



# 7tepees youth program

## about

Seven Tepees Youth Program is dedicated to impacting the lives of promising inner-city youth who demonstrate a desire to succeed and grow as individuals. We teach youth the skills they need to make lifelong positive choices and to create their own opportunities for success.

Seven Tepees has two principal programs that serve up to 1000 disadvantaged youth. The Learning Center Program works intensively with 75-85 youth from all over San Francisco, providing comprehensive services over a period of seven years. The College & Career Program provides grade-level-appropriate college and career counseling services for the entire student body at local high school campuses, working to promote a college-going culture and to increase the number of first-generation college students.

Ninety-percent of students served are Latino or African American and are from low-income families. There are no grade requirements to join the program. Seven Tepees delivers programs and services with cultural sensitivity, dignity, and respect.

A nationally recognized program, Seven Tepees was co-founded in 1995 by Daniel Weinstein, a supervising Juvenile Justice Judge for San Francisco, and Hully Fetico, a Native American song dancer and youth development expert.

Daniel Weinstein chose to start Seven Tepees because "I saw many youth stand in my court because they had made poor decisions and lacked guidance. Many had experienced interventions, but none of these programs were long-term or comprehensive enough to "stick to their ribs."

Seven Tepees Learning Center Program works with youth for seven years, bridging the vulnerable transitions between elementary, middle school, and high school. In addition, the College & Career Program provides comprehensive services and support for the transition into college or career.

The Seven Tepees name represents the diversity of the seven continents, the seven-year commitment youth and their families make to the program, and the Native American tradition for caring for the land.

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### Support 7 Tepees

Seven Tepees Youth Program is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community organization that is completely supported through the generous contributions of individuals, corporations, and foundations. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Tax ID 94-3231059.

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## academics

Academic success opens up a world of opportunity. Seven Tepees promotes and supports the academic achievement of our youth, many of whom may not be able to get this help at home. Our after-school and summer programs emphasize academics, as well as addressing the needs of the "whole youth."

**Daily Tutoring:** Tutors provide daily one-on-one academic support focusing on Math, Science, and English.

**Academic Case Management:** Staff interface with teachers, schools, and parents to form a support network for each student, ensuring that youth stay focused and goal-oriented.

**Enrichment Courses:** Youth participate in a variety of hands-on skill-building workshops in the arts, media, cooking, and science.

**7Corps Summer Program:** We provide a 7-week job training program for middle school students, combining academics, life skills, and community service.

**Youth Leadership Council:** Youth plan, facilitate, and evaluate the programs and mentor their peers to create positive change.

**College and Career Guidance:** Each senior receives assistance completing applications, applying for scholarships and financial aid, and can earn a scholarship up to \$5000.

"I started off with a 0.83 GPA in 7th grade, but by learning to take advantage of the resources here, I brought my GPA up to a 3.5!" - Haydee, 9th grader



## environmental education

The natural world possesses a healing power, as well as endless opportunities for education and exploration. However, many inner-city youth have little or no opportunity to experience the outdoors. Seven Tepees provides opportunities for youth to learn about, connect with, and care for the natural world.

**Outdoor Trips:** We offer seven overnight trips and several day trips each year, with an emphasis on teamwork, personal growth, and trying new things.

**Environmental Education:** Through hands-on experiential activities, youth enjoy learning about nature. WAVES, a marine science internship, provides deeper learning, work experience, and high school credits.

**Stewardship:** Through various service projects, youth learn to give back to their community and be stewards of the natural environment.

"My favorite thing is being able to go to different places I've never been and try new things." -Jazmin, 7th grader



## counseling & mentoring

By building strong foundations of self-esteem in our youth, Seven Tepees aims to reduce incidences of substance abuse, violence, crime, and unhealthy relationships. We foster our young people to be leaders who give back to their community.

**Individual and Group Counseling:** Trained therapists provide support and referrals to our youth and families.

**Life Skills Courses:** Prevention-based education teaches youth the skills they need to make positive life choices.

**Bilingual Parent Support Groups:** Ongoing groups provide a safe space to learn parenting skills from other parents and address issues affecting their families.

Mentoring has a positive impact on the lives of young people, including resiliency in difficult times, improved school attendance, healthier attitudes and behaviors, strong interpersonal communication skills, and expectation for college or career.

**Adult Mentoring:** Youth spend 2-4 hours per week with their mentor, for a minimum of 12-18 months. The mentors provide youth with a variety of experiences to expand their horizons and open the door to a larger world of opportunity.

**Peer Mentoring:** High school youth are trained to share their experiences with other youth, coach them through challenges they face, and provide constructive feedback.

**Mentoring Activities:** We provide monthly activities to cultivate the mentoring relationships, including a conference and overnight trips.



## college & career

The College & Career Program is a partnership with San Francisco Unified School District to provide services for the entire student body at local high school campuses. Launched in 2008, the College & Career Program has successfully worked to promote a college-going culture and to increase the number of first-generation college students.

**Individual College Counseling:** We meet individually with all seniors to assist in mapping out a plan for them to reach their goals.

**College Application Support:** Youth participate in workshops to write personal statements, complete resumes, and navigate the application process.

**Financial Aid & Scholarship Support:** We support youth in applying for financial aid and scholarships, and award Seven Tepees scholarships to youth from all sites.

**College Now!:** In collaboration with CCSF Mission campus, high school students attend a college writing skills class and earn credits toward graduation and college completion. Carlota Del Portillo, Dean of Mission Campus, who co-designed the College NOW! Program is excited to be working with us and states, "no other program is doing the work to prepare students for success after high school like Seven Tepees."

**Parent Education & Support:** Parents learn about the steps for their students to get to college through informational assemblies and meetings.