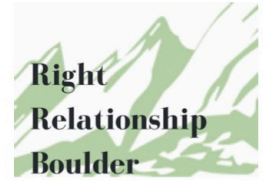


# Cheyenne/Arapaho Culture Enrichment Encampment, June 2024



*Arapaho and Broomfield youth*

The first Arapaho/Cheyenne Culture Enrichment Encampment occurred between June 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>. The group of 11 youth and 10 elders arrived in the evening on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. They stayed overnight at the First United Methodist Church in Lafayette whose members prepared an amazing breakfast for the group. Frank Archuleta took them to the Arapaho Center, a newly named historic theater in Lafayette and several other sites in Lafayette. The City of Lafayette gave

the youth and elders free passes to the Great Outdoors Waterpark which they went to for an hour before heading to Longmont to help load the tipi poles and head to Allenspark, Meadow Mountain Girl Scout Ranch.

The group set up three tipis for the youth, had dinner and met with members of Right Relationship Boulder's Coordinating Council. The next day, the group acclimated to the altitude, and took a hike up to the oldest Ponderosa Pine in Rocky Mountain National Park. Apparently the trunk is the width of five people with outstretched arms! They learned about native plants, some saw a mountain lion chasing two deer, found and braided sweetgrass and did Ledger Art.



*Setting up tipis.*



*Making ledger art.*

The next day, they went into Estes Park, and met Donald Whyte, a Ute Mountain Ute elder who recently retired from the National Park Service and had served for several summers at RMNP. I heard from the elders and youth how special it was to be guided through the park by a Native American elder who could tell them so many stories that were important to their history and culture.



Donald returned the next day and they went to Lily Lake and also to the Eagle Plume Trading Post. The Broomfield Sister City youth as well as Boulder County employees who have been working with the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes about land and bringing a bison/buffalo herd to Boulder County.

They took down the tipis on Friday, went to Gold Hill Broken Arrow Ranch where they spent time with Clare Tone and her horses. The youth said that the whole trip was special but that being with the horses was their favorite thing.



They went back to Longmont, unloaded tipi poles, and then on to the Museum of Boulder where they interacted with families and youth from Boulder, teaching them hand games, Arapaho spoken and sign language. Then they headed to Lafayette and spent the evening at the Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (BVUUF).

Saturday, they had a lovely breakfast at BVUUF and then went to Central Park, where Fred Mosqueda gave a talk about Arapahos in Boulder, the youth went to the Farmers Market and we walked along the Creek path to the Peoples Crossing. They returned to BVUUF for dinner and some went to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in Lafayette at Waneka Park.



*Arapaho and RRB organizers*

Sunday, they graciously blessed the building and land of the BVUUF new building and received blankets with a picture of the Flatirons so they would not forget Boulder. Had a large breakfast and set off for Oklahoma.

It was the very first time that any of the youth had seen or been in the mountains. They loved the birds they saw. They had never seen

maggies before, who play a role in a number of their stories, nor had they seen the Rocky Mountain bluebird. Time went by so so very fast and there were many things they wished that they had had time to do. They all said that they wanted to return – so are looking forward to next year.