

Tribal VISTA

Quarter 4: July 1– September 30, 2017



Kaile Luga (second from right), SCC AL VISTA serving at Kalaupapa National Historical Park located on the island of Moloka'i, participates in the KUPU Conservation Leadership Development orientation.

29 Tribal VISTAs

\$902,000 Grant Funding developed

5127 Acres of Public Lands and Tribal Communities Cleaned or Improved

535 Hours Volunteered by Community Members

785 Pounds of Food Harvested from Community Gardens

Stewards Individual Placement Program is honored to partner with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Southwest Conservation Corps' Ancestral Lands and the Department of the Interior in fostering food systems development, job training opportunities, and environmental stewardship in Tribal communities.

Emily Maheux - AIHEC - White Mountain Apache Tribe



Tribal VISTA Emily Maheux with two young women from the White Mountain Apache Tribe, at the 2017 Farm Camp, an event open to Native Youth interested in community farming and food sovereignty.

Tribal AIHEC VISTA Emily Maheux has packed a lot into four months of service. From her focus on establishing a partnering non-profit for the Tribe to research and applications for grant funds, she continues to be an advocate for the community and Tribe.

Emily's biggest accomplishment to date is the award of \$900,000 in grant funds (distributed over three years) to be used to improve The People's Farm, a community garden within the Tribe and to get the Friends of The People's Farm non-profit off the ground. Emily has always applied for two other grants, with three others in the research and writing stage.

Emily was also integral to the 2017 Apache Harvest Festival coordination—a community outreach event.

Amy Roulliard - DOI - Cabrillo National

As year two of Native STEAM summer youth program came to an end, Tribal DOI VISTA member, Amy Roulliard heard from community members that it was an unqualified success. Amy was able to triple the participant numbers from the previous year to expose youth to hands-on cultural activities. Participants continued to talk about the program for days after each event and were eager to attend each week. The Native STEAM program gained a few participants each week to engage a total of 25 youth, ages 10 – 18 across a six week period.

Reflecting on the successful program, Amy shared “The keen interest these amazing kids showed in learning traditional life-ways was heartwarming and inspiring. I feel compelled to work on their behalf to create more programming opportunities for them that takes them outdoors and connects them with nature and their cultural roots.”

Gabriel Spoonhunter - SCC AL - Grand Tetons National Park/ Montana Conservation Corps

In his first months of service SCC AL VISTA Gabriel “Gabe” Spoonhunter built upon his knowledge as a community member and previous AmeriCorps VISTA member, connecting with collaborators, conservation minded community members, and local Reservations. Gabe attended several local events and two conferences in order to create partnerships and learn what it takes to get a new Corps program off the ground.

As the summer season came to a close, Gabe collaborated with Montana Conservation Corps to support youth events in the National Park. These events showed Gabe what a crew does, how these teams engage one another, and to understand the mission.

Gabe will take these lessons and experiences back to his drawing board, as he looks to establish a local Ancestral Lands Corps program, recruiting local Native Youth.

Additional events Gabe attended this quarter included the Stewards VISTA training, the SAIGE conference, and a meeting with Groundwork USA.



SCC AL VISTA Gabe (Top Left) works along side a Yellowstone park ranger and members of the Montana Conservation Corps. This experience will help Gabe to engage community members in becoming Corps participants in the future.

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