

EXTENSION TRENDS: **NIMIIPUU RESERVATION**

University of Idaho Extension, Nimiipuu Reservation • www.uidaho.edu/nezpercereservation



2024 By the Numbers

- **4,078** direct contacts
- **2,037** youth participants
- **302** volunteers
- **364** volunteer hours
- **\$211,485** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension, Nimiipuu Reservation: Ryan Oatman, Ann McCormack, Kim Cannon, Kathee Tifft and Abraham Broncheau.

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2024 Impact

The UI Extension, Nimiipuu (Nez Perce) Reservation program focuses on the Tribe's rich culture, language, history and tradition in all program areas. Topic areas include 4-H life skills, natural resources/agriculture and community development. The mission of all programs is to provide positive youth development, educational opportunities and leadership with a strong focus on intergenerational learning. All topic areas include educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM). To address community needs, the UI Extension, Nimiipuu Reservation program provided 153 events over 12 months, with 4,024 people participating in programs. Many of these events included intergenerational learning (80%) with adult volunteers providing support and encouragement to youth during and after the event. The outcome of the intergenerational learning environment was the extended knowledge that went home with youth as well as strengthening the bond within the family unit. Opportunities for adult learning included mental health, food sovereignty, food systems, healthy living and finances. The 7th Annual Food Summit was held in 2024 in partnership with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Tribal Extension. It was the largest food sovereignty event to date in this region and included a robust list of youth hands-on workshops.

Nimiipuu Reservation 4-H

In 2024 the Nimiipuu Reservation 4-H program sustained projects in the areas of Culture is Prevention, robotics, outdoor survival skills, and STEAM, impacting nearly 3,000 students. Culture is Prevention/Culture is Connection continued to be a popular project with additional funding coming from the Nez Perce Tribe's Education Grant. At these hands-on cultural workshops, youth and adults were engaged in Native American arts and crafts that connected them with their roots. Some workshops included sewing regalia, foraging forest edibles, cooking traditional foods and processing wild animal meat. Youth were also taught lake fishing as well as how to clean and prepare fish. These skills taught youth how to survive and the importance of being respectful, responsible stewards of the land and water. A grant from the Apple Corporation included 93 iPads with protective casings, three charging stations, three sets of Sphero Robotics and \$10,000 helped expand technological education into the classrooms. One of the greatest projects of 2024 included taking two groups of youth to Washington D.C. for two separate events. The first group attended the 4-H Ignite Conference in March and the second group attended with the Nimiipuu Youth Salmon Protectors group to practice leadership skills and learn about government.

On the Horizon

The new 4-H Nimiipuu Youth Salmon Protectors group has continued to grow with 24 additional students expressing interest in the project to help them further develop their education and leadership skills. An honors class for salmon education is now being offered in Lapwai High School with students in grades 9-12. The class offers STEM education around salmon recovery including the life cycle of salmon, water conservation, water stewardship, climate change and more. Apple Corporation and the Nez Perce Tribe have expressed interest in continuing to support the program by encouraging the UI Extension, Nimiipuu Reservation program to apply for additional funding this upcoming year. A funding and technology request will be made to Apple Corporation to support more students in additional schools on the reservation. Funds from the Nez Perce Tribe will be used to sustain intergenerational cultural education. Program sponsors and partnership requests continue to show growth as more companies and organizations such as Idaho Conservation League, Earth Justice, Patagonia, Blue Sky and Great Rift Outdoors have expressed interest in supporting projects the UI Extension, Nimiipuu Reservation has been delivering. The support from these entities will help to support the hands-on learning experience that has proven to be successful in the community.