

Kid's Korner

4-H'ers Hold Native American Festival

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CARLISLE (Cumberland Co.)
— Time was turned back for a day during the Native American Festival 4-H day camp held in Carlisle's Shaffer Park.

The camp was open to all 4-H members and those who participated had fun learning about Native American dances, songs, games, food, crafts, and folklore.

The guest of honor for the festival was Paul "Three Crows" Grothe of the Delaware Nation.

Grothe lives in Hummelstown and, as a representative of his nation, he attends pow wows and tribal meetings. He also makes presentations to different groups to educate them about the Native American way of life.

He taught the campers a lot during the Shaffer Park festival such as how to make decorative mandallas and what the different signs on the mandallas mean. He also stressed to them that they should think positively about life.

During several hikes in the woods, Grothe explained how Native Americans feel about nature, about how they believe they are one with it. He told the campers the different meanings his people draw from natural events.

Finally, he demonstrated the different songs and dances his tribe has done for centuries and the symbolism behind each of them.

Another participant in the festival was Trish Pino, who is a nurse at the Messiah Village retirement community in Mechanicsburg.

She gained her experience of Native American life when she spent three years in the health services department on a Navaho reservation. It was on that reservation that she met her husband.

Pino brought all types of Navaho artifacts along for the campers to see and touch. For example, she brought a Navaho doll and showed the youngsters how the Navaho wrap their babies in blankets and carry them on their backs.

She also explained the lifestyle of the Navaho and their customs.

A total of 40 campers and 10 teen counselors participated in the festival.

They spent part of their time in a project that will help Native Americans on a reservation. Every



Campers and leaders make lap quilts to send to a Native American Reservation.

camper worked on quilted lap covers that are to be sent to a reservation. Six of the lap covers were completed during the day of the camp.

Sylvia Negley, a 4-H assistant and an organizer of the camp, said organizers tried to make everything about the festival, even the food, pertain to the Native American theme. With that in mind the meals consisted of foods such as

fried pies, tacos, corn muffins, popcorn and maple syrup.

All of the campers seemed to have a good time as they got a look at a way of life that is far different than their own.

Camper Matthew Creek said he had a great time.

"My favorite parts were making mandallas and eating the food," he said.



Camper Zachery Travis shows his mandalla.



Trish Pino showing her collection of Navaho treasures.



Paul "Three Crows" Grothe making mandallas.