



7 Tepees Youth Program

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For tours of the Learning Center or inquiries about donations or volunteer opportunities, please contact Seven Tepees.

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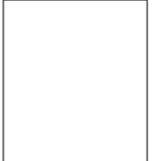
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Diane Dodge

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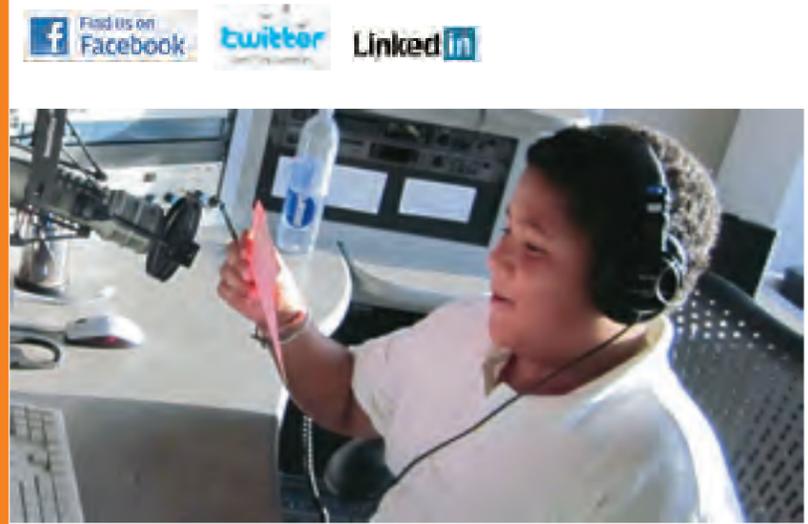
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Get involved! Volunteer.
We are currently seeking tutors and mentors. Call us at 415.522.1550



8th grader, Carlos, practices his broadcast skills at KQED's newsroom.

Digital Learning Through KQED

To keep up with today's technological world, Seven Tepees has teamed up with KQED's Quest Science Program, a year-long partnership that focuses on innovative ways to use mobile technology for education.

As one of five organizations selected, youth will create documentaries and other film media about science and our local environment.

High school students will create a film about living roofs and climate change, visiting the California Academy of Science and the EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park for research. Middle school students will reflect on their own experience this past summer in the Presidio of San Francisco, where they donated over 3,000 hours in community service removing invasive plants and restoring the natural habitat.



Academics . Positive Life Choices . Respect for Nature . Community Service .

7 Tepees Youth Program



November 2010

News From The Executive Director

2010 proved to be the best summer ever at Seven Tepees! Here is a sizzling snapshot of the top highlights.

When the SFUSD budget cuts slashed summer school, we jumped in by offering engaging and innovative credit-earning courses in science and college-level English.

With rising unemployment and very few jobs for high school youth, Seven Tepees stepped up to provide summer internships for 24 high school youth and service learning assignments for 36 middle school youth. Both groups of young interns gained real on-the-job skills, a stipend, as well as a healthy boost in confidence.

Forty-five middle school youth sweated out the summer by enlisting into 7 Corps, a 5-week program consisting of Academic Boot Camp and Community Service. Youth logged in for 6 hours a day, 5 days a week to accelerate their skills in writing and algebra, while also participating in park beautification and homeless projects.

The Seven Tepees summer camping trip was our biggest and longest campout yet: 50 youth, 70 people total, for 7 days in Six Rivers National Forest in Northern California. Our happy campers enjoyed a variety of activities, including swimming, hiking, raft building, personal growth retreat, team games, and tide-pooling!

Wow, what a summer! It was seven weeks, packed with "Kodak moments." Some reflected our unity; others our self-expression; still others celebrated stepping out of our comfort zones, in order to learn and grow - all in the safety of a supportive Seven Tepees Family!

Thanks to all of you who made this possible!

Diane

Parent Support Groups Help Strengthen Family Connection

At Seven Tepees, we work closely with our youth and their parents to ensure a safe and healthy environment. To bring this effort to another level, we invited Hand in Hand Parenting, an organization that helps parents nurture their connection with their children, to facilitate a monthly parent support group.

