

THE MVSKOKE NATION YOUTH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared for

United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Executive Committee and

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation

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Introduction

This report is a review of the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council's (MNYC) events and service learning projects. UNITY sets guidelines for each youth council to do at least one project per year in the four areas of community service, cultural preservation, environmental awareness, and healthy lifestyles. The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council has not only completed one project for the areas assigned, but has achieved doing two or more in all of the designated areas.

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Mvskoke Nation Youth Council

The purpose of the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council (MNYC) is to empower the Mvskoke Youth by listening and taking action, enhance the voices of the youth by promoting positive changes and informed decisions, and affect all generations and sustain the Mvskoke way of life. The MNYC was created on June 20, 2015. The MNYC was the vision of the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services program which began in October 2014. The vision provided an opportunity for a program to focus solely on working with Mvskoke Youth. As a result, Mvskoke Youth have the opportunity to express themselves, obtain resources, and understand their importance within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The impact of this creation allows direction for Mvskoke Youth to be the leaders of today and tomorrow.

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council currently has 37 active members with at least 20 members in attendance at each monthly meeting. The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council meets the second Saturday of every month. Meetings include the singing of a traditional hymn, a cultural activity, officer and committee reports, discussion of old and new business and, occasionally, presentations from the community.

Officers

Speaker: Darrell Proctor II

2nd Speaker: Jay Fife Jr.

Secretary: Claudia McHenry

Treasurer: Amberly Proctor

Sergeant at Arms: Tyler Hill

Public Relations: Laura Mason

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Community Service Events

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council (MNYC) has been involved in many events that include community service or service learning. Since October 1, 2016, the MNYC has completed 1203 hours of service. The MNYC is called upon by many programs of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to provide service. One example is, members often serve lunch to the elders at the community nutrition program. This is a service that many of the youth enjoy because of the importance of elders in our community by making connections with the elders and learning from them during their interactions. Members have also assisted with the Senior Games and Christmas Party.



The MNYC is a partner with the US Department of Justice in the Vietnam War Commemorative Program. The MNYC has committed to hosting 2 events per year from 2015 through 2018 to honor Vietnam Era Veterans. Over the last year, the MNYC hosted a breakfast, coordinated a Welcome Home Parade and also created Valentine's Day cards to send to the veterans. The

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members enjoyed honoring the veterans during each of these events; however they were surprised at the appreciation and honor the veterans returned to them. There were 34 Vietnam Era Veterans in attendance at the both the breakfast and parade representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.



Additional partnerships and collaborations include: Family Violence Prevention Program to host the Native Love Dance for Teen Dating Violence Awareness; volunteered at the Spring Celebration event, Scholarship Pageant and the Annual Creek Festival.

Cultural Preservation

Preserving our culture is a priority for MNYC. As a result many events and classes were organized to showcase Mvskoke Culture. MNYC members have the opportunity to learn from Mvskoke artists who teach the skills of Can Making, Skirt Making, Vest Making, and Moccasin Making. Many of the youth are able to teach and assist their peers in creating these items. In

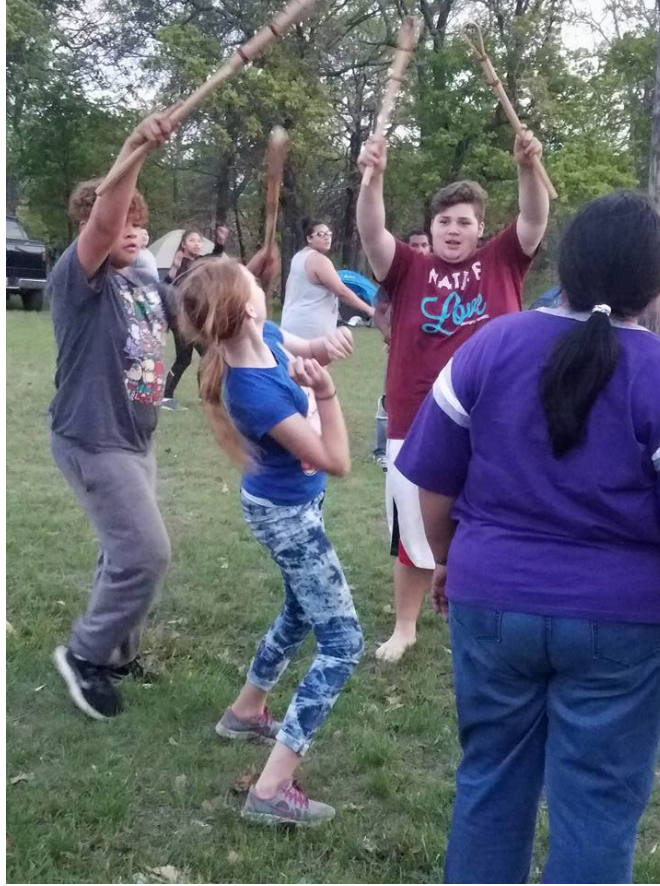
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in addition some of the MNYC members are assisting the Mvskoke artists at the Cultural Expressions camps this summer.



