

# A:shiwi A:wan Messenger



Special Issue 15 • June 16, 2021

## Tribe Issues COVID Guidelines for Graduation Celebrations

While COVID 19 cases are declining in the Zuni Community, the Zuni Incident Command Team has established the following guidelines for the upcoming graduations and resulting celebrations to ensure that the Zuni Community stays as COVID-19 free as possible leading up to the important Zuni religious activities which will occur soon:

- Drive through graduation celebrations/dinners are strongly encouraged, particularly at households with family members that are at the highest risk of complications from COVID-19 infection.
- Graduation dinners which host guests on-site are required to adhere to mass gathering limits of 150 people as outlined in the Pueblo of Zuni COVID-19 amended

Emergency Response Plan. Holding events during daylight hours is strongly encouraged.

- Gatherings that include guests other than those that are normally in close contact with one another should be held outdoors as much as possible.
- Indoor activities should be limited to those who normally have close contact together and those who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Hosts of gatherings that include the hiring of DJ's for music, rental of tents, chairs, portable restrooms or handwashing stations must ensure that those they hire have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and

*Guidelines continue next page*

## New Mexico Launches 'Vax 2 the Max' Sweepstakes

*\$10M in winnings, free New Mexico travel packages, fishing licenses, state parks passes, and other prizes available to residents getting COVID-19 shots*

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, the New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Lottery on Tuesday announced New Mexico's Vax 2 the Max Sweepstakes, a statewide vaccination incentive program that will make available \$10 million in total prize money to New Mexicans who receive their COVID-19 vaccinations, among other prizes and awards throughout the summer.

New Mexicans can register and schedule their COVID-19 vaccinations at [vaccinenm.org](https://vaccinenm.org).

To be eligible for the cash sweepstakes, New Mexicans who receive or have already received their COVID-19 vaccinations must opt in to register and

*Vax 2 the Max continues next page*

**ARE YOU SCHEDULED FOR THE COVID VACCINE?**

**IF YOU ABSOLUTELY CANNOT KEEP YOUR APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL ZUNI IHS AT LEAST ONE DAY IN ADVANCE**

**LET NO VACCINE SHOT GO TO WASTE**

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 3  
ZUNI, NM

Post Office Boxholder  
Zuni, New Mexico  
87327

To reach the Pueblo of Zuni COVID-19 information center, open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., call:

**(505) 782-7114**

verify their personal and vaccination information at [vax2themaxnm.org](http://vax2themaxnm.org).

“Getting vaccinated is the right thing to do -- for yourself, for your family and for your state,” said Gov. Lujan Grisham. “I’m excited to add a little fun to our nation-leading vaccination push. New Mexicans have sacrificed a lot over the last year. Now anyone who has stepped up to get their shots will have a chance to win some excellent prizes -- please encourage your friends and neighbors to opt in for their chance to win big and to sign up for their shots as soon as possible!”

More than 55 percent of eligible New Mexicans have completed their vaccination series, according to the Department of Health. The state is hoping to reach 60 percent this month, after which point the state will graduate out of the color-coded county-by-county risk framework, and continue to increase toward at least 70 percent as a near-term goal.

### VAX 2 THE MAX CASH SWEEPSTAKES

Vaccinated New Mexicans who have opted into the sweepstakes will be part of five weekly drawings beginning in the middle of June.

Each weekly drawing will award one \$250,000 winner from each of the state’s four public health regions, for a total of \$1 million in cash prizes each week. A grand prize of \$5 million will be awarded at the

Guidelines continue from page 1

only hire those from the local Zuni area who are licensed to provide those services.

• DJ’s or others hired to provide entertainment for gatherings are required to cease providing their services at 9:00 P.M. This applies to all businesses on the Zuni Reservation. This is to ensure that those attending gatherings have sufficient time to comply with the 10:00 P.M. curfew.

