

MESA PRIETA PETROGLYPH PROJECT SUMMER YOUTH INTERN PROGRAM

Launched in 2002 as a way to provide access for Pueblo youth to engage with the physical landscape of Mesa Prieta and study the imagery of their ancestral heritage. The program has involved close to 300 teenagers from surrounding communities over the years. Each year, young people are invited to submit an application for the two-week program. Up to 15 applicants are chosen based on a competitive application process including a teacher reference, an application and essay from the student, as well as permission from their parents. Preference is given to Native American applicants and the remaining spots are divided between returning students seeking leadership experience and new applicants. The program runs in mid-June each year and interns have the opportunity to receive a small stipend as well as earn dual credit through Northern New Mexico College for their work.

Adult volunteers work with staff to mentor the young people in the field. Team leaders are students with more than one year of field experience and liaise between adults and the their teams. Interns receive a full day's classroom training on the first day and learn marketable skills such as GPS and digital camera use, scientific draftsmanship, metric measuring, team work, leadership, safety training and following a scientific field protocol. They learn how to recognize and categorize petroglyphs. After eight days of recording in the field, interns are then taught to enter their recording data into a GIS database as well as data entry into an Access database. An environmental education component focuses on scientific journaling in the field, learning to navigate using a map and compass, as well as studying the botany, geology and geography of Mesa Prieta.

MESA PRIETA PETROGLYPH PROJECT 4TH - 7TH GRADE CURRICULUM PROGRAM

Begun in 2009 after many years of development, the STEM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) elementary school program features the MPPP 385 page curriculum guide, *"Discovering Mesa Prieta: The Petroglyphs of Northern New Mexico and the People Who Made Them."* It is now in its 2nd edition, and includes two units celebrating Hispano history and culture in northern New Mexico. We serve approximately 15 teachers, 300 classroom students, 200-300 youth site visits, and up to 900 statewide youth through stem to read annually. Each year MPPP runs a professional development seminar for area teachers. These teachers are provided an activity trunk for use in their classroom, they are offered in classroom support and visits from staff, and are encouraged to visit to the Wells Petroglyph Preserve with their students for a 'field day'.

The curriculum is designed to teach students to think holistically, integrate information from different topics, problem solve, use inquiry skills and work cooperatively. It is aligned with Common Core Standards.

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