

FROM CAMPERS TO COMMUNITY LEADERS

THE ZUNI YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROJECT

NOVEMBER 2026

Dear ZYEP Family,

Have you ever had that moment when you finally achieve something that you've been working towards? That feeling of accomplishment, pride, relief, and happiness is so meaningful when you know you poured time, energy, and effort into it. I would argue those influential moments have the ability to shape how we navigate the world now and for the rest of their lives.

At ZYEP, these are the moments we want to foster because we believe that all kids deserve opportunities to develop their full potential. We facilitate fun, supportive environments for kids to try something new like an art activity, a recipe, or a sport. The activities are rooted in Zuni values and culture. We have positive role models guiding youth, especially as they face the inevitable challenges along the way. These foundational building blocks prepare our youth to continue to venture into new opportunities with courage and curiosity.

Our young participants turn into young adults, and that is why **ZYEP is working to grow the number of leadership opportunities for our youth**, such as being camp counselors, sports coaches or interns. When youth are a critical part of making something positive happen, they realize their potential, their power, and their desire to do meaningful things. They make decisions to be healthy, positive contributors to our community. ZYEP is determined and honored to be that pathway for our youth.

With your help, we can support even more Zuni youth to reach their full potential. We are excited to announce that right now, thanks to several generous partners, **your year-end gift will be MATCHED up to $35,000! Would you consider making a gift today, providing crucial opportunities for Zuni youth to achieve their goals and reach their full potential?**

From the bottom of our hearts, Elahkwa (Thank you) for your support, helping to elevate the strengths and gifts of our Zuni youth.



With gratitude,

Tahlia Natachu-Eriacho

Tahlia Natachu-Eriacho, M.Ed
Zuni, San Felipe, Navajo
ZYEP Executive Director

P.S. **Donate by December 31st to double your impact!** Simply go to zyep.org/join-us/donate/ to make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation.









THE "ZYEP PATHWAY": EMPOWERING KIDS T

MEET DMITRY, AGE 17



As someone who grew up in ZYEP programs, I couldn't wait to become a Summer Camp Counselor! As a camper, my counselors were fun to be around, and I wanted to create good memories for future campers.

Becoming a counselor, I realized that I needed to step it up and have a positive mindset for these kids because I wanted them to have a good experience at camp. I reflected on myself and realized that I wasn't happy. I started working out, got out of my room more, started hanging out with more friends and family, and got more involved with my religion and culture.



My mindset for the first year as a counselor was: "I can do it, I'm strong." That got me through the challenges, and I had fun. The second year was different. I feel like I've gained confidence as a whole, and I've learned to use my voice. I have higher self-esteem. I feel like I'm not a loner all the time now. **I have people who care about me.** I feel like that's been a real big change for me, and I love that about myself.



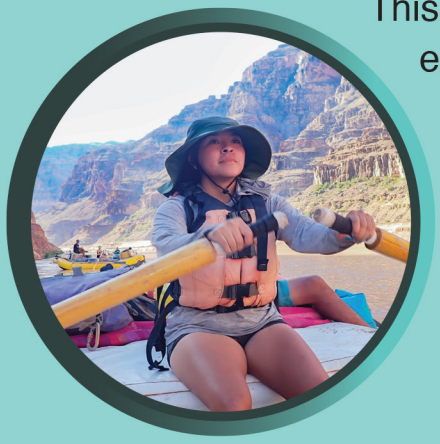
ZYEP brings people together and brings more activities to life. It creates good memories, and it creates a good community for Zuni. I just got accepted to Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ. I want to be a registered nurse and serve my community. Working here at the Indian Health Service is one of my biggest goals.

O LIVE INTO THEIR DREAMS AND POTENTIAL

MEET TAIRIA, AGE 23



As a kid, I played basketball with ZYEP, and I vividly remember being in summer camp. My counselor took really good care of us, and it really stuck with me. When I was old enough, I became a ZYEP summer camp counselor, was a part of the sewing apprenticeship, and joined Connect to Land opportunities like the Grand Canyon rafting trip.



This year, a ZYEP staff member encouraged me to run for the Miss Zuni royalty title, where I would be an advocate for my community and culture. He told me I had the potential to be a good leader. I asked for references from my ZYEP mentors. They were really happy about it, and it gave me the confidence to try something I normally wouldn't do because I knew I had support. I won the title!

Here in a small town, we don't get a lot of opportunities. I see a high rise in alcoholism and drug use, and even people my own age going through that. But **ZYEP creates the space for kids to come find different opportunities and a safe space. ZYEP changes people's lives.** The team here really cares about the kids and young adults in the programs. They help their confidence and encourage them to believe that they can do more with themselves.

My biggest wish for myself is to be a botanist or environmentalist. I really like being outside and want to help my community. I would advise kids to take opportunities at ZYEP. You meet new people and role models. **You believe that you as an individual can do more and challenge yourself to do more.**



JOIN US IN BUILDING A POSITIVE FUTURE FOR OUR KIDS, COMMUNITY AND WORLD!







FROM CAMPERS TO COMMUNITY LEADERS

Here are examples of how your gift today can help provide leadership opportunities for Zuni youth:

$25
Coaching uniform for one youth sports coach

$50
Gardening tools and supplies for one food sovereignty intern

$100
Steel-toed work boots for one youth trail crew intern

$500
Registration for one youth council member to attend leadership conference

$1,500
Apprenticeship for one emerging youth artist

$2,500
Paid position for one Youth Summer Camp Counselor

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