



4th-5th Grade Winner

ART - 1st Place, Journey Eschief, Blackwater
Community School, Grade 5

2024 Mul-Chu-Tha



Winning Entries!

How My Generation Contribute to the Next 60 Years in My Community

In the past my grandma said there was a witch who would take kids that are bad and a giant who lived on top of a mountain. My tribe got rid of it because it was mean to kids. Today, a lot of kids like new rappers or Gen Z singers do not like traditional songs. They also eat unhealthy snacks, not fry bread. Who is going to eat all of grandma's fry bread? Is it just going to be my uncle and me?

Sadly, my grandma's stories and my language are going away. As a proud and brave Native American girl, I want to continue to preserve it. One thing I can do is come to school and tell kids to study our language and say greetings in Pima all the time. I will continue to learn my language until I can understand and speak it well and be a model to my friends and classmates.

A lot of kids are going missing and running away nowadays. When I grow up, I want a job that lets me help other kids. I will not let kids who have bad moms and dads stay with them if their family is mean. I will put the kids in a good family and for the bad parents, they will go to jail until they think about what they did.

In the future, I might be the Governor because I am intelligent. I will do good things for Sacaton like to make a high school and a college for the kids who want to stay here. The kids who do not want to stay can go to a different high school. And for the grown ups, I will encourage them to work for their kids and their family. Being a family means you will love and be loved no matter what. The girls will traditionally dance and the boys will sing, if not I will tell the Casa Blanca Tribal Councilman to take them! But I will give them a second chance of course because everyone deserves that.

If I can not be the Governor of Sacaton, I can be Miss Gila River to use my voice to make change. I will protect everyone that is in the Community.

4th-5th Grade Winner

Essay - 1st Place, Symphonie Chiago, Sacaton Elementary School, Grade 8

2024 Mul-Chu-Tha



Winning Entries!



6th-8th Grade Winner

Art - 1st Place, Kyren Lewis, Sacaton Middle School, Grade 6

2024 Mul-Chu-Tha



Winning Entries!

The Power To Shape The Next 60 Years

As members of the Gila River Indian community, our generation holds the key to shaping the future of our tribe and ensuring the continued strength and success of the Gila River Indian Community. Over the next 60 years, we have the opportunity to make a lasting impact through our actions, ideas, and dedication to our culture.

One way our generation can contribute is by actively participating in tribal activities. We can be better by running for leadership positions, serving on committees, and engage in the decision making processes that shape our community. By bringing our fresh perspectives and new ideas, we can help create policies and laws that can address the evolving needs of our community.

Another important aspect of our contribution lies in preserving and promoting our cultural heritage. We can become better versions of ourselves to keep up our traditions, passing down our language and values to future generations. By actively participating in cultural events, ceremonies, and programs, we can ensure the social of our cultural identity and strengthen the bond within our community.

Furthermore, our generation can play a crucial role in supporting and fighting for the rights and well-being of our tribe. We can raise awareness about issues affecting our community, such as environmental concerns, healthcare access, and education. By making use of social media and engaging in peaceful protests, we can use our voices and bring attention to these important matters.

Education will also be a vital aspect of our contribution. By pursuing higher education and acquiring skills in areas such as law, policymaking, and community development, we can become knowledgeable advocates for our tribe. We can use our expertise to navigate complex legal frameworks, negotiate agreements, and ensure that the community is to be upheld and protected.

In conclusion, our generation has the power to shape the next 60 years in the Gila River Indian Community. By actively participating in tribal governance, preserving our cultural heritage, supporting and fighting for our rights, and pursuing education, we can make a lasting impact. Together, we can build a future that honors our traditions, embraces progress, and ensures the continued strength and success of our tribe. Let's embrace this opportunity and contribute to the legacy of the Gila River Indian Community.

6th-8th Grade Winner

Essay - 1st Place, Alena Hutchinson, Coolidge Junior High, Grade 8

2024 Mul-Chu-Tha



Winning Entries!



9th-12th Grade Winner

Art - 1st Place-Frances Histia, Casa Grande Union High School, Grade 11

The Next 60 Years

What does it mean to contribute to our community? How do our youth contribute to our community now and into the future? To contribute to our community means to provide valuable input and support to our community. My generation is called "Gen Z," and I see our generation as one who is communally willing to contribute to our people. Gen Z and the younger generations have been resilient through one of the most challenging times our community had to experience, COVID-19. We have never given up through those tough times and continue to show our resilience to this day, and it will forever stay that way.

Gen Z has been contributing to our community through everyday activities and even representing our people in places throughout the world. Our youth bring so many talents through our art, music, writing, or logical talents. We put our strengths and talents towards serving our Gila River to build it up and expand our culture and leadership. Our generation teaches our older generations how to navigate modern technology and society, bringing new ideas and innovations to show our contribution. There are many examples of pillars in our community. Every year, young women, such as the Jr. Miss Gila River, represent our people in many ways. This role holds the title of an ambassador, representing us in a leadership role.

Another pillar is the Akimel O'otham/Pee Posh Youth Council, which highlights today's Gen Z leaders' dedication to preserving our cultural traditions and representing in a youth council position. We young leaders devote our time, energy, and effort to uplift the community regardless of personal challenges. In addition, Gen Z, who perform everyday acts of responsibility, such as caring for family, pursuing education or employment, and supporting those in need, further reinforce our generation's contributions. Though these may seem minor to some, they are essential building blocks for the future of Gila River.

Recognizing that Gen Z is the foundation of tomorrow's leadership, it is clear that we play an essential role in shaping the community's future. The ongoing contributions ensure preservation and progress for the next sixty years. Gen Z's contributions extend far beyond the present moment, laying the groundwork for a vibrant and resilient community. Through our talents, dedication, and commitment, we will ensure that our identity as a tribe and community endures, teaching valuable lessons to future generations about the significance of unity, resilience, and cultural traditions.

9th-12th Grade Winner

Essay - 1st Place, Sayuri Jackson, Hamilton High School, Grade 10

2024 Mul-Chu-Tha



Winning Entries!