At each regular MNYC Meeting there is a Mvskoke Language Activity. These activities include: playing games, discussing the language, and having the availability to ask about the language. The Youth Enrichment Camp was started by MNYC member Nancy Deere-Turney in 2016. The MNYC voted to make this an ongoing activity. The camp is held on an original allotment of land with a traditional structure called a Round House. Campers experience primitive camping and traditional foods, as well as learn about the Mvskoke history. In addition to learning about the Mvskoke way of life, campers also discuss prevention of suicide, bullying and teen dating violence. This camp is intended to promote the concept that culture is prevention.

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MNYC members participated in the Oklahoma Native Language Youth Fair in April. All placed in their individual categories in addition to winning 2nd in the Modern Song and 3rd in the Traditional Song categories. The MNYC was also represented in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl in both the High School and Middle School categories. The High School team placed 2nd in a sudden death finals.

Environmental Awareness

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council has made a contribution to the environment around them, together and singly. The MNYC completed an Earth Day Pick Up on April 22nd. This event allowed members of the MNYC to pick up trash along a highway in their community; members,

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who were not able to make it, were encouraged to pick up trash in their own community.

Another event on this date included members of the MNYC planting a yellow rose bush at the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services office in memoriam to one of the members who died by suicide.



Healthy Lifestyles

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council promotes healthy living and healthy lifestyles to their members and their Mvskoke people. The MNYC coordinated two major health events, the Mvskoke March and the Mvskoke Mvnettvlke Temvrkv (Mvskoke Youth Games). The Mvskoke March was an event to raise awareness of teen dating violence. The Mvskoke March was organized by MNYC member, Jay Fife. The Mvskoke March was a 110 mile walk from the tribal capitol of the Muscogeee (Creek) Nation in Okmulgee, OK, to Oklahoma's State Capitol in

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Oklahoma City. The Mvskoke March spanned over a period of 4 days period and included several partnerships that provided food and lodging for the youth. Along the walk, the youth carried signs which displayed facts on teen dating violence and participated in discussions on this topic. Both the youth and the bystanders gained a better understanding of the significance of the walk and see the numbers of Native women being abused.



The Mvskoke Mvnettvlke Temvrkv (Mvskoke Youth Games) was an event that really highlighted the physical attributes of the Mvskoke people. This was similar to the Olympics with traditional Mvskoke games so as to promote cultural preservation and health and wellness. Events of the Mvskoke Mvnettvlke Temvkv included: running, blow darts, stickball, adle ladle, bow shooting, and stickball throwing accuracy. The youth who participated in the Mvskoke Youth Games were from all over the Musogee (Creek) Nation territory. This project was

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connected to the national NB3Fit Day and was a collaboration with the MCN Museum and Cultural Archives and the Muscogee Bow Shooters Society.



Presentations

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council has hosted numerous presentations within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The presentations include traditional hymn singing, stomp dance presentations and discussions of program services. The MNYC has provided cultural presentations at the Inter-Tribal Conference of the 5 Civilized Tribes, the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board Conference, the IAMNDN Conference and the Elgin Elementary Native American Heritage Month Program.

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Members of Distinction

Center for Native American Youth Champion for Change

2017

- Nancy Deere-Turney

Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) Challenge Acceptors

2016

- Jay Fife – Mvskoke March
- Trevor Fish – Book Drive
- Laura Mason and Charles Mason – Socktober
- Jady Williams – Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard Project

White House Tribal Youth Gathering

2016

- Jay Fife
- Ashleigh Fixico
- Nancy Deere-Turney

WeRNative Ambassador

2016-17

- Nancy Deere-Turney
- Maddie Lamb
- Jasmyne Jack
- Iesha Phillips

2017-18

- Karen McGirt
- Iesha Philips

Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair

2017

- Sutv Harjo: 1st Place in Comic Strip & Cartoon 6th-8th grade
- Scarlett Graywolfe: Honorable Mention in Poster 6th-8th grade
- Ariana Osborne: 3rd Place in Book & Literature 6th-8th grade
- Louisa Harjo: 1st Place in Poster 6th-8th

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Glenpool NASA Princess

2016-17

- Jady Williams

National Indian Health Board's Tribal Youth Health Advisory Board

2017

- Ashleigh Fixico

Udall Foundation Native American Congressional Internship

2017

- Ashleigh Fixico
- Nancy Deere-Turney

Yale Bassett Award for Community Engagement

2017

- Iesha-Lashay Phillips

Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society

2017

- Claudia McHenry
- Erin Bunner
- Jay Fife
- Darrell Proctor
- Amberly Proctor

Jenks Public Schools Native American Education Student of the Year

2017

- Iesha-Lashay Phillips – Junior
- Abela Watson – Freshman

Mvskoke Women's Leadership Award

2017

- Louisa Proctor – Middle School Student of the Year
- Amberly Proctor – College Student of the Year
- Alexis McHenry – Humanitarian of the Year

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College Horizons

2016

- Claudia McHenry

2017

- Jay Fife
- Erin Bunner

College Horizons Scholars Program

2017

- Claudia McHenry

Miss Muscogee Creek Nation

2017-2018

- Amberly Proctor

Jr. Miss Muscogee Creek Nation

2017-18

- Iesha Phillips

Contact Information

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