

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Report for Academic Year: 2008-2009

Student Council Rock Point Community School

Rock Point, AZ Tribal Affiliation: Navajo

Project Coaches: Reeverson Descheny, Shirlene Begay, & Iris Gillwood

Regional Coordinator: James McKenzie

Rock Point Community School strives to help students achieve to their fullest potential: academically, socially, and physically. They encourage students to become responsible, self-directing, self-supporting, and contributing members of the community and society at large. After facing many obstacles, the student council at Rock Point began to utilize the Youth Leadership Program to grow and accentuate leadership skills, individually and as a group.

LEADERSHIP PROJECT:

MEETING OBSTACLES

The group was unable to start regular meetings with their students, as a result a leadership project did not happen.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The most significant accomplishment seen in Youth Leadership at Rock Point Community School was the program returning to the school after several years of absence. The new principal, Teri Everett, was excited to learn about the opportunity for integrating Youth Leadership at the school. Once Principal Everett was ready to move forward, there was only a month left in the Fall 2008 semester, but she signed a Memorandum of Understanding for implementation of Youth Leadership.

Another accomplishment for Youth Leadership at the site was that all three Project Coaches attended an initial training at Acoma Pueblo in November 2008 with very short notice to prepare and sign up for the training.

Even with a short window of time, the Project Coaches were also able to organize an opening Youth Leadership meeting with the student council prior to the end of the semester.



CHALLENGES:

The greatest challenge for the Youth Leadership group at Rock Point Community School this year was their limited human resources. Although the three trained Project Coaches started their involvement with enthusiasm, the group found it difficult to coordinate to meet with the students and implement Youth Leadership. Each of the participants had already committed to several responsibilities other than Youth Leadership at the school. Reeverson

Descheny and Shirlene Begay each were senior class sponsors and were responsible for coordinating various events and meetings. Reeverson also headed up the Native American Culture Club at the school, while Shirlene headed the journalism students' initiatives. To make things tougher for the group, they did not get started on their path to using Youth Leadership until the end of the Fall 2008 semester, giving them only one semester to try and integrate Youth Leadership into an already busy schedule.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Youth Leadership Program assists children in developing leadership skills while generating projects that contribute to their communities. Each Youth Leadership group executes a project that benefits their community. The curriculum provides a framework in which students, guided by Project Coach volunteers, engage in activities focusing on improving leadership and confidence, both individually and as a group. Students learn to challenge their personal limits and achieve personal and group goals.



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