



MARIANO LAKE CHAPTER

Follow The Sheep

2025 SUMMER EVENTS

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."
— Jane Goodall



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2025 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

On July 7, 2025, Mariano Lake Chapter officially launched this year's Summer Youth Employment Program. We began with a smaller group, but the energy was high most of our participants were first-time student workers, eager and ready to learn. Immediately upon Student Orientation, these enthusiastic youth rolled up their sleeves and got to work, assisting with summer cleaning tasks by organizing supplies, and taking inventory across our storage areas.

Students participated in our annual "ice breaker" activity, which was a big hit with everyone. It was a strong and spirited start to what promises to be a productive and inspiring summer!

STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON WITH GARDENING AND WOODWORKING

During our Student Orientation, CSC Leandra K. James proudly announced this summer's new hands-on project. Based on feedback and data from previous years, we decided to take a fresh approach. In partnership with a local gardener, students were tasked with building raised garden beds using repurposed pallets. Under the guidance of our dedicated supervisors, students learned the basics of both woodworking and gardening. The response was overwhelmingly positive, many students were so engaged they didn't want to stop for snacks or water breaks! Their enthusiasm surprised our staff and inspired supervisors to work even harder alongside them. Laughter and teamwork filled the air as each group collaborated, learned, and grew together.



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SUMMER FUN

Throughout the program, students continued to show dedication and teamwork across all their assigned tasks. Whether they were helping with landscaping, organizing supplies, cleaning community areas, or assisting with daily operations, each student brought a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. Supervisors noted how quickly students adapted, supported one another, and took pride in the work they were doing for the community. What may have seemed like small tasks, pulling weeds, sweeping sidewalks, or sorting storage became meaningful contributions that helped improve our chapter grounds.

These efforts were more than just summer jobs; they were lessons in responsibility, leadership, teamwork, and the value of giving back. The students' hard work reminded us of the words of Jane Goodall:

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."



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2025 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



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MARIANO LAKE CHAPTER 8TH ANNUAL YOUTH DAY EVENT



8TH ANNUAL YOUTH DAY

On July 11, 2025, we proudly concluded our Summer Youth Employment Program with our 8th annual Youth Day celebration. The day began with impactful presentations from several organizations, including the Navajo Nation Police Department and, for the first time, the Navajo Nation Sexual Assault Services. Their team expressed heartfelt appreciation for the warm welcome they received at Mariano Lake.

This year we were provided a special presentation. Community member and NTU student Layla held a virtual presentation in partnership with Yale University, offering students a presentation on biology and answering questions. Our long-time community partner, Mariano Lake Bible Church Group, also volunteered their time and efforts to support our youth day. As the day went along, the celebration came to life. Families, students, and community members of all ages gathered to enjoy a day filled with connection, fun, and a shared sense of accomplishment, truly a meaningful way to wrap up a summer of learning and services.

MLC hopes an excellent new school year to all our community students



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**MARIANO LAKE CHAPTER
UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MULTIPLEX**



UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION

Replacing our old chapter building, on February 3, 2025, construction began on our new Mariano Lake Multiplex. The multiplex will consist of The Chapter Administration, Senior Center, Veterans Center, Library/Computer Lab, and Meeting Hall. Progress has been exciting to watch. Spirits were high the day the site was officially sectioned off, marking the first step toward a long-awaited goal, in vision for 10 years. Since then, the construction crew has completed a major milestone: pouring the concrete foundation.

One of our former staff members, who now works with the construction team, continues to show his dedication to the community thru sporadic volunteering and providing us exciting updates on the project's progress by his personal involvement. His support reminds us that this building is truly being built by the community, for the community at the heart of the community.

Currently, crews are hard at work assembling the metal framework. As a small gesture of appreciation, our Summer Youth Employment Program students recently invited the construction team to enjoy some snow cones, thanking them for their dedication in bringing our future community home to life.

The construction invites new life with hope and excitement.



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