

What is Project Venture?

Project Venture is an outdoor/experiential program that concentrates on American Indian cultural values, and builds youth resiliency to increase their resistance to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and prevent other delinquent behaviors.

Change to 'Project Venture is a FREE after school plus program, open to Native American teens ages 12-17.

Project Venture is an evidence-based program for the prevention of substance abuse and risky behaviors in Native teens. This program has been adopted by tribes all over the United States and has been adapted to fit the needs of our Ojibwe culture here on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. Project Venture incorporates the best values and customs, as well as the most effective ideas and tools from prevention research and youth development.

Goals of Our Program:

- ▶ Assist youth in the development of a positive self-concept
- ▶ Build effective social and communication skills
- ▶ Build sense of community belonging
- ▶ Develop positive decision making and problem solving skills
- ▶ Help improve academic performances
- ▶ Learn to create personal stories and develop intergenerational connections using the Digital Story Telling program and equipment

Project Venture's purpose:

To build individual resiliency, increase resistance to substance abuse and develop a deeper sense cultural identity in our tribal youth.

Guiding Principles:

For building a strong foundation of student success:

- ▶ Strength based approach
- ▶ Experiential learning
- ▶ Engagement with the natural world
- ▶ Learning through service
- ▶ Connections to family and culture

How do you apply?

To apply for volunteer opportunities with Project Venture, please contact

Tahsheenah Foley
Youth Program Coordinator

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PROJECT VENTURE

Empowering Native Youth

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Project Venture Tribal Youth Program

Volunteers & Mentors Needed

Our mission is to support indigenous youth to develop healthy lifestyles and positive relationships with the natural world, to achieve their full potential and to become leaders in their communities.



Roles of the Mentor/Volunteer:



What is a Mentor?

A mentor is an advisor, a loyal trusted adult, a teacher, a coach, or a guide. In mentoring, one person acts as an advisor to a student. A mentor can make a positive difference in someone's life by: increasing feelings of self-worth and self-confidence, improve problem solving skills, develop trust in oneself and in others, help make better decisions and choices, achieve greater self-awareness, learn how to help and support others. A mentor/volunteer can share important information about life choices and life skills with the students they work with. These skills can help young people overcome obstacles and reach their academic and personal goals in life. Mentors and Volunteers can leave a lifetime impact on the students they mentor.

Why become a mentor/volunteer with Project Venture?

Becoming a Project Venture Mentor or Volunteer will allow you to help other students with school and personal difficulties they may be experiencing. As a Project Venture Mentor in our Tribal youth program, you will be asked to share your knowledge with a group of students. You will be asked to bring out the best in the youth you interact with, and in doing so, you will most likely bring out the best in yourself. By participating as a Mentor or Volunteer in our program, you will be able to:

- ▶ Reinforce positive life skills you have learned
- ▶ Strengthen your own self esteem
- ▶ Feel good about the positive contribution you are making in the Tribal Students lives
- ▶ Work on your own long term and short term goals
- ▶ Make a lasting impact on another student's life

- Be a part of a year-long Tribal Youth development program based on outdoor wilderness adventure, experiential learning and Anishinaabe cultural traditions.
- Assist in after school sessions from 3:45-5:15 pm every Tuesday at the Family Resource and Support Center
- Help set up materials, props or rearrange spaces for all Project Venture lesson plans
- Help co-facilitate After School sessions with the Youth Program Coordinator
- Carefully guide Tribal students into new activities with positive learning approaches
- Help with Cultural skill building, experiential learning, team building and outdoor adventure exercises.
- Help set up and break down all afterschool programming sessions with the help of Youth Program Coordinator.
- Attend weekend adventure outings with Project Venture students and staff.
- Assist students with activities, being actively involved but not solving problems for the students, more assisting and guiding the process.
- Work on special events and service projects with Tribal Youth. Help to guide youth in choosing specific community service projects that are important to them.
- Help set up events that promote Project Venture – Community Outreach and Educational events to promote our Tribal Youth Program.

Mentors/Volunteers will also be asked to participate in any Cultural Trainings, Trauma Informed Trainings and at least one other Professional Development training within the first month as a mentor/volunteer with Project Venture Tribal Youth Program to better understand our tribal youth, cultural traditions, and to understand and learn how to deal with high risk tribal youth.

Eligibility Requirements Of a Project Venture Mentor/Volunteer:

- Anyone 16 years or older can apply
- Must pass a background check
- Must be willing to work with Tribal Youth –engaging, communicating, being actively involved in cultural activities, games and all skill building exercises
- Must be able to play, move and be in good health

Our program:

- ▶ A year-long sequence of challenges and growth opportunities implemented through a weekly afterschool program, a monthly weekend adventure and a 5 day Overnight Summer camp.
- ▶ Youth will be participating in community-oriented service projects and cultural activities in connection with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal functions
- ▶ Create and document stories digitally'
- ▶ Intergenerational connection building through Digital Storytelling opportunities with Tribal Elders

Project Venture serves to build positive factors in the lives of our Tribal youth including having positive and healthy friends, participation in healthy & safe activities with peers during leisure time, providing a sense of community and safe neighborhood component that fosters youth support systems, and helps in building a strong community and Cultural Identity