

Director Chase reports to Unit IV members



**DENISE CHASE, DIRECTOR,
UNIT IV**

I pray that you and your families all had a peaceful and blessed Christmas and new year holidays. I don't know about you, but the month of December flew by too fast.

Director Morrow and myself were busy in our unit with the Christmas activities held for the children and elders.

Manistique and Escanaba area children got to see Santa and receive a candy cane and present, then ate a lunch of pizza, chips, cookies, pop and juice. There were many children who attended along with their parents and or grandparents. I would like to thank the volunteers who helped with the parties, we couldn't have done it without you. I wouldn't try to name everyone in this report, because I don't want to forget anyone. We will put a write-up in the next paper with the thank you and list of volunteers and pictures.

We also had the chance this year to attend Marquette's children's Christmas party. The Unit V Marquette Elder Committee puts on its party and does an excellent job. The children saw Santa, ate pizza, cookies and drinks. They also had a clown there making balloon animals for them and received presents and stockings filled with treats.

I would like to make a minor correction from my last unit report. The newspaper didn't print the correct resolution I provided with the individual names who were appointed to the Adhoc Health Access Exploratory Group. Following is a list of board members:

Chairman – Aaron Payment
Unit I – Cathy Abramson
Unit I – Deb Pine
Unit II – Lana Causley,
Catherine Hollowell
Unit III – Keith Massaway
Unit IV – Denise Chase
Unit V – Joan Carr Anderson

I believe there are additional board members who want to be added to the list.

The board approved the capital outlay 2013 expenditures for the casinos. Manistique Casino will be receiving a handicap lift for its shuttle. This is an issue the elders and casino staff have been bringing forward for quite some time. This will only enhance the casino and shuttle drivers' customer service. To safely pick up handicapped patrons going to the casino, and elders for concerts.

The following resolution: Youth Mentoring Program, program guidelines, and youth mentoring license application were approved at the Newberry meeting.

Call Sault Tribe Law Enforcement for more information at (906) 635-6065.

The Inland Fishing and Hunting Committee has been working on this program and workshopped it with the board of directors, made recommended changes and brought back with their final recommendation for approval.

YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Inland Fishing and Hunting Committee desires to establish a Youth Mentoring Program whereby tribal families may pass on hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the greatest goal of the program is to assist tribal members in teaching our youth the importance of protecting and respecting our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the program will allow children nine years old and below to hunt small game, turkey and deer; trap furbearers; fish all species; and gather under Sault Tribe regulations under the tutelage of a qualified adult.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Youth Mentoring Program is hereby enacted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Sault Tribe Law Enforcement is hereby empowered to take all reasonable steps to administer the program.

Sault Ste Marie Tribe Youth Mentoring Program

Introduction

As part of our Anishinaabek culture, we pass our traditional knowledge and beliefs along to our youth by modeling the way; we teach by example. The Youth Mentoring Program establishes a means by which tribal families may continue to pass on hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering knowledge within the legal framework of the Sault Tribe Conservation Code. The greatest goal of the Program is to assist tribal members in teaching our youth the importance of protecting and respecting our natural resources. Parents may decide when a child 9 or under is ready to take on the responsibility of hunting, trapping, fishing, or gathering and take part in the Youth Mentoring Program. A mentor aged 21 and over is chosen who, if not the parent, must sign a form along with the child's parent or legal guardian acknowledging the responsibilities of participating in the program. Each youth will receive a license, tag for each harvest opportunity that they will pursue and a harvest report.

Youth license

The youth license is a package deal for youth age 9 and below. It allows the youth to hunt small game, turkey and deer; trap furbearers; fish all species and gather under Sault Tribe regulations.

Guidelines for mentors

The mentor must be 21 years of age or older and possess a license for the activity in which they wish to mentor. The main goal of the Youth Mentoring Program is to pass on our Anishinaabek culture to our youth. Teachings on the spiritual aspects of hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering are welcome; mentors and youth may review the attached Teaching "Giving in Return for What We Receive" shared by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Cultural Division. Mentors are encouraged to teach the youth to always respect the land, animals, plants, and other beings while hunt-

ing, trapping, fishing and gathering.

The mentor must:

- Obtain permission from the parent of the youth, if the mentor is not the parent. The Youth Mentoring License Application must be signed by fully-informed parents, parent-mentors or non-parent mentors and youth.

- Be responsible for the safety of the youth at all times. A mentor's greatest priority is the youth that he or she is mentoring. The equipment, terrain, weather conditions, and physical and mental requirements involved in hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering are serious for youth of any age, especially the ages involved in this program.

- Be responsible for the youth's actions while in the field. Mentors must be vigilant about watching over the youth. Hunting and trapping devices, fishing hooks, deep or fast-moving water, steep hillsides, poisonous look-alike plants and fungi, and the presence of other people within range, make both minor and deadly mistakes possible.

The mentor is responsible for what happens while mentoring.

- Ensure that the Sault Tribe Conservation Code and all other applicable laws are followed. All violations of the Code are the responsibility of the mentor.

- Ensure that no more than a total of two hunting devices are possessed among the mentor and mentored youth hunter(s) while hunting in the field.

- Ensure the hunting device is adequately fitted for the youth. This will assist in providing a safe environment and enjoyable experience for the youth.

- Keep the youth at no more than arms length when in the act of hunting.

- Provide ear and eye protection when necessary. Ensure that both the youth and mentor are wearing appropriate attire for the season, considering weather and visibility needs.

- Plan for medical emergencies. Prior to going out in the field, notify at least one other adult of where the mentoring will take place and for approximately how long, and if/how the pair can be reached

while in the field. Discuss with the youth what to do in case of emergency in the field prior to going out. Bring adequate water and food for the activity.

- Properly tag any harvest. Ensure that the harvest is field dressed and/or otherwise properly taken care of and treated with respect.

- Ensure that the youth complete a harvest report and return it to the Tribe's Inland Fish and Wildlife Department as required.

- After two years in the Youth Mentoring Program, youth are required to take a hunters safety course.

Remember to strive for positive experience for the youth, to learn and grow in a good way: mino-bimaadiziwin! If you'd like to learn more Anishinaabek Teachings, you may look to our elders and Sault Tribe resources such as the Cultural Division and Traditional Medicine Program, among others.

The board recently approved a resolution amending the Child Welfare Code sections 30.1201 and 30.1204.

The board determined that it is in the best interests of the tribe and its children to increase the number of Child Welfare Committee members to 10 instead of nine. The board also approved if any member of the committee who has three consecutive absences within a 12-month period, shall forfeit membership on the committee.

The board also approved that a quorum shall consist of not fewer than six members of the committee and that ACFS Director Juanita Bye shall submit an attendance report of committee members within 30 days of Child Welfare Committee meeting to Joanne Carr.

Our board schedules have been changing on a weekly basis if not daily at this time. It's very frustrating while trying to attend community functions or scheduling office hours. I ask you to bear with us as your Unit IV reps work through the board of directors scheduling issues. Please contact me at 322-3819.

Thank you,
Denise Chase
Vice Chair