• Gatherings which include dancing should limit close contact between individuals not of the same household to those that are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, preferably in an outdoor setting.

conclusion of the sweepstakes, in early August, to one winner drawn from the statewide pool of vaccinated New Mexicans who have opted into the sweepstakes. The New Mexico Lottery will conduct the cash sweepstakes drawings on behalf of the Lujan Grisham administration.

“I’m pleased the New Mexico Lottery can assist the state in making these prizes available to New Mexicans getting their shots,” said Lottery Chief Executive David M. Barden. “Our organization is deeply experienced in operating fun, fair and exciting drawings, and we look forward to a successful sweepstakes.”

### OTHER PRIZES AND AWARDS AT VACCINATION SITES

Beginning next week, New Mexicans receiving their vaccinations through providers who have partnered with the state [vaccinenm.org](http://vaccinenm.org) registration system will be eligible to win assorted prizes. Winners will be selected at random. Prizes include:

- One of 18 in-state “staycation” travel packages, ranging in value from \$600 to \$1,100, including four nights of accommodations and gift cards to local businesses and experiences
- Fishing and hunting licenses
- Annual day-use passes for New Mexico State Parks
- Day-use passes for New Mexico state museums and cultural sites

In addition, beginning next week, the New Mexico Lottery will bring 10 “prize wheels”

- Other COVID-19 safe practices such as mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing must be followed.

These guidelines can help protect the health and lives of Zuni community members. With several weeks of school, sports and religious events following graduation, please be considerate of most vulnerable community members.

COVID numbers are monitored weekly by Incident Command and should there be an indication of a rise in positive cases, on-site graduation ceremonies are subject to suspension/restriction. Please follow all safety precautions.

For any questions about these guidelines, please contact the POZ COVID-19 Information Center at 505-782-7114.

to providers who have partnered with the state registration system; these sites will be spread across the state. New Mexicans receiving vaccinations at these sites will be eligible for chances to win assorted prizes, including New Mexico Lottery tickets.

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

Winners will be required to produce their CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card upon claiming their prize.

Non-winning entries in the Vax 2 the Max Sweepstakes will carry over from one weekly drawing to the next. An individual may not win more than one \$250,000 regional drawing. All eligible participants will be eligible for the final \$5 million drawing.

To be eligible to win a prize, individuals must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of the state of New Mexico. Employees of the New Mexico Lottery and the Office of the Governor, as well as any state employees appointed by the governor, and any members of these employees’ households, are not eligible to participate.

In order to be entered into a drawing, eligible individuals must opt into the sweepstakes on the Vax 2 the Max website by 6:00 p.m. MST the evening before the drawing -- the full schedule for the drawings will be disseminated ahead of time.

To read the rules and regulations, visit [vax2themaxnm.org](http://vax2themaxnm.org) and click "Rules".

Funding for the Vax 2 the Max Sweepstakes comes from the state’s portion of American Rescue Plan.

**The Zuni Public School District Labor Relations Management Board is having a public hearing on its governing rules on June 28, 2021 at 4pm via Zoom.**

**Contact Chau Ly @ [chau.ly@zpsd.org](mailto:chau.ly@zpsd.org) or 505-782-5511 to request a copy of the rules.**

**The Zoom meeting link is:**

<https://zoom.us/j/98564846752?pwd=NDRiVFA3NUxKU290N09odGpRSNDN5dz09>

# Employment Opportunities

The Zuni Public School District is hiring! We have vacancies in teaching (elementary, middle school and high school), education support (instructional coaches and education assistants) and support services (cooks, bus drivers, custodians, IT). Only online applications are accepted. To apply go to: [Zuni Public School District - Frontline Recruitment \(applitrack.com\)](https://www.zuni.edu/employment).

The following position(s) have been posted on [www.ashiwi.org](http://www.ashiwi.org). Applicants must apply online.

To view the announcement click on the job tile below. For any questions please contact Human Resources Department at (505) 782-7086 or email [hr@ashiwi.org](mailto:hr@ashiwi.org) or [Farrah.cheama@ashiwi.org](mailto:Farrah.cheama@ashiwi.org).

