



FALL SESSION REPORT

Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council
2022

OCTOBER 17, 2022

Yá'át'ééh Navajo Nation 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 2022 Fall Session Report to the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

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'éhgo – 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 were and still 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 October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2024, and Council members are expected to fulfill the following responsibilities: Members are required to put in a minimum 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 occur 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) **Isaiah Tsosie, Vice-Chair and *Outgoing Member***

- The last few months have consist of non stop interviews for the new leadership & members for the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council. Currently most seats have been filled and some applicants are waiting for interview dates to be set so we may fill these spots for NNYAC. Also those that are involved with the interviews have did an excellent job creating questions, scheduling interview dates, and advertising/announcing that NNYAC is needing new members. The entire application process has been carried out swiftly and effectively by Adam, Denise, and I; so that new members who applied will be interviewed & selected to fill the position that they applied we for. Our advertising team of radio, social media, and verbal communication did great reaching out to our youth to apply for a youth council membership to advocate for the youth and future.
- The small team between Adam, Denise, and I have conducted many interviews, tasks, and managed to multitask with limit members & support to get these positions filled & tasks completed. Both Chair and Vice Chair have vacated their positions due to the age limit that is set but as for myself I made it my goal to keep assisting Adam & Denise with these projects & unfinished business. With the ongoing pandemic we still managed to remain resilient and safe when completing our projects & goals for Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council, Adam has been a huge help when carrying out duties and responsibilities for us youth council members.
- I have managed to attend a handful of work sessions, tuned in council meetings & sessions to stay up to date, and mainly staying involved with my community. I know my goals as an active member with the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council who will be leaving soon, has instilled confidence to keep moving forward to make sure that the new members for NNYAC will understand the challenges and goals that need to be addressed for all of the youth across and off the Navajo Nation. It has been a challenging year with the ongoing pandemic but with prayers and a strong cultural & traditional background it's important to remain resilient and to complete the tasks at hand or those that will arise. I still participate in local chapter meetings to see what may need to be addressed for the youth, and provide recommendations. The grass-root communities need to be listened to due to them being knowledgeable in many areas of their community issues.
- My recommendations to the higher level of leadership is to always include the youth. Leadership in Window-rock must understand we are the future and need stepping stones to lead a successful future. I ask that you keep encouraging the youth & assist us with grass root issues & at home challenges.
- As the Vice Chairperson it's been a great and successful run with NNYAC. I have gained must valuable teachings and insights of our Navajo Nation government. I will remain to keep advocating and advancing for my community, youth, and livestock. The last few months have been great with assistance from all departments on completing or teaching our goals. Much has been tackled as a whole in the last few months when addressing issues & assisting our people especially the youth.

VI.NNYAC Advisor Report

b) Adam J. Begaye, Advisor

- In preparation for the 24th Navajo Nation Council Fall Session, I've listed the accomplishments that the Youth Advisory Council has conducted this quarter.
- On behalf of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council (NNYAC) extends their appreciation to the 24th Navajo Nation Council (NNC) for the approved budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.
 - The approved budget for the year to be utilized by NNYAC, is 50,000.00
- The Plan of Operation proposal has been produced and reviewed by President Nez, Vice President Lizer, Council Speaker Damon, and Chief Justice Jayne.
 - Navajo Nation Department of Justice (DOJ) has reviewed the proposed Plan of Operation and provided their feedback with recommendations to amend the proposal. After providing further information, the DOJ approved the Plan of Operation to be submitted to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
 - On behalf of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council (NNYAC), the former members recommended seeking favorable support from Honorable Council Delegate Amber K. Crotty and Honorable Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown, to sponsor the proposed Plan of Operation as legislation before the Navajo Nation Council.
 - This legislation will most likely reach the Navajo Nation Council's standing committees for their review and approval until approved through Council and signed by President Nez.
- The collaboration with the Office of Dine' Youth within the Department of Dine' Education (DODE), has been resourceful.
 - We have advertised the vacancies at the NNYAC through emails and social media
 - Through the advertisement, our Offices received thirteen (13) applications from youth across the Navajo Nation.
 - The interview committee completed 5 interviews and will be finishing the rest of the interviewees this month.
 - When the virtual interviews are completed, the official names and the agencies that they will be representing will be published to the Three Branch Government.
 - Agencies that did not submit any applications include:
 - **Central Male**
 - **Northern Male**
- Assist in sponsoring the 70th Miss Navajo Nation Pageant
 - The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council (NNYAC) recognized former member and chair of NNYAC, Niagara Rockbridge, as she was departing from her one-year term as Miss Navajo Nation (MNN) in the month of August / September.
 - NNYAC approved to assist in sponsoring the Miss Navajo Nation pageant.
 - The Funds were utilized to provide meals, lodging, and accommodations for the youth volunteers who assisted the Miss Navajo Nation week.
- Our short-term plan is to host orientation and work sessions for the incoming 12 members to learn more about the activities that the youth can provide to the Navajo Nation. These activities will include community outreach for the next 3 months in the winter season that can offer towards the children, youth, adults, and elders joy and life-of-way learning aspects through the young leadership of NNYAC.
 - We would appreciate the 24th Navajo Nation Council members joining and providing leadership remarks to our incoming NNYAC members when the orientation is scheduled.

As an advisor to Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council, I look forward to working in collaboration with the new incoming Navajo Youth to prosper with great opportunities to grow our future leaders. The success of our Youth starts today with your support. Ahe'hee'.