



# YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

## Fort Mojave, Arizona, California, Nevada

Community(s): Fort Mojave Indian Tribe  
Partner: Fort Mojave Indian Tribe  
Projects: Education, entrepreneurship, construction  
# Volunteers: 2017 (48) Trip Producer: Max Sklar '06

In 2017 YASC organized its first service trip to Native American country at Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, an Indian Reservation located along the Colorado River in the vicinity of Needles, California. Parts of the Reservation are also located within Arizona and Nevada. The goal of the service trip was to assist the community with projects focused on education, entrepreneurship, and life skills, as well as light construction.

**Education** - working with children of all ages we organized:

- Arts programs for pre-school children
- Reading comprehension activities for young children
- College counseling and mentoring to talented high school students
- Library project including the coding and archiving of books and after school program to produce an oral history video for teenagers

**Entrepreneurship** - learning about local businesses and providing assistance through:

- Workshops on life skills, financial literacy, and financial management
- One-on-one career counseling to assist with resume writing, mock interviews, and goal setting
- Sessions on the importance of a college education
- Introducing concepts of strategic planning
- Offering a career day to share career paths
- An after-school program on life skills and career counseling

**Construction** - team up with members of the community to improve the space around the library to an area that encourages children to read and play.

Our volunteers also took part in Fort Mojave Indian Days Celebration at its opening gathering which included a barbecue, bird singing contest, pageants, and cultural workshops. Our visit was an extraordinary opportunity for fun cultural exchange as we celebrated with the Tribe. Plans are being made for a second service trip in October 2023.

### About the community:

The Fort Mojave Indian Reservation has a population of 1,500 people and is located along the Colorado River in the vicinity of Needles, California. The Reservation covers nearly 42,000 acres in the tri-state area of Arizona, California, and Nevada. The land is divided into three major segments: 23,669 acres in Mojave County, Arizona; 12,633 acres adjacent to Needles, California; and 5,582 acres in Clark County, Nevada. Tribal headquarters are located in Needles, California.