

Youth Environmental Mentorship: Native Village of Chuathbaluk



Challenge: How do we get and keep our youth engaged?

Project Objective

The Native Village of Chuathbuluk wanted to demonstrate how a community can get their youth excited and “wanting” to be involved in environmental activities and actions within their village besides seeing environmental involvement only as getting a prize during spring clean-up; then losing interest until the next spring.

Results

- Environmental Club set up at school with monthly meetings to keep interest.
- Four youth attended the Environmental Leaders Summer Camp in Alabama.
- Youth learned to prepare and then present at Community events.
- Youth presented on Climate Change at 2014 AFN’s Youth & Elders Conference.
- The “Future Leaders” video filmed.
- One youth applied and was selected to attend the Juneau Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) annual Civics & Conservation Summit. (2015)

Benefits

- Three youth attended national environmental camp to learn leadership skills returning home to their village with new skills to promote and encourage other youth in the community to get engaged in environmental projects.
- Mentorship activity steps were documented and shared with others. The students’ written essays were shared via social media which the youth today are more inclined to use and “take notice” of what others are doing, which may provoke similar positive actions in their community or schools. The essays were shared via “conventional” avenues such as email, newsletters, local school district outreach announcements, and our website.

Lessons Learned

- Students learned that throughout the world there are major environmental concerns. They know that they are capable of researching and understanding those issues, and then sharing information about them in presentations.
- The best way to teach for these students, is to have them tell me how to go about applying a solution or idea.
- Students do better when they write their own behavioral rules to follow.
- Have a credit card when arranging for and when traveling for emergencies.

Once the students were comfortable [at the camp] they picked up their skills very quickly and always asked questions without hesitation. They bring that with them, as Joseph is now not so afraid to speak in public.



Community Environmental Demonstration Projects

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