

NAVAJO YES

TALES FROM THE TRAILS



Yá'át'ééh!

Hello to our friends, family, sponsors, the running and biking community, and all relations near and far! With 2024 bringing in new beginnings, we at Navajo YES want to wish you all a Happy New Year. In this newsletter we will share our most recent projects as well as a look at what's ahead! Ahéhee'!

Some Highlights of 2023

2023 brought many new opportunities. Here are some of our memorable moments!

- Shiprock Marathon was rated "One of the 10 best marathons in USA" by USA Today. Shiprock was again a Boston Qualifier and a part of the Abbott Marathon Majors Masters World Championships.
- The first Rails to Trails event had a great turnout and showed the communities what R2T on the Navajo Nation could be.
- We brought six new Code Talker portraits to life and shared thousands of Code Talker posters.
- The Tour de Rez Series achieved its 6th season.



2023 Year in Review

Here at NavajoYES, we oversee several programs; some of which include, the *Navajo Parks Race Series*, the *Tour de Rez Cup Series*, and the *Dine' Bike Project*. Here is a look back on some of the highlights of these project.

Navajo Parks Race Series

This year the Navajo Parks Race Series held ten running events throughout 2023, with over 3085 runners taking part.

Tour de Rez Cup Series

The Tour de Rez Cup Series held six bike racing events throughout 2023, with a combined 386 bikers!

Dine' Bike Project

The Dine' Bike Project continues to receive, repair, and share donated used bikes with schools, families, and communities across the Navajo Nation. This year the Dine' Bike Project shared 716 bikes with families and schools from 37 different communities in exchange for a good deed in the recipient's home community.



Spotlight:

- Kirtland native, Timberlin Henderson (Navajo) set a new course record for the Monument Valley Ultra 50-miler.
- Ida Nilsson, from Sweden set a new course record for the Monument Valley Ultra Half Marathon.



Other Fun Stuff:

Wilderness First Aid

- As part of our mission to provide health and wellness to Dine' Bikeyah, Navajo YES again hosted Wilderness First Aid courses in 2023.

School Visits

- Our team continues to visit schools throughout the Nation, reaching hundreds of youth with a positive message of wellness and lifelong fitness

Trails Conference & Trails Task Force

- Our annual trails + outdoor rec conference and our monthly Trails Task Force meetings bring together community members and outdoor enthusiasts from throughout Dine' Bikeyah. The wellness revolution is moving forward!

2023 Year in Review

Trail Projects



Rail To Trail

One of our most adventurous trail projects in our history is the Rail-to-Trail Navajo Initiative. We have been advocating for a Rail-Trail on the former Black Mesa & Lake Powell Railroad route since 2019, when the last coal train rumbled down the tracks. Since that time, we have engaged in over 50 meetings in the local communities of Tonalea, Shonto, Lechee, Kaibeto, Page and Tshahbiikin; promoting the development of a rail-trail route. Our advocacy has been enhanced in 2023 with the creation of the Navajo Railroad Board, with whom we meet and collaborate with on a regular basis. We hope to get the green light from the chapters and the Nation to proceed in the new year and have developed a solid plan for what a Navajo rail-trail would look like.

Our Trail Partners

Since our inception in the 1990's, NavajoYES has been involved in trail work around the Nation. The impact of our trail work was amplified with the involvement of our trail partners: **American Conservation Experience (ACE)**, **Ancestral Lands Program (ALCC)**, and **Wings of America**. ACE crews were engaged in major restoration efforts on the Rainbow Bridge Trails, one of our most remote trail systems across the Nation. ALCC partnered with us in our efforts of creating and restoring trails in Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park. We worked with two Wings of America camps this summer and shared the joy of trail building with these young runners. Through our partnerships, we were able to maintain trails in Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, Rainbow Bridge Trail, and Little Colorado River Navajo Tribal Park. We have added shade ramadas and other amenities on trails across the rez.



Upcoming Events

- Bike Exchange in *Beclabito, NM* – January 27
- Trails Conference @ NN Museum in *Window Rock, AZ* - February 14
- Navajo Parks Race Series and TDR Series Events – throughout the spring



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PARKS & RECREATION

NAVAJO PARKS
RACE SERIES
DINÉ NATION

2024 Navajo Parks Race Series

LCR Winter Trail Races... February 10
Monument Valley Ultra... March 2
Shiprock Marathon... May 3 - 4
12 Hours of Asaayi & Asaayi Mountain Run... June 15
Code Talker Honor Run... August 14
Code Talker 10K... September 8
Naatsisáán Trail Races... October 26
Balloon Regatta Fun Run... November 3
Monument Valley Veteran's Marathon... November 16
Four Corners Quad Keyah... December 5 - 8

www.navajoyes.org



2024
Chuska
CHALLENGE

CHUSKA MOUNTAINS **Sept. 20-22**
A MOUNTAIN BIKE FESTIVAL WEEKEND

2024 TOUR DE REZ CUP SERIES EVENTS

CHIL-TOWN BICYCLE CLASSIC
SCENIC DIRT ROAD RACE IN CHILCHINBETO

HASHKĒNĪNĪI BIKE RACE
ROAD RACE AT NAVAJO MOUNTAIN

MONUMENT VALLEY BIKE RACE
13-MILE DIRT ROAD RACE THROUGH THE HEART OF THE PARK

ASAAYI BIKE RACE
20 MILE ROAD RACE FROM ASAAYI TO NARBONA PASS

CHUSKA CHALLENGE
MTB RACE AND BIKE FESTIVAL AT CHUSKA MTNS

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