



Yale Alumni Service Corps Service Program to Fort Mojave 2017

Newsletter #2 October 2017

Dear YASC in Fort Mojave 2017 Participants:

It's hard to believe our trip to Fort Mojave begins in less than 2 weeks! Enclosed in this newsletter is some updated information to help you prepare for the trip, and also get excited about some of the projects that we have planned.

Some people have been asking me about the weather. Here's a link to 10-day forecast for nearby Needles California: <https://weather.com/weather/tenday//USCA0753:1:US>. It will be warm but not oppressive with highs in the mid-to-high-80s during the day, and low temps in the mid-60s overnight.

Logistics: make sure you have provided your flight information to Jim Lash from Unique Destinations. If you experience flight changes, reach out to Jim at jim@udvegas.com:

Unique Destinations & Events, LLC
7345 S Durango Dr
Las Vegas, NV 89113
702-338-1721

As Jim noted in an email to the group from Jim, dated October, 2, 2017:

Hello Everyone - To better schedule our ground transportation, we are still in need of your flight information, both coming and going from the Las Vegas International Airport on Oct 20, and Oct 27. Currently motor coaches are scheduled to depart at Noon and 6pm on October 20. Please try to not arrive any later than 4pm on October 20th.

On Oct 27, the currently plan is to depart from AVI at 6am and 11am. Please try to make your departing flights no earlier than 9:30am or later than 4pm. The travel time between points is 90 minutes.

For those of you driving, you can park your vehicle at Avi Resort & Casino at no charge.

Please open the other attachments to this email! I have included:

- A directory of project participants and the staff at the Fort Mojave Indian tribe. This includes photos so it'll help you connect faces with names once we arrive.
- A suggested packing list (thanks to Deborah Rose for putting this together!). Please read it over to avoid having to scramble for items at the last minute. This also includes project-specific lists, so make sure that you look up the suggested items for the project that you're in. Fortunately, the casino is close to all of the stores most of us are used to: CVS, Target, etc - so there's no need to stress about needing to get items there.
- The latest itinerary, including the activities on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Those will be very important because it will give us a chance to know each other, the community, the tribal staff, and to get acquainted with our surroundings.
- An FAQ from the Business Group

Feel free to email me with any questions that you have, and I look forward to seeing you all on the 20th!

Max Sklar, '06

Education (From Lee Corbin and Pamela Crimmins)

The Education Team is planning for many different age groups of children, according to their academic school schedules. We will be working with the pre-school children (storytime, art, cooperative games, music and movement, and sensory awareness) and the alternative high school students (goal setting, counseling, mentoring) during the daytime. Most school age children go to school off-site during the daytime, but we will be assisting them with homework, tutoring, college counseling, and extracurricular activities in the later afternoon, and all afternoon on Wednesday when they return to the reservation after Lunch.

We will help the Library process book donations (upwards of 500 books!), digital resource/database familiarity, and helping the students maneuver around/through the library to become more familiar with a wealth of resources. Students will also have story time, book buddies, and word games at the library.

Another exciting program will include an environmental research project with the alternate high school students and others on the subject treasured by the tribe – water

rights. While this could be a very broad issue, we will try to break it down into a few manageable areas of concern for the students who choose to continue ongoing research.

Library (from Judy Crawford)

The library project will include several activities. We will be processing donated books to prepare the books for use by the community. Information regarding this activity will be presented after we arrive. Additionally, we will be partnering with local public library systems to encourage members of the community to set up library accounts and establish access to numerous digital resources, including e-books and databases for adults and children. We intend to introduce community members to the e-books/databases and to encourage exploration of these resources. Information about database access and features is expected to be sent out by email shortly. Finally, we will be participating in word games and read-alouds with the children.

Construction (from Bill Couchman)

The Construction Team will improve a plot of land adjacent to the Tribal Education Center. The Center is used by 130 students from 2 PM to 5:30 PM for after-school homework tutoring. Our work will turn the unused land into a brand-new outdoor work and activity space for the Education Center. The head of the Education Department is excited to have the opportunity to work with the kids outside rather than to be confined to the stuffy building.

The Tribe is in the process of leveling and clearing the land of weeds and small trees. As most of the area is not covered by shade in the afternoon when the kids are there, our most important project is to build a sun shelter. The Tribe Utility Company has just completed building a frame made of telephone poles above an existing 12' X 24' concrete pad. YASC's job is to put a roof on this, using either 4" diameter poles or 2 X 4's, allowing a bit of sunlight to filter through. The second project is to build six picnic tables so tutors can work with small groups of kids under the shelter. The third project is to build six 4'X 8' above-ground planter boxes so students can plant their own experimental gardens.

There will be various types of tasks for our construction team, including some that will not require particular construction skills or strength. We understand that FASC's ranks will be supplemented by a number of tribe members. We are going to have a ball, AND leave something behind of which we can all be proud!

Pictures are worth a thousand words, so three photos are attached. The first two show the site, with the recently completed sun shelter frame and the Education Center. The third shows the site before the improvements, along with the Craig Gordon, who is coordinating the tribes' portion of the construction project; and Christina Cameron-Otero, who is Director of the Fort Mojave Education Department (i.e., our "customer").



Business / Entrepreneurship (from Crystal Astrachan)

The overall goal of the business group is to inspire the tribal members to advance in their careers, either by finding meaningful employment, changing careers, or starting a business. Underemployment and unemployment are common in Fort Mojave, which hurts families, keeps them in poverty, and creates other social issues.

Our 15 YASC volunteers are currently at work, enthusiastically planning group and one-on-one sessions. All sessions are designed to build confidence in the adults we are serving and inspire them to make positive changes in their lives. Session include:

- Business Plan Development for Aspiring Entrepreneurs
- Basic Job Skills for Managing Employees
- Resume Writing & Mock Interviews
- Personal Finances
- Job Search Strategy
- Creating an Online Presence for a Business
- Communication in the Workplace
- 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace

<https://news.yale.edu/2017/10/04/campus-and-dinee-dorame-15-encourages-college-native-students>