



2023 Colby WhiteThunder

Co-President Mid-Year Report

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

July/August

Since the end of the National Conference, I have been a little busy here and there. Two weeks after the conference, I had the opportunity to attend the Oklahoma Healing Circle training and JR Cook memorial service.

September

During the month of September, I continued to help with the various activities that the local youth council were doing. I had also started reaching out to different youth councils in the UNITY network.



October



In October I helped plan and execute a cultural event in my community. I went to Oklahoma City for the National Indian Educators Association conference. There I and a few other Executive Committee members had facilitated two healing circle workshops, one for college students and one for high school students. We also met with the Oklahoma University Native American Club to encourage them to start a UNITY chapter on the OU campus.



November

During November myself and copresident Scippio were invited to the National Congress of American Indians annual summit and marketplace. We had the opportunity to speak with various tribal leaders and the NCAI youth commission about what UNITY has done and will be doing in the future. Also, in November various members of the UNITY family were selected to attend the Tribal Youth White House event in Washington DC and the White House celebration put on by Dr. Jill Biden and her staff.



December

In December I traveled to San Diego for a conference put on by the Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention. I attended as an ambassador for the Tribal Youth Resource Center. I had the opportunity to interview the director of OJJDP Liz Ryan, which was a very rare thing to happen because she doesn't often have the chance to stop and speak with a group for an hour or more. Also, through the month I had met with the inauguration committee for the newly elected chiefs of my tribe, one of which is a female and it's a first for my tribe to have a female chief. We planned the ceremony and other aspects of the event.



January

In January I joined the Executive Committee for a training/ retreat in Tempe, Arizona. There we discussed the Mid-year conference and the new resolution. We had also joined the Mesa Strength youth council for a night of fellowship and games. The next day we were invited by the FINAL youth council to experience the Navajo shoe game at the Phoenix Indian Center.

