

INNOVATION, TRIBAL TRADITIONS, AND INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STRATEGIES



**Working Together To
Protect Our Environment**

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▶ Learning Objectives

- Unique approach to Tribal Youth Programs through a traditional lens
- Open minded approach to program participation (children/adults)
- Foundational values in cultural knowledge
- Understanding the integration of STEAM/STEM with traditional teachings





ALDI

ACOMA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

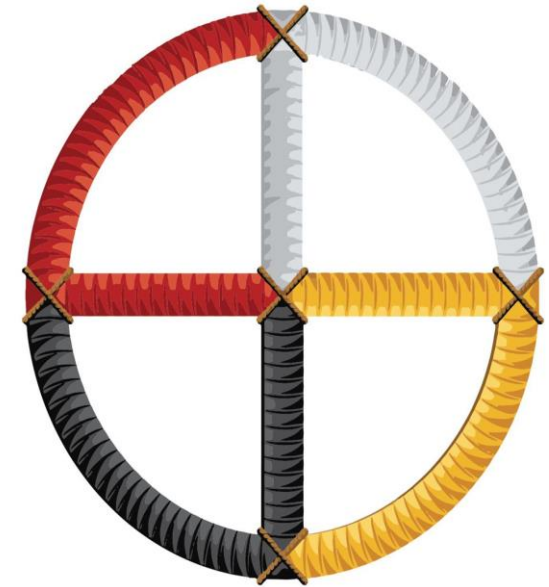


Acoma
Department of Education



SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE - PROJECT VENTURE TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM

“EMPOWERING NATIVE YOUTH THROUGH OUTDOOR EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICE ETHICS”



PROJECT VENTURE



Breaking of the Ice!

▶ INNOVATION AT ACOMA

Innovation has been with Indigenous communities since time immemorial. Wherever our ancestors settled, they had to learn to live in the environments they chose. Blending old techniques with modern techniques is the way forward for us here at Acoma.



▶ INNOVATION AT SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBE

Tribal Youth Students learned about Rain Gardens this summer. We hadn't had much rain, so one of our students watered the garden with a hose. We learned about the importance of rain gardens in our environment- to help collect storm water runoff & prevent it from flowing directly into lakes, rivers, and wetlands.



Students try 3D Printing Pens- exposure to making 3D objects. They made little people and cultural symbols like the medicine wheel and heart symbols.

Creating 3D book marks next. Another student working on Stem Kit- Salt Powered Robot.

▶ TRIBAL TRADITIONS AT ACOMA

Referring to our home, our language, our traditions, and many other instances, we create the image. But most importantly, we create the environment that we are invested in 'them': the children. Always remember that 'YOU are the answers to your Ancestors prayers!



TRIBAL TRADITIONS AT SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBE

- **Fruit Tree Planting –Food Sovereignty**



- **Growing Community Gardens- Harvesting foods**



Activity Time!!!

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STRATEGIES- CHIPPEWA RIVER CLEAN UP



Tribal Youth participated in a River Clean Up. They removed 5 garbage bags of trash from the river.

By removing trash and debris from the water, we are not only making it safer as recreational users, but improving the overall health of the river system and all of the wildlife that call the river and surrounding areas home.



Environmental waste and trash are hazardous to native birds, fish, and other wildlife directly harming habitats, releasing chemicals, and creating unsafe conditions for both humans and animals. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Pick up trash whenever you can. Collect bottles, glass, plastic, newspapers, and/or old books and take them to your local recycling facility. Learn to compost at home. **KEEP OUR RIVERS CLEAN.**



▶ INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STRATEGIES AT ACOMA

We are stewards of the land. It is taught that if we take care of Mother Nature, she will take care of us. Connecting the children with places of our Ancestors has given them a better understanding of where they come from and what they need to look after when they are older.



ALDI PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATORS



- New Mexico State University
 - Indian Resources Development
 - Southern Pueblos Extension
- Coalition to Stop Violence against Native Women
- Acoma Learning Center
- Haak'u Community Academy
- Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps
- Bruce

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

**Tribal Operations -Environmental
Department**

**Elijah Elk Seventh Generation Cultural
Program**

Tribal Operations Planning Department

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College

Mid-Michigan Community College

**Central Michigan University- Center for Excellence in
Stem Education**

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries

Project Aware program

Mt. Pleasant Public schools

Shepherd Public Schools

▶ CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

- Lack of participation from Community (Parents, children, and leaders)
- Lack of Resources (Money, time, and individuals)
- Lack of support from tribal leadership
- Collaborations and Partnerships fall apart
- Personal and work life meld



Resources

- American Indian Science & Engineering <https://www.aises.org>
- Intel Helps Grow STEM Education in Native American Communities [Intel Helps Grow STEM Education in Native American Communities](#)
- SPRK-ing Interest in Computer Science [2018 AISES SPRKing Collateral Sheet FINAL 12 13 17.pdf](#)
- Project Venture [Project Venture – Adventure with an Indigenous Mind](#)



**TRIBAL YOUTH
RESOURCE CENTER**

www.TribalYouth.org

QUESTIONS?





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