





**11:00am-** After a few days of camp under my belt, I'm more ready than ever to have some fun getting the kids from the Shinnecock Rez moving. As a rookie facilitator, I had to adjust and watch my fellow facilitators from New Mexico take the reigns during the first camp. This time, however, I know the drill and how to connect with the kids. Getting games started is the best part of the whole day!

*Mollie Tobin: Shinnecock Camp. South Hampton, NY.*

*Facilitator, New York Region. 1st year as Wings facilitator.*

**12:00pm-** My favorite part of every camp day is lunch because we get to know a little more about the kids we're working with and they get to know a little more about us. I like to ask kids about their favorite sports teams and whether or not they're enjoying camp so far. There is nothing better than talking and laughing with kids who have huge imaginations. The nutritious food the site coordinators provide is just a bonus.

*Allison Denetchee: Ganado Camp. Ganado, AZ.*

*Facilitator, Navajo Region, Chinle Team. 1st year as Wings facilitator.*

**1:00pm-** Each afternoon we gather age-groups for a 15-20 minute presentation. Our words and posters aim to educate participants and incite informal discussion about the intersections between our indigenous cultural heritage and our mental, physical and spiritual health. Healthy eating habits, regular physical exercise and self-awareness are embedded in our customs. We remind campers that many of our grandparents grew up as organic, dry farming distance runners before it was seen as "cool" or "sustainable".

*J.R. Lesensee: San Felipe Camp. San Felipe Pueblo, NM.*

*Facilitator, Pueblo Region. 1st year as Wings facilitator.*

**2:00pm-** After presentation boards it's time for more games. The campers shake off their afternoon lethargy and things get exciting when we announce "Camper's Choice". It's always fun watching the kids politic over which of our games they will choose. Sometimes a kid will advocate for a game they remember from last year! But as soon as a winner is determined, everyone forgets their prior loyalties and has a blast playing the final games of the day.

*Bryn Fragua: Shinnecock Camp. South Hampton, NY.*

*Head Facilitator, Pueblo Region. 2nd year as Wings facilitator.*

**3:00pm-** After two days of participant's asking questions about what their "prize" will be, it's finally time to hand out Wings shirts. The expressions on some of their faces when they receive their shirts are priceless. We feel like celebrities when one kid gets the courage to ask, "Will you sign my shirt?" Pretty soon there's a group of a dozen kids mobbed around each facilitator waiting for their signatures. Hopefully the shirt helps them remember the best two days of their summer a few months down the line.

*Dallas Touchine: San Felipe Camp. San Felipe Pueblo, NM.*

*Head Facilitator, Navajo Region, Gallup Team. 4th year as Wings facilitator.*

**4:00pm-** The drive home can feel like it takes forever after a long day of camp. But the thought of the kids we just left and those at the next camp keep us going. Some days we muster up the energy to detour on a field trip on the way home. We make the best memories exploring unfamiliar corners of the rez together. Nothing like a long day with the Wings family...

*Garilena Cly: Ganado Camp. Ganado, AZ.*

*Facilitator, Navajo Region, Chinle Team. 4th year as Wings facilitator.*

**5:00pm-** The hustle and bustle of preparing for camp starts with a call to the other facilitators to make sure we're all on the same page for early the next morning. Sometimes we even decide what color uniform we'll wear while reviewing the camp schedule and pick up details. Afterwards, I inventory our equipment, recount our stock of t-shirts and organize registration forms. Finally I'm off to fill up the gas tank and buy lunches and snacks. Even if I have to shop at Wal-Mart, I do my best to buy healthy food for our campers. Even if some of this kids don't like it, we hope to positively influence their dietary choices for the future.

*James Pine: Loneman Camp. Oglala, SD.*

*Head Facilitator, Pine Ridge Region. 2nd year as Wings facilitator.*