[Teacher \(Certified\) - Head Start Program](#) Closes June 22

[Optician - Optical Program](#) Closes June 14

[Civil Engineer - Planning and Development](#) Open Until Filled

[Clinical Program Manager - Zuni Recovery Center](#) Closes June 16

[Housing Case Manager - New Beginnings](#) (Closing June 22)

[Facilities Manager - Facilities Department](#) (Open Until Filled)

[Veterinary Technician - Zuni Veterinary Clinic](#) (Open Until Filled)

[Child Protective Service Worker](#) - Social Services Closes June 25

# Book Binding Workshop

LEARN HOW TO MAKE SKETCHBOOKS OR JOURNALS USING PAMPHLET STITCH, COPTIC STITCH & JAPANESE STAB BINDING

Two Sessions Available!

Weekday Offering: Wed, July 21 5:30-7:30 pm	Weekend Offering: Sat, July 24 10 am-12 pm
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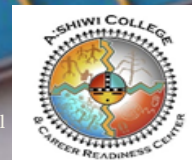
COST: \$20 per person

Register and save your spot! Scan the QR code



Need a Link Instead? Visit: [tinyurl.com/3s2yfdwa](https://tinyurl.com/3s2yfdwa)

Got Questions? Call 505-782-6010



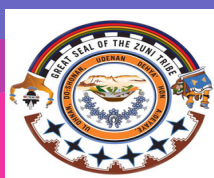
BE BOLD. Shape the Future.  
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences  
Indian Resources Development

JULY 6 - 23, 2021

## DREAM KEEPERS ONLINE CAMP

REGISTER: [HTTPS://IRD.NMSU.EDU/DKC.HTML](https://ird.nmsu.edu/dkc.html)

EARN A STIPEND OF \$450!



TO LEARN ABOUT THE STIPEND CONTACT:  
LORELEI SANCHEZ  
505-782-5998  
ZUNI EDUCATION & CAREER DEV. CTR.



## DREAM KEEPERS ONLINE

APPLY TODAY!

- DK-Online 2021 will be held July 6 -23, 2021 through Zoom. Native American high school students from New Mexico entering 10th, 11th and 12th grade.
- Socialize with fellow Native American students across NM!
- Interact with professionals in Agriculture, Natural Resources, Engineering, and Business.

For more information, visit <https://ird.nmsu.edu/dkc.html>



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.  
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences  
Indian Resources Development Program

# Free Online Technology Course Caters to Parents and Caregivers

The Northern New Mexico Consortium Partners and New Mexico Highlands University have developed an online technology course for those interested in becoming a Technology Learning Support Specialist (TLSS), a new paraprofessional career. This course is for parents, caregivers, teachers or community members who want to improve their technology use in the traditional classroom, their workplace or home. The course is ideal for those who want to help themselves and their family members succeed in a technology-driven world.

See the course here:

[https://opencoursesstore.d2l.com/product?catalog=TLSS\\_Parents\\_Caegivers1fkjM N8Qzi3kqea6fsMz5gvpcwTek4odnJBR](https://opencoursesstore.d2l.com/product?catalog=TLSS_Parents_Caegivers1fkjM N8Qzi3kqea6fsMz5gvpcwTek4odnJBR)

## Course Description

Technology Learning Support Specialist (TLSS) modules can be completed in approximately 60 minutes each and can be accessed anytime. Modules can be completed from a smartphone for convenience or from a tablet or computer. A hallmark of the content is practical application of skills, reflection and authentic assessment activities. This allows parents, caregivers and teachers who have limited free time to use the skills immediately in their home, school and community. More and more schools and businesses rely on technology to deliver distance education and client services. And because more tech is now used by schools and businesses, adults

have greater need to use that same technology wisely and with available resources in their home or community.

The modules deliver learning content, measure satisfaction and basic knowledge through user friendly surveys, and allow for the uploading of replies and assignments, just like a text message or social media chat. We strive to level the playing field and close historic opportunity gaps to learning.

