

Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program  
2008 HIGHLIGHTS

**FRTEP UNIT:** WSU Colville Reservation

**PROGRAM AREA :** 4-H Youth Development

**PROGRAM TITLE:** Science Engineering & Technology Education

**ISSUE(S) ADDRESSED:** Natural resources are a big part of the lives of all reservation residents and the future of the 1.4 million acre reservation financial and physical health. Promoting an interest in science will help prepare the youth for employment and or support for these specialized areas of study. There is a need to build interest in science and technology career aspirations in reservation youth in order to make this happen.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** WSU Colville Reservation Extension promotes positive youth development through the development of 4-H clubs in each of the 4 districts on the Colville Reservation. 4-H is committed to educating youth in the areas of SET (Science, Engineering & Technology). 4-H has launched a new campaign, "One Million New Scientists. One Million New Ideas." The goal is to have 1 million enrolled 4-H members by the year 2013. WSU Colville Reservation Extension is committed to introducing science, engineering & technology projects to the youth on the reservation. Through participation in the National 4-H SET Day, the annual Tribal environmental events, Owhi Lake Days & Inchelium Environmental Days, WSU Colville Reservation staff provide science based activities to give the reservation youth hands-on learning experiences.

Our 4-H Program hosts an annual Science Camp, at the Pascal Sherman Indian School, in June. This camp brings in scientists from USDA and WSU in many different fields of study. The youth spend 3 days exploring and learning about science and participating in 4-H Challenge Team-building activities such as canoeing and rock climbing. On the fourth day, the youth is transported by bus to the WSU Campus, where they have the opportunity to meet WSU Scientists and Researchers in their University Laboratories. Through this University exposure, we work to ignite an interest in higher education and reinforce the fact that a college education is a reachable and attainable goal.



**PROGRAM IMPACT:** 226 youth, ages kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, participated and learned in our Science Engineering and Technology programs. **They showed increased interest in science and that science and technology learning can be fun and educational. Students traveled 170 miles to the WSU Campus to see that higher education is attainable and relevant to life on the Reservation. It is critical to develop these interests while youth are young when values are still being developed.**

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