

# Program keeps Tribal teens busy

By Cheyanne Fasana

Special to Smoke Signals

Many people wonder, "Can you trust a teenager to do a job?"

The hardest part about that is that most people won't give teenagers a chance to prove that they can do it. You have to give them a chance to work or else they won't know what to do when they graduate high school and have to get a real job.

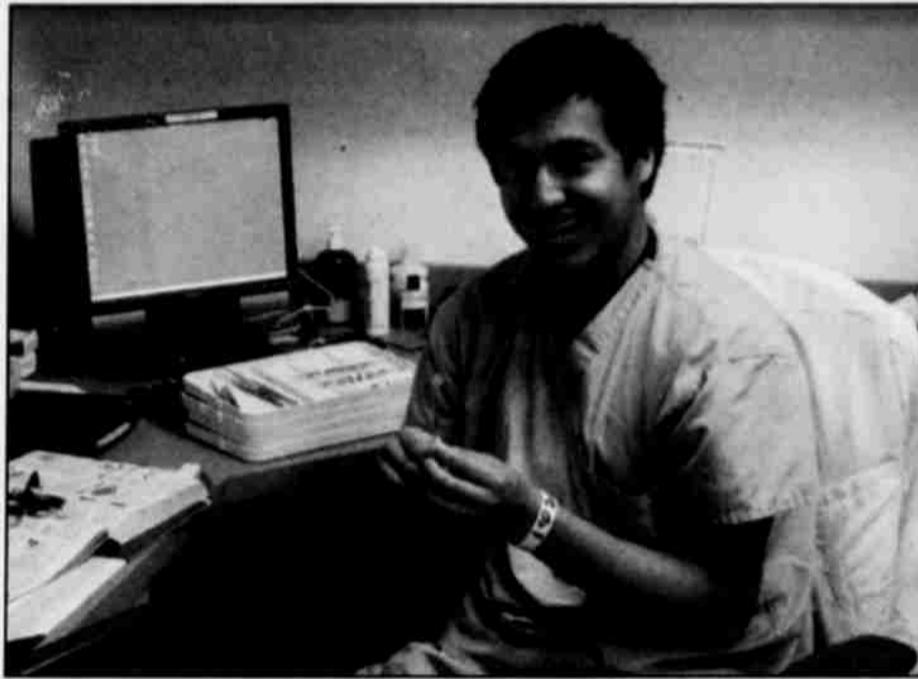
That is the great thing about the Summer Youth Employment Program. It gives Tribal teenagers a chance to go through the interview and paperwork process while at the same time having to work at an actual job.

The youths get to see a workplace and they get to be a part of it, but it gives them a small taste of it, only four weeks. The program also gives teenagers a sense of responsibility and they learn that money has to be worked for; someone can't always give it to you.

Jade Colton, who worked in Adult Education, said her favorite thing about the program was "learning new skills."

Codie Haller, who worked in the Preschool and Housing, said she will remember when the summer is over that "every kid is different and likes to do different things."

Ethan Langley, who worked in Housing, said that he learned "the basic necessities of owning a house. Also, how it is to work in an office



Above, Julian Rock worked as a dental assistant for his Summer Youth Employment Program job.



Tribal member Landon Bobb does some weed eating in Tribal Housing during his Summer Youth Employment Program job.

Photos courtesy of Cheyanne Fasana

and the proper way to interact with clients."

Tribal teens said they would work in their position again.

"Yes, to learn about new scholarships," Colton said.

"Yes, my job rocks socks," Haller said.

"Definitely, I feel familiar with the work and surroundings. I understand it," Langley said.

I personally love the Summer

Youth Employment Program. One of my favorite things about it is that the teenagers get a sense of responsibility. I feel also that I will be more ready when I need to go out and find myself a job. We have been taught the proper way to act in an interview and at the work area. I am working in Youth Education and I would definitely work here again.

One thing I will remember when I

leave here is how stressful and how much work planning one field trip is. The staff is awesome and I get to do a lot of what I do and love.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Molly Matthews at [molly.matthews@grandronde.org](mailto:molly.matthews@grandronde.org), Travis Stewart at [travis.stewart@grandronde.org](mailto:travis.stewart@grandronde.org) or call Youth Education at 503-879-2101. ■

## Cultural Corner

### Beading & Regalia

Portland  
Mondays  
thru Sept. 30  
6 - 9 P.M.

### Chinuk Wawa

Portland  
Wednesdays  
thru Sept. 30  
from 6 - 9 P.M.

### Native Art Design

Portland  
Session Times: 1 - 5 P.M. & 5 - 8:30 P.M.  
Dates: Aug. 26, Sept. 2, 9, 23 & 30  
Activities: drawing, painting and carving projects

### Traditional Gathering

8 A.M. - 7 P.M.  
Dates: Aug. 19 & 28, Sept. 11, 10 & 25  
Activities: huckleberries, camas, tule, cattail, etc.

### Summer Youth Camp

9 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
Dates: Aug. 16 & 23

### Eugene Lifeways

- Paddle Making
- Native Art Design
- Traditional Plant Identification and other Activities

Session Times:  
1 - 5 P.M. & 5 - 9 P.M.

Dates:  
Tuesdays: thru Sept. 30

To Register for Eugene classes contact  
the Eugene office at 541-484-7085

### Traditional Gathering

8 A.M. - 7 P.M.  
Dates: Aug. 15 & 29, Sept. 12, 24 & 26  
Activities: huckleberries, camas, tule, cattail, etc.

### Dentalium Hats

3:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
Dates: Aug. 18, Sept. 1, 15 & 29

## "Summer Activities"

Classes are intended for Tribal households and their families