

Fort Mojave, Arizona, California, Nevada

Community(s):	Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Partner:	Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Projects:	Education, entrepreneurship, construction (2017) Specialized project areas - education, fashion/design, dance, fitness/sports, robotics, and financial literacy (2024)
# Volunteers:	2017 (48) Trip Producer: Max Sklar '06 2024 (33) Trip Producer: Karen Green '78

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 - teamed 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.

YASC led its second service trip to the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, March 9-16, 2024. The weeklong program consisted of 33 members of the Yale community – mostly alumni, but also faculty, staff, students, and affiliates, who had a unique opportunity to participate in a cross-cultural immersive learning experience. YASC, in conjunction with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, worked with local students and children in specialized project areas - education, fashion/design, dance, fitness/sports, robotics, and financial literacy. Additionally, volunteers had opportunities to learn about Mojave history, culture, traditions, values, and customs.

About the community:

The Fort Mojave Indian Reservation has a population of 1,400 people and is located along the Colorado River in the vicinity of Needles, California. The Reservation covers nearly 24,000 acres in the tri-state area of Arizona, California, and Nevada.