TLSS modules and credentials are not limited to schools and traditional teachers. A main component of our Northern New Mexico consortium is to reach community members. A prime example of a target audience for TLSS are parents and caregivers. As parents and caregivers are a child's first teacher, they are the foundation of technology literacy.

After completing the course, the successful student will receive 5 badges (one per module) that stack into a certificate (stackable credential) that is recognized by New Mexico Highlands University and Northern New Mexico Consortium members (community groups, colleges, school districts). The credential can be used for resume building, skills development and online learning opportunities.

## Course Outline

Module 101 – The Digital Learning Landscape: Meeting Challenges and Finding Opportunities in Providing

- Effective Distance Education
- Module 102 – Technology Resources that Support Effective Distance Education
- Module 103 – Teaching and Learning Strategies that Support Effective Distance Education
- Module 104 – Parents and Caregivers in a Learning Team: Stumbling as a Part of Learning
- Module 105 – Parents and Caregivers as Lifelong Learners: Lifelong Learning and Putting Our Virtual Journey in Context

## Course Details

- Real world applications of learning
- Interaction Opportunities
- 100% Self-paced
- Cost per student: FREE

Questions? Email [modulecreds@nmhu.edu](mailto:modulecreds@nmhu.edu)

<https://www.nmhu.edu/landing-school-of-education/scm/>



**ZUNI COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**

TO RAISE THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL

Pueblo of Zuni Covid 19 Services  
 Zuni Hospital Covid 19 Hotline - 505-782-7591  
 Pueblo of Zuni Covid Info Center - 505-782-7114  
 COVID Vaccine Hotline - 505-782-7590  
 (12 & Older Appointments)

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**ZUNI SERVICE UNIT  
 COVID VACCINATION UPDATE**

**Now scheduling  
 12 yrs old or older**

**12-17 yr old must be present with parent or legal guardian on day of appointment**

**505-782-7590  
 Covid Vaccine Hotline**

**We ask that you continue to provide a working contact number E'Iah'kwa | Ahéhee'**

**12-17 Yrs Old will be scheduled on Friday 1:00pm-4:20pm**

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**ZUNI COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**

Pueblo of Zuni Covid 19 Information  
 Zuni Hospital Covid 19 Hotline - 505-782-7591  
 Zuni Hospital Covid Vaccine Hotline - 505-782-7590  
 Pueblo of Zuni Covid Info Center - 505-782-7114  
 www.facebook.com/P02Covid19  
 www.facebook.com/ZuniIndianHealthService

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**ZUNI COMMUNITY COVID VACCINATION EVENTS**  
 Let's reach community immunity! Protect yourself. Protect your family

ZCCHC WILL OFFER PFIZER, MODERNA AND JOHNSON & JOHNSON VACCINES AT ALL LOCATIONS  
 12-17 YEAR OLDS MUST HAVE PARENT CONSENT

**TUESDAY JUNE 8TH | 10:00AM - 1:00PM**  
 OLD MISSION CHURCH  
WALKUPS

**2:00PM - 4:00PM**  
 OLD HAWIKUH | HWY 53  
DRIVE THRU & WALKUPS

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 9TH | 10:00AM - 3:00PM**  
 A:SHIWI COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER  
DRIVE THRU & WALKUPS

**SATURDAY JUNE 12TH | 8:00AM - 2:00PM**  
 ZUNI FAIRGROUNDS  
DRIVE THRU & WALKUPS

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 16TH | 10:00AM - 4:00PM**  
 ZUNI FAIRGROUNDS  
DRIVE THRU & WALKUPS

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 16TH | 10:00AM - 6:00PM**  
 ZUNI HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT  
DRIVE THRU & WALKUPS

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 23RD & 30TH | 10:00AM - 4:00PM**  
 ZUNI FAIRGROUNDS  
DRIVE THRU & WALKUPS

