

SPY Mission Trip



On October 16 Denise Wilson and students Garrett Buzzell and Morgan Jacobsen shared their experiences during a SPY mission trip to Minnesota to the Red Lake Indian Reservation. A group of 16 youth and 4 adults made the week-long trip.

This was Morgan's second mission trip. She said that their day began with breakfast, then a devotion and reflection time. Much of the day was filled with community service. She helped a group of 15 youth paint a Day Care center one day. They cleaned some family yards one day, helped at a women's shelter, painted a classroom at a college, and rode the bus to take some children home from the Day Care. The reservation owns all the property, so many people don't have much pride in their home.



Garrett was on his first mission trip, but he wants to go on more. He helped at a Kid's Club with children in 4th through 6th grades. He said that their culture is very different from Treynor. Youth join gangs to be protected. They do a lot of cursing, swearing, and fighting. No visitors were allowed to go outside after dark. He also helped paint rooms at the college.

Denise, an adult leader, was on her third mission trip. She worked with the youth to prepare them for the trip and help with fundraising. These trips are open to any youth in the community and help them see different styles of life.

The SPY trips are organized through YouthWorks. YouthWorks (<http://www.youthworks.com/>) organizes mission trips to over 75 different locations each year. The cost of each week-long trip is about \$250 per student. They set up a balanced day, with service projects from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



On this mission trip, most youth worked with Kid's Club for two days and on service projects for two days. Kid's Club includes games, crafts, and Bible study. The youth plan the day for the Kid's Club activities. On Thursday there was a community picnic for the Kid's Club youth and their families.

The Red Lake Reservation in Northern Minnesota is one of only two "closed" reservations in the country. It is "closed" because the Dakota Indian tribal government has full sovereignty over the

reservation. The Tribe has the right to limit who can visit or live on the reservation. It has never been subject to State law.

Garrett is a sophomore and would like to go on more mission trips. Morgan is a Senior, so this was her last High School trip. The Optimist Club presented them a check for \$774 from the can kennel for the next mission trip.