

BIA / BIE Tribal Student Climate Change Photo Contest Fall 2016 - Winners

Grades K-5 - No Fall 2016 Entries

6th - 8th Grade Fall 2016 Photo Contest Winners

1st - Ashlynn Salaba, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School (photo #3)

2nd - Kristal Puentes, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School (photo #6)

3rd - Ashanti Horseherder, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School (photo #5)

9th - 12th Grade Fall 2016 Photo Contest Winners

1st - Cecily Ivins, 9th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School (photo #15)

2nd - Tobias Joe, 12th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School (photo #19)

3rd - Tyrique Winstead, 12th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School (photo #17)

K -5th Grade
No Fall 2016 Entries

6th – 8th Grade Fall 2016 Entries

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1st - Ashlynn Salaba, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School (photo #3)

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Shakira Yazzie, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School



This male hogan, alchi'adeezá, has a different construction than the familiar female eight-sided hogan. These hogans are a part of the universal plan covered in Dine' teachings; the male and female spiritual entities are present in all ceremonies as supporting each other with their respective roles, for future generations of Dine'. The teachings of female and male duality say females have control over the land and livestock and teach kids the Dine' ways of life for future generations. The male role is to be hunters, warriors, and community leaders. Male and female roles exist throughout nature as well. Even in climate change, the male and female roles and hogans have a place for Dine' ways of life, for future survival.

Jade Benally, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School



Beautiful sunsets like this, with many colors, are a natural sight on the Navajo reservation. The many colors are caused by the dust in the atmosphere. The clouds provide rain for our crops and native plants for us to survive with. Predicted effects of climate change on the Navajo reservation are that we might have more dust and experience less rainfall, which can affect how we live. A solution to adapt to climate change is to catch the rain and create irrigation canals that connect to our crop fields.

Ashlynn Salaba, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School
1st Place Winner – Grades 6-8 – Fall 2016



In Dine' culture tree sap is used as medicine. It will clean and heal your cuts. Sap is made by the pine tree from water and nutrients in the xylem. Our climate is changing while we are still in a long drought. If there is limited rainwater there is less sap, then Dine' people have less of a natural healing remedy. But we can start gathering sap now to prepare for climate change.

Ashlynn Salaba, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School



The color in the sunsets are due to the particulates in the air. More dust storms are predicted for the Southwest U.S. in climate change, maybe resulting in more colorful sunsets. In my Dine' culture, sunsets are a way to remind us to bring in our sheep and eat. It's an end to our day; it's time to rest for a new day, even in a changing climate.

Ashanti Horseherder, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School
3rd Place Winner – Grades 6-8 – Fall 2016



When today's elders were young, they never knew about climate change. Science has revealed that there are more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere; Father Sky is polluted from burning fossil fuels. It is the root of climate change. For Dine' on the Navajo Nation, predicted effects of climate change are hotter, drier times and increased evaporation of moisture. Native plants may not get enough rain from clouds. Native plants are very important because they help us during ceremonies and with many Dine' teachings. Even if Native plants are harder to find, Dine' people will still find them wherever they can live. And the elders will help us to find the native plants we need during climate change.

**Kristal Puente, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School
2nd Place Winner – Grades 6-8 – Fall 2016**



Climate is the general weather conditions of a region over a long period of time. For over twenty years our Navajo reservation has been in a drought with fewer rainstorms. With climates changing, future years are predicted to have even less rain. Thunderclouds on the horizon may be scarcer in our future. We will have to collect rainwater to protect Dine' families and survive on this land.

Israel Whitehair, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School



In our community, the Southwest U.S. climate change is taking place in the form of more wildfires and long droughts. In the future, the sunsets may be more colorful with more smoke particles in the air on the Navajo Nation. Would this be a nice outcome for climate change?

Roman James, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School



Climate Change Hope Message:

*Signals grateful life; celebrating native plants, raindrops,
and vessels of conserved water.*

Dine' heritage seeds are passed down for us and the future Dine'.

Roman James, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School



Climate Change Hope Message:

Hope is . . .

yellow-gold squash blossom as climate changes.