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 30TH | 10:00AM - 4:00PM**  
 ZUNI FAIRGROUNDS  
DRIVE THRU & WALKUPS

**You should not get a COVID-19 vaccine if you:**  
 Have had a known COVID-19 exposure and are currently quarantined  
 Have symptoms of COVID-19, including a cough, fever, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell  
 Have a pending COVID-19 test  
 Had any other vaccine in the past 14 days

# The Zuni Youth Enrichment Project's 2021 Summer Camp Officially Kicks Off June 14 for Counselors and June 21 for Campers

Summer is here, and it's time for the Zuni Youth Enrichment Project 13th annual Summer Camp. This year's eagerly anticipated, in-person camp kicks off Monday, June 14 for counselors and Monday, June 21 for youth campers, and it will conclude Friday, July 16.

Founded in 2009, Summer Camp was ZYEP's first program — and it remains its flagship initiative, serving approximately 1,300 Zuni youth since its inception. The camp has become so popular, registrations for this year's camp filled in a matter of hours.



Nineteen counselors ages 15-24 will converge at ZYEP headquarters on June 14 for two days of in-house training, followed by a four-day outdoor retreat in a culturally significant area. During their time together, the young people will take part in mental health promotion training, daily group sessions, and professional development workshops that enhance communication, leadership, team-building, and mentoring skills.

"An important part of Summer Camp is the mentoring experience that we offer the Zuni teens and young adults who serve as our counselors," said Joe Claunch, ZYEP's executive director. "Every year, our counselors tell us about their positive experiences and personal growth. These experiences have a real, lasting impact on their higher education and career goals, so we know Summer Camp is life-changing for our camp counselors as well as for our youth campers."



Charis Boone, 19, served as a Summer Camp counselor in 2019. She agreed that the experience was life-changing.

"We really connected and got to know each other on a personal level," she said. "I gained leadership, organization, and communication skills, and I learned about resilience."

Sixty campers ages 7-12 will arrive at ZYEP on Monday, June 21. They will be assigned to "pods" of 10 campers with two to three counselors each. After the initial welcome, that first day will be devoted to connecting with counselors and the other campers in their pods, as well health screenings, establishing home-base classrooms, and assembling necessary gear for camp activities.

Then it will be time for Summer Camp learning and fun. For four weeks, campers will learn Zuni social dances, language, and art, including painting and fetish carving; they will hike to culturally significant sites; and they'll be actively involved in traditional gardening as they learn about nutrition. Camp also will be filled with plenty of physical activity, indoor and outdoor games, self-care, and free time with mentors.



"Our Summer Camp integrates Zuni culture into every aspect of daily camp life," Claunch said. "While they're learning and playing, they're also strengthening the connection they have to their traditions. We also have plenty to round out a more traditional camp curriculum, such as sports, outdoor games, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) activities."

Impact assessments over the years reveal that campers experience increased enjoyment of physical activity, increased consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables, improved peer and mentor relationships, and deeper connections to their Zuni culture. It's not too late to help — Claunch said supporters are still welcome to donate to the Summer Camp Fund at <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/zyepsummercamp>.



"We launched the Summer Camp Fund to ensure we meet the needs of this year's campers and sustain the program into the future," he explained. "Our goal is to raise \$20,000 by the end of July."

Throughout this campaign, ZYEP will be sharing camp stories and activities on social media and by email. Follow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [TikTok](#) to be part of #ZYEPSummerFun.

## Covid Testing Update

The following information is being released by Emergency Management and the Pueblo of Zuni. Updates are received through the Ramah/Zuni Service Unit (IHS); test results reflect non-tribal and tribal members.

Total Tests Performed by Zuni Hospital Lab as of 6/9/21:	12,028
Total Negative to date:	9,428
Total Positives to date:	1,476
Total Positive Test Results for Zuni Community as of 6/9/21:	1,202
Number of New Positives for 4/16-6/9 for Zuni Community:	2
Total Recoveries as of 6/9/21:	99

\*Total number of recoveries include family members exposed to COVID-19 who did not take a COVID-19 test.