Through intimate and culturally sensitive sessions, parents are given the tools to strengthen their bond with their children. When parents have access to a support network, they learn more readily from the challenges of parenting by sharing their experience and listening to each other.

Many of our youths' parents are working multiple jobs just to keep food on the table. They speak of Seven Tepees as an oasis of trustworthy support for their children and hope that their children's success in life will help change the trajectory of their family for future generations.



Recently, SFUSD asked their high school counselors what their ideal college counseling program would look like. The two top responses were:

- 1. The program would work with ALL students, not just the highest achievers who are already set for college.**
- 2. The program would be partnered with colleges and universities.**



Paving the Path to Success

We are proud to announce that Seven Tepees College/Career Program meets both of these aspirations. Our unique "equity model" was created to provide equal opportunities to success, both to those who are already on track for college, and those who are not on track due to various challenges.

The College/Career Program was designed in partnership with Rebecca Toporek, Professor in Masters of Career Counseling from San Francisco State. While on sabbatical this year, Rebecca is working with us to evaluate our progress and offer insight. Mariana Chavez, head counselor at John O'Connell High School, reports, "Since Seven Tepees started the program in 2008, the school culture has fundamentally changed. There has been increased enthusiasm and preparation for going to college. Seven Tepees has made a big impact! In fact, we've seen a 300% increase in the number of applications to four-year colleges."

For students who are behind in credits for high school graduation, we offer College NOW! a program in conjunction with the Mission Campus of City College. This program features an English Composition course on the high school campus that is taught by a City College professor. The course allows youth who did not believe they could go to college the chance to actually experience college. It provides a credit recovery opportunity so they can graduate from high school on time. However, the main benefit of the program is the writing skills youth attain. The goal is to accelerate their writing so that they can test higher into City College without the requirement to take 1-5 prerequisite English levels before starting English 1A. An important part of College NOW! is the support of Seven Tepees tutors and youth development staff who facilitate counseling groups that bond these youth together and help them focus their efforts to transform their lives and pursue a higher education.

Carlota Del Portillo, Dean of City College's Mission Campus, who co-designed the College NOW! Program as part of CCSF's Homework Club, 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."

In short, Seven Tepees offers grade appropriate services as well as school-wide programs aimed at cultivating a college-bound culture. Our College/Career Program offers intensive one-on-one support to youth who are eligible for a 4-year university by assisting with applications, financial aid, parent education and so much more.

Pictured above: College Now! students proudly raise their scholarship letters.



WAVES 7 Tepees Marine Science Internship

With the school board making cuts to every program offered to our city's students, from art classes to summer school, Seven Tepees has worked diligently to fill this gap by ensuring a safe space that focuses on academics, work internships, and creating lasting friendships for our youth.

This past summer, Seven Tepees partnered with the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Bay Institute to develop a new summer program called WAVES, or Watershed Advocacy Via Environmental Studies. Using a hands-on approach to science, 15 high school youth explored local watersheds and learned about plankton through youth-led outreach and stewardship activities.

Two weeks focused on intensive plankton studies where youth visited official research pier facilities to analyze "plankton tows," collect crab pod specimens, and clean aquatic tanks. The next two weeks involved work internships, where youth cared for marine invertebrates and created interactive displays. Backstage tours of the Aquarium of the Bay and the California Academy of Science gave an extra opportunity for youth to connect what they learned in the field, as well as talk to other marine biologists about their experience.

The final segment of the program took place at Six Rivers National Forest, where WAVES participants created community-building games and led tide pool exploration activities for middle school students during Seven Tepees week-long

camping trip. By facilitating the games themselves, students had the chance to share what they've learned from WAVES, in addition to instilling a peer modeling structure promoting leadership and teamwork.

Not only did students learn about the ocean, they also enjoyed building friendships with other youth, as well as leading activities - some, for the first time. With this growing confidence in each other and themselves, students at Seven Tepees have kicked off an amazing new school year!

Programs like this are made possible through donations and grants from people like you, who want a better future for all young people. To learn more and to make a donation, visit our website at www.7tepees.org

"I didn't know anything about the ocean before. Now I know about tide pools and see that they are alive! I understand the ocean very differently now." - Aldair, 8th grader.

