



What Works When You're Working with Kids

Ben Myers, Anthony England, Scott Anderton
California Indian Museum and Cultural Center



Tribal Youth Ambassadors Project

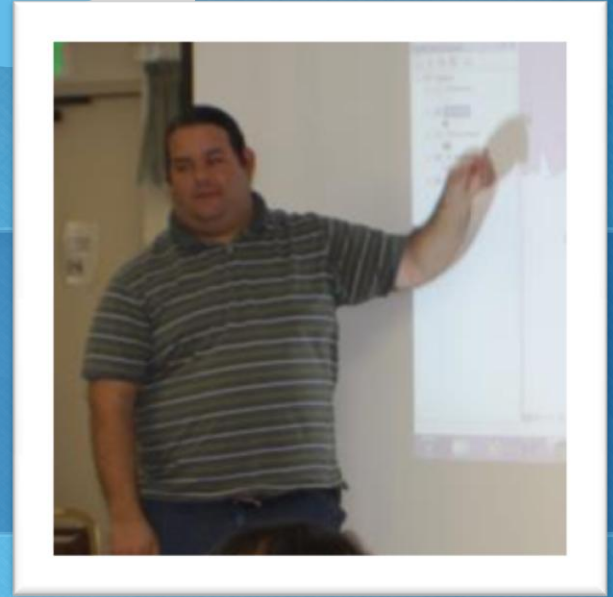
- Theater: *Journeys to the Past, We are Indian!*
- Technology: *California Indigenous* (GIS)
- ~10 Tribal Youth (ages 9-17)
- ~5 Staff Members, 4 Consultants (3 for GIS)
- Sibling relationships (Yepez, Vega, Williams)
- For All My Relations, Summer Camp, Giants game, Disneyland, Essay Contest, and more

Working with Kids

- High and low energy
- Distractions
- Socializing
- Bonding
- Meeting Challenges



Role as Instructor



- Controlling the classroom
 - Differentiating between high energy activities, like games, and low energy activities, like long term projects.
- Creating a safe and productive learning environment.
 - Choose activities that allow students to work together and get to know each other.
 - Building skill sets for every capacity within the youth group.



Setting the Tone

- Rules and expectations should be clearly stated at the beginning of the program.
- Goals should also be stated, so students know what is expected of them.
- Creating and following rules helps protect students and keep them on track.
- Taking the students and the program seriously will help students engage seriously with the material. Set the example!





Controlling the Mood in the Room

- As the instructor, sometimes you will need to adapt to the energy of the students by getting them engaged with high energy activities.
- If the kids do not respond to a change in pace, switching to low energy activities or taking breaks can help you stay productive.



Getting to Know Your Students

- Cheesy icebreakers seem cliché, but they can often help students bond and learn more about each other and you.
- Working closely with students, either as a floating mentor or in a group, can help you get to know them and assess their skills.
- Getting to know your students allows you to plan your lessons according to their interests or help them learn more effectively in future activities.



Timing is Crucial

- Our programs are run during the summer both weekends and weekdays.
- Timing is based on work load and instructor availability.
- Be wary of summer vacations, too few students could force you to move or cancel a day of instruction.



Questions

- We know you must have them 😊
- Sample questions:
 - Why is six afraid of seven?