



WINTER SESSION REPORT

Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council
2020 - 2022

JANUARY 24, 2022

Yá'át'ééh President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, Speaker Seth Damon, Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, and the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council presents the Winter Session Report.

I. Background Information

- a) President Russell Begaye signed an executive order establishing the Navajo Nation Ad-Hoc Youth Council in June 2016.
- b) The Three Branch Chiefs of the Navajo Nation signed an agreement recognizing the Ad-Hoc Youth Council on August 12, 2016.
- c) The 23rd Navajo Nation Council and President Begaye passed and signed into law CAP-26-17 for the creation of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council.

II. Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council

- a) Mission: The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council (NNYAC) seeks to advocate and improve essential life skill development by increasing youth involvement within communities to ensure the success of future generations.
- b) Vision: *Hózhóqjí K'ehgo – Ahít Na'anish*: Build – Connect – Reunite

III. Focus Areas

1. Government operations and community outreach
2. Mental Health
3. Diné Language – Culture
4. Scholarships

IV. Recruitment for 2022 – 2024

We are excited to announce that applications are open for the NNYAC 2022 – 2024 Cohort.

To be eligible to apply,

- you must be a current registered Navajo Nation member;
- be between the ages of 14-24, and
- served as a community volunteer for at least two (2) years (pursuant to CAP-26-17).

The position is a two (2) calendar year term, from February 7, 2022, to February 7, 2024, and Council members are expected to fulfill the following responsibilities: Members are required to put in a minimal of 5 hours or more, of Council-related work each month. Timely communication. The bulk of our communication is through email and telephone. Responding to emails within 24 hours is expected. Each member selected must have a reliable cell phone and an active email account. If a member is 18 years old or older, they must have registered with a Navajo Chapter. If a student is 17 years old and younger, they must provide a copy of their parent's Chapter registration card. NNYAC will host monthly meetings, which occurs during the evening hours, and as needed on weekends. All meetings are required for NNYAC members. Actively participate in NNYAC activities. Including, but not limited to designing, and implementing your own project ideas.

V. Youth Council Members Reports

a) **Triston Black, *Interim Chairperson***

- Active member in the New Mexico Indigenous Youth Council
 - Held a work session on 2022 priorities and organizations
 - Initiated the Winter Cultural Series with IYC colleagues to grow and invest in activities that support cultural revitalization, cultural grounding, and traditional healing.
 - Participate in the NM IAD MMIW Task Force, listen to several Navajo Nation Council committee meetings, and Indigenous youth webinars.
 - Learn more about the Indigenous Youth Council by visiting:
<https://www.iad.state.nm.us/from-the-office/indigenous-youth-council/>
 - Read the IYC Report from the 2021 Indigenous Youth Wellness Summit:
<https://www.iad.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/IAD-Indigenous-Youth-Council-Report-08.18.21.pdf>
 - Follow the Indigenous Youth Council on Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/nmindigenouslyouthcouncil>
- Initiated recruitment to the local high schools on and around the Navajo Nation, youth councils, and student body governments for the NNYAC 2022-2024 cohort.
- Introduce the “Big Brother, Big Sister” concept of introducing the new NNYAC cohort and assist them with our experiences, knowledges, and what we learned.

b) **Isaiah Tsosie, *Vice-Chairperson***

As the Vice Chairperson of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council, I'd first like to recognize the hard work & assistance we have received from Adam Begay the Staff Assistant from the Office of the Navajo Nation President & Vice President. Adam has provided numerous amounts of technical support, resources, and his recommendations to help accomplish the youth advisory council's goals/tasks. Ahéhéé Adam, we appreciate everything you have done for us members and this council, we look forward to achieving more goals with you and the three branches of our Navajo Nation government.

As of January 2022, Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council has accomplished many tasks everyday even though with the current pandemic of covid-19. The current council has reached out to many young adults & youth members across the Navajo Nation to get vaccinated and to practice all safety guidelines. I recently had the opportunity to speak with high school & college students who were recently employed at my chapter. These students spoke their concerns of what needed to be done throughout the community/nation especially with a deadly virus lingering around. Their concerns were to have more mobile vaccination clinics for the flu & covid-19 virus. I managed to work with my local Community Health Representative (CHR) to set up a date & time to have a drive thru vaccination clinic. Coyote Canyon Chapter is thankful for GIMC on providing their services to my community to provide individuals with vaccines to help defeat the virus. Listening from the grassroots of our community members is the key to accomplishing goals together.

