

EXTENSION TRENDS: **NEZ PERCE RESERVATION**

University of Idaho Extension, Nez Perce Reservation • www.uidaho.edu/nezpercereservation



2022 By the Numbers

- 177 direct contacts
- 1,074 youth participants
- 42 volunteers
- 1,048 volunteer hours
- \$396,355 extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension, Nez Perce Reservation: Ryan Oatman, Ann McCormack, Kim Cannon, Kathee Tift and Abraham Broncheau.

UI Extension Educator



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2022 Impact

In 2022, UI Extension had an impressive impact on youth and families living on or near the Nez Perce Reservation. This impact was due in large part to the America Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) regional grant. Funding from this grant, in partnership with UI Extension, Coeur d'Alene Reservation, was used to expand programs on both reservations with four new projects, including Youth Outdoor Survival Skills, Basketball STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math), Culture is Prevention and Robotics. Youth were brought together to interact and make new friendships. Funding from this grant also provided opportunities for youth from both reservations to travel together to Moscow, Spokane and Seattle for a deeper dive in learning.

To encourage adult participation, more opportunities were provided for adults to learn alongside youth through intergenerational learning opportunities. Youth were accompanied by an adult for the Culture is Prevention workshops so they could learn together. These opportunities helped to strengthen the bonds of families and create lasting memories.

Nez Perce Reservation 4-H

The 4-H program is unique with a strong focus on incorporating the culture, traditions and language of the Nez Perce Tribe in all aspects of projects, workshops and classes. UI Extension strives to indigenize the scientifically researched curriculum to better meet the needs of participants and be more culturally relevant. This is accomplished by incorporating the nimiipuu' timt (Nez Perce) language, stories, art and history in the 4-H in Indian country program.

The uniqueness of indigenized programming is most noticeable in the Culture is Prevention project. Cultural arts are used to bring youth and adults together to learn arts and crafts. This year participants were provided opportunities to learn sewing, beading, weaving, drum making, drumming/singing, cooking and more. Adults and youth learning together provided a platform for youth to take a leadership role as they occasionally became a teacher to remind their adult partner how to perform some of the tasks they had learned. The adults were pleased to see the knowledge being passed down to the next generation and pleased that this need was recognized and filled by UI Extension.

On the Horizon

The UI Extension office is excited to further develop Kaya Club. Kaya is the American Girl doll modeled after a Nez Perce girl living on the traditional lands of the Nimiipuu in 1764. The traditional grounds of the Nez Perce Tribe expanded over what is now Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana. Kaya has been an amazing vehicle for learning about the language, history, geographical location and history of the Nez Perce. Work on the curriculum has been ongoing for a few years and learning opportunities were expanded in 2022, including trips to culturally significant tribal areas including the hot springs in central Idaho and up the Snake River to view the Buffalo Eddie petroglyphs. In 2023, trips will be held to the Heart of the Monster Site, Ant and the Yellow Jacket Rock Formation and other significant historical markers of the Nez Perce. Learning opportunities will also be available for foraging, traditional root digging and fishing in the usual and accustomed areas of the Nimiipuu.