# Notice of Public Hearing for Zuni Education & Career Development Program

The Pueblo of Zuni – Zuni Education & Career Development Program requests public comments on the three (3) year annual renewal plan. Every three (3) years, a renewal plan is submitted to Federal administering agencies. ZECDC will be submitting the three (3) Year 477 Renewal Plan for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022-2024.

A public virtual hearing to receive feedback on the annual renewal plan will be held on **June 24, 2021 at 2:00 pm.**

Zoom meeting information:

<https://zoom.us/j/9362901238?pwd=NXdxUWJlZC8rcDZ4NVJoTGo3MHowUT09>

Meeting ID: 936 290 1238  
Passcode: 498835

Written comments can be submitted to the ZECDC program located at 01 Twin Buttes Road by 4:30 pm or via email at [zecdc@ashiwi.org](mailto:zecdc@ashiwi.org) no later than **Friday, June 25, 2021.**



## A Journey of Reconnection: Zuni Youth Experience Adventure, Understanding, and Healing at Mesa Verde

On May 14-16, Zuni Youth Enrichment Project staff and a group of youth leaders ages 19-24 traveled from New Mexico to Colorado to visit the culturally significant lands at Mesa Verde National Park. The weekend adventure was made possible with support from Hopa Mountain, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Josh Kudrna, ZYEP's physical activity coordinator and organizer of the Mesa Verde trip, said the excursion was a precious opportunity for staff and youth.

"We could go beyond the pavement of the visitor's center and sidewalks and follow old pathways toward deeper connections," he said. "It was an honor to help our community's youth access those valued ancestral lands."



According to Zuni religious leader Nelson Vicenti, who served as cultural advisor for the ZYEP trip, A:shiwi used the lands now within Mesa Verde National Park as a stopping place on their migration journey to Zuni. Skilled architects, they inhabited Mesa Verde's pueblos, pit houses, and cliff dwellings; they hunted and gathered

to survive, and later, they became farmers. Experts do not have a clear idea why the people abandoned their dwellings at Mesa Verde, but Vicenti emphasized that the people never vanished. They migrated to the current villages now known as the 19 pueblos, including Zuni.

"The spirits of our ancestors live strong in Mesa Verde," he said. "Their presence is very much present, and we must continue to educate others about our rich history — not what you find in books, but what we have been taught and continually practice to this day."



"I've had the privilege and honor of growing up and being part of our rich culture, which has been rooted in my being and into my family," he continued. "Because of our resilience, we need to continue to practice our religion and teach the youth the importance of who they are."

During their three-day, two-night park excursion, the Zuni youth and ZYEP staff members enjoyed hiking, camping, and tours, including an up-close tour of Square Tower House. Tahlia Natachu, youth development coordinator, said the days and nights were filled with discussions and laughter.

"Each day, we participated in hikes and visits to the various sites," she said. "We walked on the same land our ancestors did, and we got a glimpse of what their lives were like. Each evening concluded with our group reflecting on the day's experiences around a campfire before settling in for the night."

National Park Service rangers provided access to the various sites and resources, shared information about the sites, and encouraged young people to consider becoming rangers themselves in order to share their own stories.

"A theme that came up a lot during the trip was that healing was happening that weekend, both contemporary and historical," Natachu said. "That's powerful."

Brittney Seowtewa, a food sovereignty specialist for ZYEP who participated in the trip, agreed with Natachu's assessment.

"The time spent at Mesa Verde was a spiritual journey of reconnection," she said. "It also was a journey of reflection, to be able to see where our ancestors lived and how far we have come as Zuni people."