*Dine' land has life in green mornings. Rain droplets and wet dirt
smell bring survival and hopes.*

Lisa Lee, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School



Corn (naadáá) is the main staple in Native American life, an important food item for Navajos (Dine') and a part of Dine' prayer (sodizin). Every spring many Dine' families plant large fields of corn, gather corn pollen for ceremony blessings, and prepare corn in traditional dishes such as kneel down bread, blue corn mush, dried steamed corn, and roasted corn. Beyond nutrition, corn is important for a young Navajo girl's coming of age ceremony (kinaalda). If climate change affects our cornfields with long droughts and harsh male rainstorms as predicted, it may also stir our people to connect with our Dine' beliefs and culture. More families may be doing more ceremonies asking for soft female rain storms so we can grow our corn. Traditional ecological knowledge helps our Native American way of growing corn and connecting with our culture and beliefs.

Isabelle Yazzie, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School



The Dine' elders say that if you run before the sun comes up, you'll be healthier and stronger. Our ancestors said that if the clouds are dark red in the morning then many people are sick. All was perfect until climate change started: global warming from greenhouse gases, higher temperatures, droughts, melting polar ice, rising seas. While the sun rises, people still run, with hope

Roman James, 8th Grade, Rocky Ridge Boarding School



Monarch, warm colors and poisonous warning spots, lives with a low population number. The cause may be climate change, but we can change that for the monarchs and for us – Carbon Footprint.

High School (9-12th Grade) Fall 2016 Winners

9th - 12th Grade Fall 2016 Photo Contest Winners

1st - Cecily Ivins, 9th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School (photo #15)

2nd - Tobias Joe, 12th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School (photo #19)

3rd - Tyrique Winstead, 12th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School (photo #17)

Alyssa Neskahi, 9th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School



The To'Hajiilee community may feel like a desert, but we get rain. When we get rain, our crops and plants rise to become perfect. As the cactus grows it shows its good health and looks prettier than ever. This cactus expresses the beauty of life and tells how our mother earth is taking care of us.

Alyssa Neskahi, 9th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School



In the To'Hajiilee community that I live and love, there are plenty of beautiful scenery. As the one I captured in this photo, it is one of the highest and most beautiful view. This is the place where most people visit for beautiful sun rises to amazing sunsets.

Cecily Ivins, 9th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School
1st Place Winner – Grades 9-12 – Fall 2016



The meaning of this photo represents our culture and our sacred lands. The cactus shows how much water our reservation needs, our lands are deprived as to' (water). The berries serve as a food source for our community. My mother tells me stories when she was younger about her and parents picking berries, cleaning them, and eating them. It is a special activity for our people. It is important to keep our land safe and beautiful.

Cecily Ivins, 9th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School



Our lands are beautiful in every way. The land is important to our elders, because it contains important stories of our history. The structure of our land give us culture, a meaning, and teaches us.

Tyrique Winstead, 12th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School
3rd Place Winner – Grades 9-12 – Fall 2016



Around our community there are very little healthy trees. There are some spots filled with healthy trees, but they are starting to die. Seeing this happen saddens me. In a dry desert, it is good to see green trees and fields. There is beautiful in our community, but we must protect our mother nature.

Tyrique Winstead, 12th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School



As the years go on, rain washes sediments from the rocks away. Before this path was made, there was not anyway to get on top. Water from the top ran down and broke the rock sediments. Now our people and the community members can reach newer heights. They'll get to overlook our reservation and see how nizhoni (beautiful) our community is from higher ground.

Tobias Joe, 12th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School
2nd Place Winner – Grades 9-12 – Fall 2016



This is a small wash created by the rain. This wash has been empty. The lack of rain is taking a toll on our community and is a result of climate change. The heat is drying up our sacred herbs and ruining our land.

Tessa Jake, 12th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School



This picture shows how much we appreciate our land and the sun. We appreciate Mother Earth for bringing us the tress so we could breathe. The Navajos pray to the Sun for giving us light to see. Keep our land nizhoni, because it is the Creator who made this land for us.

Raechelle Becenti, 12th grade, To'Hajiilee Community School



This picture reminds me of all the hiding places me and my brother and sisters would play in to hid from each other. Exploring things and learning what is hiding sparks my curiosity. My grandma and mother always told me never to go near or in a rock that forms a cave. For which someone is watching you day and night disguised as anything.