

Camp offers culture and customs to youth

Camp Naami-Tamanwit was organized for Warm Springs youths specifically for the instruction of local culture and customs. It is here where children learn to do so many different culture-related things in two short weeks. The skills taught range from how to make a drum to the cutting of eel and fish. The children learn such skills from the past experience of nine consultants and 11 student workers. Not only do the children gain experience but the 11 student workers also learn. They gain the knowledge of culture and customs to pass on to future generations, find out their identity and take pride in what skills they learned.

"Good, I am pleased," stated Geneva Charley, head instructor, on how Camp Naami-Tamanwit is going. She also added that, "in 1981 and 1982 we had a better attendance than this year, but this year we have a higher teacher-to-child ratio." Camp attendance varies from day to day, there could be anywhere from 30 to 65 children a day.

"Learning to respect people," is what Frankie Kalama, Jr., learned from camp. In his opinion, Frankie thought that camp was worthwhile to attend because he was interested in learning about his culture and customs. "To learn and wear things," is why he attends camp. Asked if he will use his newly acquired skills in the future, Frankie replied with a smile, "Maybe."

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AFS exchange student Willie TeAho shared with camp participants one of the native dances of his homeland, New Zealand. TeAho stated that the dances are used to "scare white people."



Learning to skin and prepare a deer hide to make a drum is one of the skills taught to youth who are interested. Avery Smith works on a hide for a drum head.



Jeanette Yazzie teaches Albagene Charlie the proper way to apply fringe on her shawl. Making a shawl was one of the skills that the girls learned.



Sally Smith and Vernice Switzler discuss their beadwork. Beading is one of the many different crafts taught during the two-week sessions.



Danielle Gabriel concentrates on a newly-learned craft. A variety of crafts are being taught to the youngsters from resource people from within the community.