

Engaging Youth in Environmental Stewardship Through Fun!

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What Are the Benefits?

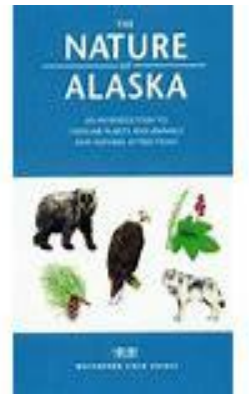
- ▶ A safe place for kids to gather together and do something positive, healthier decisions, you can include elder.
- ▶ Is someone needing a little extra help? Takes a village to maintain a village...
- ▶ Trust, get on their level be aware of your body language.
- ▶ After school program, homework and environmental education.
- ▶ Learn how to reuse, make soaps etc.
- ▶ Empowering youth builds self esteem, feel confident, Youth Tribal Council
- ▶ Having a role will keep them interested as they become teens.
- ▶ Create a Katie John! Form decision makers, ask for their input on next years activities.



~Katie John, who sued the State of Alaska and the U.S. over Native subsistence rights, and won.

The Nature of Alaska

- ▶ Buy one for each youth (family) as a gift from the tribe. Youth can use on their own time as well.
- ▶ Copy pages and create a nature treasure hunt with educational materials as prizes. Fishing poles, snowshoes, field guides etc.
- ▶ Important to note you may need to secure outside funds and always get approval for purchases through your project officer.
- ▶ Make your own in your native language.





Gathering



Gather spruce tips, pop them in the water bottle for a taste of summer in the winter



See if they can tell the difference in trees by the taste of the tips

Gather your own salad like fireweed, dandelion leaves, rosehips, sage. What is available in your area?



Gathering for jelly can teach teamwork, math skills and sharing with others gives a sense of community and belonging.





“Pick” A Daily Helper





Watercraft Project

- ▶ Ask around to see if anyone has an old canoe to donate (kayak or any watercraft, or see if you can fundraise or find other outside sources to buy one)
- ▶ With help of an elder or other craftsman repair it.
- ▶ Paint handprints or names or some symbol that represents them on it.
- ▶ Identify species
- ▶ Collect garbage along shoreline
- ▶ Gather recycling
- ▶ Collect plants, berries



Environmental Newsletters



- ▶ Youth journalists can gather stories on: climate change(example, hottest/coldest annual temps recorded), recycling updates, current events, fun facts, reuse uses.
- ▶ Take photos design a photo/drawing contest.
- ▶ Show your tribe what their kids have been learning through their own writing.
- ▶ Important dates, who is going into what grade, birthdays, plans for the future...

Federal and State Entities

- ▶ Are you near an Alaska Fish and Game, BLM or National Park Service office?
- ▶ Engage them with your youth, they need the PR.
- ▶ They will see the faces of the children when they are discussing issues in the future.
- ▶ Goal is to infiltrate these land and wildlife governing bodies so how can we get our youth to want to work there?
- ▶ We create a Dorothy Fire Cloud! Dorothy Fire Cloud, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and national park superintendent.



Dorothy Fire Cloud, the new NPS Native American Affairs Liaison/NPS file

BINGO

- ▶ Alaskan Animals
- ▶ Recycling
- ▶ Indoor Air Quality
- ▶ Contamination
- ▶ Traditional foods
- ▶ Habitats
- ▶ Alaskan tribes
- ▶ Use your native language



Download Cool Apps.



