

## **APIDA Outdoors Initiative - Progress Report**

### **Email**

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### **Project Manager Name**

Kristie Tham

### **Requested Metrics**

3/20 Gordon Hirabayashi Campground Day Excursion Attendance: 5 Faculty/staff + 25 students = 30 attendees total

2/19 Day of Remembrance: 2 Faculty/staff + 22 students = 24 attendees total

Core project team involved in planning and execution of the project = 1 staff, 1 student, 3 faculty (Kenny wong, Jacqueline Barrios, Beth Wienstein)

# of partnerships or collaborations developed between the project team and other UArizona administrative units, student groups, community groups, or other groups/organizations: Japanese American Student Association, Junko Sakoi, TUSD guest speaker, Kenny Wong from CAPLA.

### **Project Accomplishments**

The initiative has completed 2 events for the Spring semester that explored the relationship between the history of Japanese Incarceration during WWII and outdoor recreational spaces for APIDA communities.

Day of Remembrance on February 19th honors the history of Executive Order 9066 forcibly removing those with Japanese Heritage from their homes and businesses. With guest speaker Junko Sakoi, students learned the importance of the internment sites in preparation of the day excursion to Gordon Hirabayashi Campground at Babad Do'ag, also called Mt Lemon.

The Gordon Hirabayashi Campground Day Excursion transformed our understanding of Japanese incarceration and how the APIDA community views the outdoors. Guest speaker Kenny Wong drew upon his architecture background and provided a guided tour of the campground site and hiking trail. CAPLA Colleague Dr. Beth Wienstien share with students her knowledge from her doctoral research on internment architecture on what internees experienced during relocation. And finally Dr Jacqueline Barrios, professor of the Asian Pacific American Studies, provided an amazing Polaroid activity for participants to engage with their surroundings. Drawing from the history of Dorothea Lange's photo documentation, students were encouraged to use a one shot Polaroid camera to

capture what this campground site means to them.

## **Next Steps**

As the mini grant concludes this Spring 2025 semester, final steps for the APIDA Outdoors Initiative would be final reporting and planning for the next year. This mini grant was a way to reach out across the university and find partners interested in sustainability via outdoor recreation who would be considered outside of the "sustainability choir". I would like to dream over the summer on how to scale up and schedule involvement of non-sustainability choir folks and experienced partners.

## **Challenges Faced**

One challenge to learn from is the ACAMPSA event when working with a large student group. I learned I should get a hold of the student leaders in January, set clear expectations on the educational training from Outdoor Rec and set a time for students to meet with a Leave No Trace facilitator as an understood requirement of the programming.

## **Project Support**

The CSF always answered my questions about how to use the funding and suggested great additions to program ideas. I do dream of expanding the program if given the chance in the Fall semester pending team capacity and restructure of the cultural resource centers. I would like to draft a larger version of the APIDA Outdoors Initiative with campus and community partners who I think have different strategies to engage their audience in conversation and action about climate and sustainability.

## **Photo Link**

## **Media/Links**