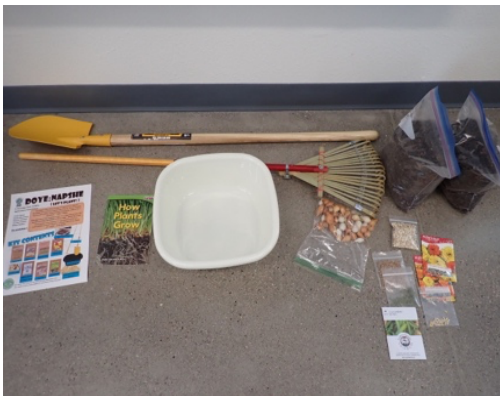


# 100 Families Register with Zuni Youth Enrichment Project's Food Sovereignty Program for the 2021 Growing Season

With support from the New Mexico Department of Health and the Native American Agriculture Fund, the Zuni Youth Enrichment Project is taking its food sovereignty initiative to the next level for the 2021 growing season. Last year, the nonprofit youth organization distributed garden kits to local families so they could develop their own gardens; this year, ZYEP formally registered 100 families for an official program that incorporates garden kits, rain-harvest barrels, seeds, tools, and a collaborative ZYEP Agriculture Support Team.

According to Jessica Quinlan, ZYEP's food sovereignty coordinator, the evolution of the program is a dream come true for the staff and the youth and families they serve. As she observed, agriculture is closely intertwined with Zuni culture and traditions.

"ZYEP's Agricultural Committee guides the values our program reflects," she explained. "We strive to include youth in every aspect of the growing season, use good seeds, and conserve water. It's so important to provide these sustainable gardening opportunities to Zuni youth.



"We did distribute garden and rain-harvest kits last year, but the families who received one kit didn't necessarily get the other," she continued. "This year, it's an actual program that incorporates all the elements, and we're so excited."

Distributed in May, the 100 garden kits included corn, cilantro, carrot, melon, marigold, and various Native seeds; onion bulbs; a 4-foot shovel and rake; a water-saving bin; local soil; straw to conserve moisture; and a book about planting. Going forward, the ZYEP team will remain in close touch with registered families through the Agriculture Support Team.

"We'll be visiting them and taking pictures," Quinlan said. "Each visit will be an opportunity to share ideas and information, and celebrate the fun things that are happening. We're doing this together."

ZYEP is dedicated to revitalizing sustainable ways for Native organic crops to be grown and distributed among community members, creating stronger and healthier individuals and strengthening connections with ancestral Zuni culture. Quinlan noted that the entire initiative began with the kids.



"This is all made possible due to the enthusiasm of our Zuni youth, who involve family members of all ages," she said. "Last year, we learned that for every kit we distributed, four people planted; that means 100 kits this year will involve 400 to 500 people. That's how we know it's the right thing to do. It's led by our community members, and it reflects Zuni values."

Quinlan also observed that, in 2020, more than 30 percent of gardening families included elders who shared stories while they helped plant. And 100 percent of gardening families reported that they felt more connected to Zuni language and culture through the growing season.

This year, that connectedness will be enhanced through ZYEP's outreach efforts. In addition to the home-garden visits, the youth project will engage with

participants through regular activities such as cooking demonstrations and nutrition workshops. "We want to build relationships, provide guidance and support, and uplift everyone's unique strengths and talents," Quinlan said. "Agriculture is a learning process for first-time gardeners all the way to experienced farmers; it's all about teaching each other."

In May, ZYEP's Agriculture Support Team and staff delivered rain barrels for the rain harvesting component of the program, which also will include a barrel-decorating contest for youth. A select number of families also have signed up for gutter kits, so the youth project will offer installation workshops as well. And Quinlan said this is just the tip of the iceberg.

"We want our community to be able to grow and share its own food, especially traditional foods using Native, non-GMO, organic seeds," she said. "These seeds are trustworthy, and they need less water. We can do so much, each one of us, to improve the health of our people — freshly harvested food is medicine. And, in the process, we'll be encouraging the continuation of Zuni traditions."

Brittney Seowtewa, 28, agreed. She works closely with Quinlan at ZYEP, and said Native food sovereignty is her passion.

"Our ancestors cared for their plants and grew their own food," she said. "They came together to harvest it, to dehydrate it, and to trade and share it. So food sovereignty is an old concept, but it's new also. We need to relearn it."



