

Navajo County Drug Project

Navajo County Coalition Against Drug Abuse



A Coalition of Concerned Navajo County Residents Joined Together to:

- EDUCATE the Community on the substance abuse crisis
- REHABILITATE those who have fallen into the addiction
- ENFORCE laws pertaining to the spread of substance abuse in our communities

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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4th JLA Guides Youth to Success

LAKESIDE—Navajo County Drug Project (NDCP) kicked off its fourth summer program for youth today at Blue Ridge Yellow Jacket Learning Center with 27 students from Blue Ridge and Whiteriver School Districts. The annual Junior Leadership Academy offers youth hands-on activities, physical challenges, thought process and goal-setting skills, along with scholastic improvement tools through a high ratio of professional teacher to youth contact. A parent component also gives guardians tools for support and substance abuse prevention.

JLA IV will work with Yellow Jacket Youth Center and the White Mountain Nature Center to do outdoor programs and nature training for the last three days of the current academy.

Numerous community leaders and other volunteers contribute to the program as speakers, hands-on helpers and contributing and preparing meals. Previous JLA participants return to serve as peer leaders. One such student, now in high school was a participant in the first academy and returns this year for the third time as a junior leader.

Teachers from other school districts participate in “on the job training” to expand the program to other school districts in Navajo County. Show Low Schools will hold its first independent JLA in July this year.

This year’s program is underwritten by Navajo County Major Crimes Apprehension Team, through Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) Act funds earmarked for education. However, significant community support and funding supports this year’s academy, including donations from: Dr Mary Jeanne Munroe, Blue Ridge Unified School District, Show Low School District, Whiteriver Unified School District, Summit Healthcare, White Mountain Women’s Club, Navajo County Board of Supervisors, Navajo County School

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Mission Statement:

To develop a diverse community representation, coordinate a sustained effort in educating and preventing the substance abuse through a plan for change in local social norms through prevention, treatment and vigorous enforcement of existing laws.

Superintendent, Friends of Navajo County Casa, Inc., Drug Enforcement Agency, Cornerstone Community Church, Knights of Columbus, Cellular One, Phil May, Joan MacEachen and Elizabeth Clark, among others.

Donations to support the program are tax deductible to NDCP's non-profit Friends of Navajo County Anti-Drug Coalition, Inc., and may be directed to PO Box 1596, Pinetop, AZ 85935. The Blue Ridge program continues through June 18. The Show Low program runs July 5-15. For more information, go to www.navajocountydrugproject.com

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Photo caption:

Participants of Navajo County Drug Project's 2009 Junior Leadership Academy at the closing ceremony. (NCDP File Photo)