Camp will be happening again this year! Date and location to be finalized but here is a bit of what was done and said at Earth Camp 2014, Schoodic Point.



Photo courtesy of K. Lolar

Learning about edible plants in our backyard with Arthur Haines



Photo courtesy of K. Lolar

Bow and drill skills

For the past 2 summers, I attended the WaYS camp. It was nice to come together with the other tribes and see people I am friends with that I don't always get a chance to see. I liked the activities and the variety of different things we did. It was a great experience going to the WaYS camp because I felt more educated about my culture, but at the same time I learned about science and the environment. It was an even distribution of science and culture, and how they're interconnected. I hope to see more opportunities for other kids to go to this camp.

Internships

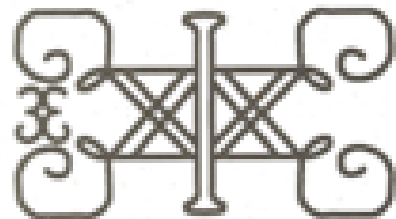
Internships are a large part of our WaYS program. We have many internships available for high school aged Wabanaki students right now!

The internships provide students an opportunity to work with natural resource professionals and cultural resource professionals to gain western science knowledge while understanding the interplay that culture also has. It is a way to keep connected to culture and the community.

Examples of internships include working with your local natural resource department or university. There are also opportunities with NOAA or USFS if you live in the Bangor/Orono/Old Town area.

We are in the process of expanding our internship program to include other areas of science such as computer science and medical science. Stay tuned for more information!

For more information please contact Candi Ewer at candi.ewer@penobscotnation.org or tish carr at tish.carr@maine.edu.



TEK at the Teen Center

One other aspect of the WaYS program is engaging students not quite in high school. The last two years there have been Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) programs as a part of the after-school program at the Teen Center. The 2015 Spring schedule for TEK is every other Wednesday starting in February. Those dates are:

February 11 and 25

March 11 and 25

April 8 and 22