

# Discovering Native American culture

**SUBMITTED**

Singing Creek Educational Center (SCEC) presents the Acorn Circle Program this fall, designed to bring Native American culture and children's education to the Springfield, Cottage Grove, Fern Ridge, Drain, and Siuslaw libraries and the Oakridge Community Center.

Attendance is free and there are dates throughout October and November at each location. Trained SCEC staff will lead three sessions for children aged 6-10 at each location.

Each class includes a book reading and craft project, utilizing curriculum from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Books include "Let's Go Eeling", "Mulak Man" and "Coyote and the Fish Trap." Teachers of grades one - three are encouraged to attend and get ideas about bringing these lessons into the classroom.

At the first session Friday Sept. 27 at the Springfield library, kids will

learn about the cultural importance of Willamette Falls and eel hunting, learn to summarize the main idea of a story, and create a small basket to take home. They learn the word for "eel basket" in Chinuk WaWa language.

"This will be fun and educational for the kids," SCEC Executive Director Karen Rainsong said. "It's a creative way to bring this Native curriculum into libraries and build respect, appreciation and cultural bridges."

SCEC will provide an additional indigenous cultural event at each library in November for Native American Heritage Month for adults and older children.

The indigenous culture-bearers include Detrich Peters of the Grand Ronde Tribe and Stephanie Craig MA:IS.

Peters will share elements of his regalia and will play flute music, talk about his culture, and take questions.

"I want people to un-



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

During the Singing Creek Educational Center summer camp in Cottage Grove, children had the opportunity for hands-on discoveries of the tribal items.

derstand Native culture to actually see, be a part of, and participate in learning about culture that is still surviving," Peters said.

Stephanie Craig's presentation will include indigenous knowledge, traditional plant uses, and basketry.

Rainsong will bring

items of Kalapuya material culture to share at these cultural presentations.

This free program is generously funded by the City of Cottage Grove, the Woodard Family Foundation, Three Rivers Foundation, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, and participating libraries.

**Spring Creek Education Center**

Singing Creek Educational Center is a non-profit organization with a mission to inspire children and families toward an appreciation of local history through hands-on learning. Our programs are fun and engaging while also encouraging

critical thinking skills and learning about history from multiple perspectives

*For more information, including specific dates, visit the Singing Creek Educational Center website at: <https://www.singing-creekcenter.org/acorn-circle-native-american/>*