

AIR News



30 March 2009

Proudly serving the San Diego American Indian Community for 15 years



AIR Program-A Solid Rock

SAN DIEGO, California — Last week the AIR Sr. Project went to the Solid Rock Gym to find out about how recreational activities can sometimes cause harm to our sacred sites. Many sites have been damaged by recreational users (hikers, mountain climbing, atv, etc) and we took them to the Solid Rock Gym to



find out how much damage can happen when rock climbing.

We found out that rock climbing alone requires great strength and when applied to sites that are fragile it can cause great damage. This exercise had two purposes. To find an example of how destruction may occur and to have fun. I think we accomplished both.

One of mentors from Australia brought greater insight to this topic by giving the example of Uluru. Uluru (Ayers Rock) is a sacred site that has been violated every year by visitors who choose climb to the summit leaving a trail within the mountain. Preservation efforts have been made to save the monument be outlawing hiking and climbing of the mountain.

The overall workshop given by our mentors on the destruction of sacred sites in combination with the example of the force that is applied when rock climbing, has given our students greater respect and understanding of how to take care of our cultural sites. Plus, we just had a great time climbing! Although, the harnesses and falling leave you feeling a little uncomfortable or just plain scared!

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Thank you CSUSM for all your help in hosting our AIR Program this semester. We look forward towards many meetins at CSUSM.





Rose Vasquez Receives AIR Mid-Year Scholarship for ACT/SAT

Congratulations to Rose Vasquez who received our Crystal Roberts Mesa Memorial Scholarship towards her test preparation for the ACT and SAT testing. Rose has been a student within our program for the last 3 years and has recently started writing for our newsletter. Again, we thank Rose for her participation and wish her the best in taking the ACT in April.



CSUSM Professor Dr. Thomas Spady with AIR Jr. Students in the CSUSM Science Labs

AIR Jr. at Cal State San Marcos

Our AIR Jr. program made its way to California State University San Marcos (CSUSM). Part of our underlining ideal is to become familiar with the numerous educational institutions within San Diego County and we are very fortunate to have great support for our program and educational opportunities through Cal State San Marcos Tribal Liaison, Tishmall Turner. While at CSUSM, our students heard from Dr. Joely Proudfit (CSUSM Professor) on her journey through higher education and the challenges many American Indians face while in school.

Finally, Dr. Tom Spady gave our program a science demonstration on operant conditioning. One area of discipline that American Indians need to participate within is the sciences. In an effort to intrigue our students within this area Dr. Tom Spady took our students into the CSUSM science labs and gave a demonstration.

In all, the students took away from the meeting interest in the sciences, motivation in hearing from American Indians who have succeeded in academia, and an overall feel for CSUSM. Again, thank you to Dr. Proudfit, Dr. Spady, and Tribal Liaison, Tishmall Turner.



Dr. Joely Proudfit Speaking to AIR Jr. student participants



Dr. Michelle Jacob, Professor in the Dept. of Ethnic Studies

AIR Sr. at the University of San Diego

Our AIR Sr. program is in the midst of our research project on Sacred Sites. We have had to change our schedule a bit so that we could understand the concept of culture a little more. Overall, it is our culture that allows us to understand our sites that we deem sacred, it helps us to view and understand our lives. Therefore, we needed to take a little more time to understand this concept.

We brought in local community leaders to discuss Birdsinging from the perspective of the local Tribes (Kumeyaay and Cahuilla). From what was given in our presentation the songs describe the Kumeyaay and Cahuilla migration to this location (San Diego and Riverside County) by following the migration of birds. As the songs progress it talks about how life is viewed and to be carried out. Overall, Birdsongs present the Kumeyaay and Cahuilla cultural outlook and view of life.

We were very fortunate to have our presenters George Zuniga (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel) and Darren Hill (Cahuilla Reservation) give this presentation as both are accomplished Birdsingers and have close ties to various issues effecting the local American Indian community.

Overall, by understanding culture as carried on by our local Tribes we can use this in evaluating our own culture and understand why we find various places and actions as sacred to our Native people. Thanks once again to Darren Hill and George Zuniga.



When to take the SAT?? by Renee White Eyes



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Part of the process of preparing to go to a four year university is taking the SAT. This is something that is mandatory, unless instructed otherwise by the institution. For our juniors, the time to take the SAT is here, and you need to start preparing to take this long test. According to www.collegeboard.com, the time to take the SAT is during the spring semester of your junior year and/or the fall of your senior year. I would recommend taking the SAT the spring semester of your junior year, and if you do poorly, you will have another chance to take it during your senior year. The test dates for this spring semester is: March 19, 2009 and you had to register February 10, 2009. The next test date is May 2, 2009 and you need to register by March 13, 2009. The last test date is June 6, 2009 and you need to register by May 5, 2009. The basic fee for the SAT is \$45, and if you register late, the late fee is an additional \$23. However, there are fee waivers, and you will need to go to www.collegeboard.com or see your school counselor for more information on how to get the fee waived.



The AIR Program is a proud recipient of ANA Funding for 2008



Thank you to Sycuan for your all your continued support



From Student to Mentor to Community Leader

The AIR Program has been in existence since 1993 and has served within the American Indian community for the last 15 years. We have seen hundreds of students go through our program and have seen many of our students grow and have children of their own. Therefore, it is an honor for us to have former students come back and talk with the current students about American Indian issues. George Zuniga, an AIR Student more than 12 years ago, gave us this opportunity.

George has become accomplished in working with American Indian repatriation issues and his own culture. Within our discussion he gave us the opportunity to understand his insight on cultural values and what he has learned as well as what he is still learning as he grows older.

Having community leaders speak at our program is part of our project but when those who have taken part and understand what we are trying to do, come back to participate and give back to our program and our community it makes our program all the more special. We have high regards for George and what he has accomplished-thanks for all your help, Mr. George Zuniga.



AIR Tutorial Program: The AIR Program Tutorial Program has started and will continue to operate through the Spring. For more information please contact:

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