

WOLF LESSONS FOR LIFE

PROBATION EDUCATION SERVICES

COLLABORATE WITH THE WOLF CONNECTION

The youths at Camps Afflerbaugh, Paige, and Rocky participated in a 12-week virtual series with The Wolf Connection entitled "Wolf Lessons for Life: What Wolves Can Teach Us About Being Human." The program is designed for curious individuals that are committed to self-growth. Each session, the young people were excited to virtually meet with their wolf pack teams and the Heart Ranch wolves to explore the ancient connection between wolves and humans. They learned about wolves and how every wolf pack has a leader. The leader holds the most respected role within the pack and is responsible for being the peacemaker and de-escalator when faced with tense situations.

The young people enjoyed hearing the stories of the pack members' resilience and power. They came to know the story of each wolf, both alive and deceased. The deceased wolves are referred to as ancestors and respected for the legacy they left behind. The young men developed a fondness for Wolf Koda, who lost his older brother, Wolf Chance. As a result, Koda found himself having to become the leader of the pack. The youth were impressed and developed a great respect for Wolf Koda for his resilience. Another lesson that resonated with the youth was just as wolves, humans operate in a hierarchy. Even though there is always one leader, all pack members are essential, and their talents and gifts are always needed for the pack to move and operate successfully.



Wolf Koda and Wolf Chance



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WOLF LESSONS FOR LIFE (CONT)

PROBATION EDUCATION SERVICES COLLABORATE WITH THE WOLF CONNECTION

The series concluded on Monday, April 26th. The Wolf Connection provided catered lunch during the last session and presented the youth with Certificates of Graduation. The young men were also given exclusive Pack Member T-shirts reserved only for graduates of the program. They were provided with the Wolf Connection staff's contact information and invited to contact them upon their camp release. At that time, they will be asked to participate in a final group hike in which they visit the Wolf Ancestor's burial grounds. The last day ended with one of the young men reading a closing poem entitled "We Howl," and then each youth spoke about new doors they plan to step into. All the young men agreed that they are committed to stepping into making better choices and staying out of trouble; upon all participants sharing their plans, they came together and let out a loud, hardy, and long howl, sealing their commitment to the many lessons they learned from participating in the program.

Probation Education Services Supervising Program Analyst Rahman Williams, J.D. expressed, "Over the last year, Probation and many other agencies worked hard to adjust to the challenges brought about by Covid-19. The Wolf Connection team provided both interesting and valuable programming to multiple facilities via a virtual platform. Feedback was both positive and promising. We are excited about what the partnership will bring as we move forward in 2021."

Probation News

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