# 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Zuni Recycled Art Contest Winners Announced

By Tammy Parker

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Zuni Recycled Art Contest, held in May every year since 2014 except for last year, has just concluded. This year the contest was held without the MainStreet Festival. Due to that, along with last year's cancellation, participation this year was down to 10 participants, compared to 24 entrants in 2019.



Each year the Environmental Protection Program has held the recycled art contest, we have seen increased creativity in the entries we receive. This year was no exception, although a few artists ran out of time and had to improvise to get their pieces submitted. This was especially true in the Recycled Art Challenge, where entrants chose their materials from a pile selected ahead of time, and then had 2 weeks to complete their entry from those chosen items. In the past we have selected items from the transfer station. This year we chose to select items from across the reservation, with many being antiques found at illegal dumpsites or along trails. The challenge had 4 participants this year and all selected their materials at individually appointed times at the Division of Natural Resources compound on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

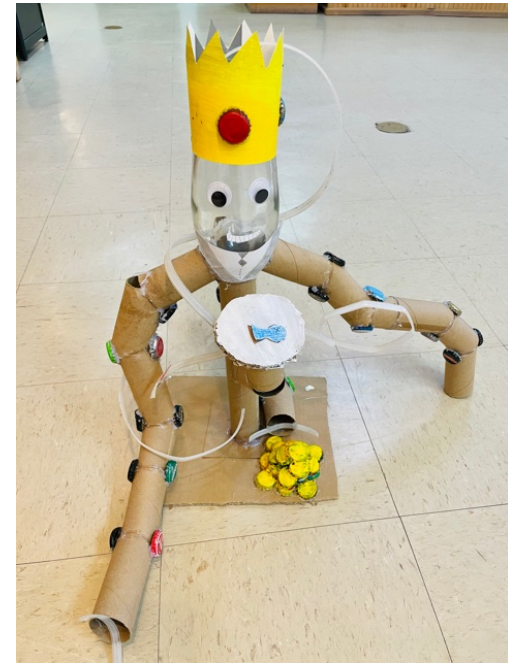
The Challenge Artists then had until May 21<sup>st</sup> to complete their entry and submit it for judging. Judging was conducted via Zoom with our 4 judges, 3 returning and one new. The judges were 2 studio owners, an artist/teacher and the Executive Director of the Gallup Arts Council. Judges struggled with the difficulty of selecting winning entries but were given a rubric which allowed each entry a maximum of 20 points based upon Effective use of reused/recycled materials, Originality and Innovation, Craftsmanship, and Overall Presentation. Each entry had to use a minimum of 75% recycled materials.



The Artist Challenge winner was Jeff Shetima's Cougar. Made of a couple of old metal headboards, a tail pipe and a 1" piece of rebar. Jeff is planning to finish his entry with a skin of the chain-link fencing he also selected, and promised to give us pictures to post when it is done. He won a \$500 gift card and already has multiple offers to purchase the piece.



Artist Challenge runner-up was Lynn Bowannie. Her piece tells a story about how we all grow up in our own boxes and struggle to break free. Her chosen materials were baling wire, a wood and metal soda crate, bits of barbed wire and a jar of tumbled broken glass. She received an offer to purchase her entry, along with her \$250 gift card prize.



Third place went to Derion Lynder Locaspino for his metal beetle, and fourth place to Kyle Ghahate's Mechanical Squid Businessman.

To see more entries:

<http://www.ashiwi.org/RecycledArtsChallenge.html>

We congratulate all our entries and look forward to a time when Zuni's artists will help fund their more traditional artwork by creating works made from free materials, our community's trash, and then selling it. All artists are invited to submit entries for the annual Recycle Santa Fe Art Festival, November 12 - 14. This show is the largest and oldest Recycled art market in the country and draws hundreds of artists and recycled art enthusiasts and buyers every year. For more information:

<https://www.recyclesantafe.org/>