NNYAC recently held a workshop with all the Offices of Diné Youth (ODY), OPVP staff members, and other departments to help revise our application for individuals interested in joining the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council. All hands were on deck during this workshop, and at the

end we all managed to finalize our updated application which will be distributed to youth to apply for NNYAC. The current council revised the entire application to make it more accessible and less difficult to complete & submit back to OPVP. We took in the consideration of how difficult it may be to submit these documents due to certain offices and departments being closed due to the virus, we managed to provide an online application and paper application for those that are interested. During the workshop NNYAC & ODY in twined with great ideas and recommendations to create an updated application for members to fully understand and to submit with confidence. NNYAC is very thankful and fully stocked with knowledge from our resources, advisors, and departments thanks to this workshop.

There have been many focus points that we have all managed to get involved with and advocate for. A focus point that I have favored a lot recently is the allocation of funding for our grazing permit holders, livestock owners, and ranchers throughout the Navajo Nation to provide hay/grain assistance. I am very thankful Honorable Wilson Stewart advocated for these funds to assist our Navajo people with much needed necessities/supplies for our livestock. Owning livestock is a way of life and is a huge blessing, assisting our people helps by taking a burden off their shoulders especially with the recent drought conditions & short supply of vegetation on our reservation. I have listened in on meetings via teleconference with NNDA, RDC, and our Navajo Nation Council regarding these funds and the procedure to roll out these dollars. Funding is now in the hands of our people and our local chapters, it's a beautiful sight to see how our Navajo Nation government operates by their people and those that are elected. The Agriculture Infrastructure Funding is an accomplished goal and many more to follow its tracks to provide our people with more assistance.

In closing the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council has faced many challenges but did not discourage us to back away from these challenges but to strive forward to advocate for our youth & provide our services to our people. NNYAC is on the right path to achieve new goals & prove to our nation the youth are capable of anything.

c) Adriano Tsinigine, *Secretary/Treasurer*

- Participate in the Haigo Nanitiin Winter Conference, host by Miss Navajo Nation Niagara Rockbridge.
- We have all been impacted by the Pandemic, which limited our participation in in-person events and engaging in the community. We understand that this may have also impacted the participation of former NNYAC members to not fulfil their duties. Therefore, we meet with ODY & NNOPVP Staff to initiate the recruitment drive for a new cohort this coming year.
- We are excited to continue to advise the new cohort and assist in any way we can. I would like to recognize Adam Begaye for his support and guidance for the past six months for NNYAC.

VI. NNYAC Advisor Report

d) Adam Jerome Begaye, Office of President and Vice President - Staff Assistant

- Currently an advisor on behalf of Navajo Nation Office of President and Vice President, when appointed by Deputy Chief of Staff, Dr. James Davis Jr., in November 2021.
 - Commence coordination and facilitating the collaboration between NNYAC and Office of Dine Youth within Department of Dine' Education.
 - In preparations for 24th Navajo Nation Council Winter Session, I've met with Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council and Office of Dine' Youth to begin the discussion of what is required for the New Year.
 - Plan of Operation is being discussed and reviewed for the Quarter 2 of the Navajo Nation Government
 - Last day of 2nd Quarter is on Thursday, March 31, 2022
 - Discussion with NNYAC
 - What can be truly accomplish with networking and outreach
 - Revising the Navajo Nation Youth Advisor Council application for 14-24 years old, utilizing the work session method for faster process
 - Revision Completed in January 2022
 - Advertise on Friday, January 14, 2022
 - Deadline on Friday, January 28, 2022
 - Preparing to extend the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council via social media
 - Currently, the NNYAC utilizes Facebook as social media outreach
 - We're considering extending the utilization of Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn as resources to connect with the Navajo Youth.
 - For informational purposes, we have discussed to utilize the Zoom Webinar to be livestream to NNYAC. This shall influence the Navajo youth to partake in listening discussion and encouraged to join the NNYAC.

I am honored to serve the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council as an advisor representing the Office of President and Vice President. When I first offered this responsibility, I was optimistic about the ideas and experience I could offer the youth council in collaboration with the various government entities I've worked with in the past. When we virtually met on January 3, 2022, my vision was and remains bringing new blessings to our Dine' Youth on and off the Navajo Nation. We recognize in the year 2020, we faced adversity and we didn't shy away from solving the problems affecting our Dine' Youth. In 2021, we utilized the FDA-approved vaccine to combat against the COVID-19 virus, I've personally strived to support our youth's courage and advocacy in receiving the vaccine. As we commence in the new year, I will strive to promote the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council's progress after facing many challenges from the pandemic. Our agreement to the Navajo Nation is "Naasoo' Neejini Ninaahai Dooleel" (Moving forward in the New Year). As young advisor to NNYAC, I look forward to working in collaboration with the Navajo Youth to prosper with great opportunities to grow our future leadership. What we will establish from today to the Council 's Spring Session, I know we will produce results to report of our outreach to the Navajo Nation.