

Houston Institute for Culture

Camp Dos Cabezas

Program Description

Camp Dos Cabezas provides children from at-risk communities the experience of a lifetime to help them achieve success in their lives.

Camp Dos Cabezas takes place in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeast Arizona and utilizes educational resources in the area, including national and state parks, Native American reservations, museums and private research foundations. The camp helps children develop interests and confidence to stay in school and attend college, as well as improve the quality of their lives based on their exploration of diverse interests.

The fantastic volcanic landscape of southeast Arizona, with tall wind- and water-eroded spires and faces carved by nature in the rocks, helps captivate the children's imaginations and keep them interested during educational activities each day. The region offers interesting history of many cultures and industries, as well as vivid examples of ecology and environment.

Note: Camp Dos Cabezas-La Ventana, the second educational adventure camp location being developed, offers a nearly identical experience in central western New Mexico and parts of the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

Nomination

Each camp is offered to small numbers of children, who are nominated by their teachers, to provide the maximum individual benefit. The children are generally 10 to 12 years of age and are transitioning from Fourth to Fifth Grade. They are nominated for their demonstrated potential to be successful in school, as well as hardships and other criteria that may potentially put them at risk. As children who are involved in many exciting opportunities to study and learn, they are described as Camp Dos Cabezas Young Scholars.

Continuing Education Program

The Camp Dos Cabezas Young Scholars are invited to take part in educational work shops and field trips that are offered monthly. They learn how to write essays and use computers productively to produce digital stories. The children visit science and art museums, attend book festivals, and see IMAX films on subjects of culture and nature. The chance to work in a University of Houston computer lab, as well as tours of radio stations and the Armand Bayou Nature Center are available to them. They also have fun opportunities to join in Houston's eclectic events, like the Art Car Parade and the Orange Show.

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Scholarship Application

The Camp Dos Cabezas Young Scholars must apply for a scholarship to attend Camp Chaco. The criteria includes: consistent activity in the Camp Dos Cabezas Continuing Education Program; consistent effort and attendance in school; a letter of recommendation from a teacher or administrator; and, completion of a project, such as an essay or digital story. The program develops the children's understanding of a scholarship as an opportunity to study – knowledge they will need to be successful as they approach high school and college.

Camp Chaco

Children who have been consistently involved in school and in the Camp Dos Cabezas Continuing Education Program for three years will be eligible to attend Camp Chaco. The advanced camp will promote meaningful interests for the children as they study archaeological sites of an ancient civilization in the Four Corners region of New Mexico and Colorado, including Mesa Verde National Park, Chaco Culture National Historical Park (a World Heritage Site), Aztec National Monument, and the Anasazi Heritage Center.

Continuing Service

Opportunities provided for the children through the Camp Dos Cabezas and Camp Chaco Young Scholars programs will help the children develop greater understanding and interest in continuing to serve their communities as volunteers in the camp program. In later years, they will know how to organize beneficial programs for youth in their communities.

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