Plants (PlantSnap)



Trees (LeafSnap)



Fish (Fishbrain)



Birds (Audubon Bird Guide)



Youth Employment

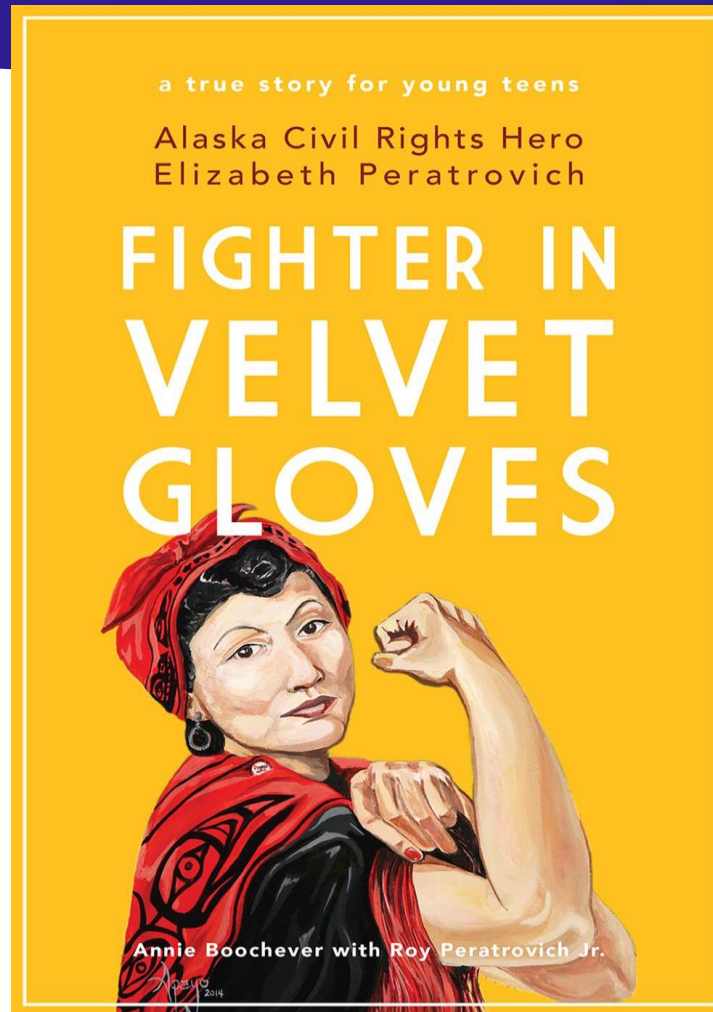
- ▶ Budget for a youth to shadow you in the summer.
- ▶ Youth can help with fulfilling work plan obligations, weighing/collecting recyclables etc.
- ▶ Create a list of summer and afterschool activities.
- ▶ Teach others a traditional skill.
- ▶ Public speaking practice at council meetings and gatherings.
- ▶ Great for their resume.
- ▶ Future employee?



To Create Environmental Warriors, Lead By Example.



**Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo
Biden's newly appointed
Interior Secretary says she'll be
'fierce for our planet'.**



**Madonna Thunder Hawk female
leader of American Indian
Movement (Oohenumpa band of
the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe)
and her daughter, Marcy Gilbert.
Image source: John G. Larson**

It all started with a story, ended up with an entire American Indian Studies center named after her!



Jace DeCory
Professor Emeritus

Jace DeCory Center for American Indian Studies

Jace DeCory, Professor Emeritus, taught History and American Indian Art at Black Hills State University for more than three decades. Jace, Lakota from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, is known for dedication to students and her lifelong connection to American Indian elders whose teachings she shared. She was instrumental in organizing a yearly holiday cultural exchange between BHSU and Red Shirt School, located south of Hermosa. Jace DeCory is recognized for her role as a leader on campus and in the community.





Walking in Two Worlds



- ▶ Youth struggle with identity.
- ▶ My “culture” backup.
- ▶ How can you be humble and still be “Heard”?

Samuel Johns

<https://www.nativemovement.org/forget-me-not>



‘AND NOW WE RISE’ Samuel Johns’ mission to not only get Anchorage’s Native homeless home, but reconnected to their roots.

Inspiring a Child to Succeed, Means Your Tribe Succeeds.

- ▶ Why do you want a youth group?
- ▶ What kinds of nature options are available in your area?
- ▶ I'm available if you want to meet one on one and design your program around your environment.
- ▶ Please reach out with any questions:
bdradigan@anthc.org



Remember They Are Always Watching



Thank you for listening!
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