What is **Project Venture?**

Project Venture is an outdoor/experiential program that concentrates on American Indian cultural values, and builds youth resiliency to increase their resistance to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and prevent other delinquent behaviors.

Project Venture is a FREE after school plus program, open to Native American teens ages 12-17.

Project Venture is an evidence-based program for the prevention of substance abuse and risky behaviors in Native teens. This program has been adopted by tribes all over the United States and has been adapted to fit the needs of our Ojibwe culture here on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. Project Venture incorporates the best values and customs, as well as the most effective ideas and tools from prevention research and youth development.

Program Registration

If you are interested in registering your child in our Project Venture Program or have ANY questions, please contact:

Michael McCreery
Youth Program Coordinator

- **Email:** MMcCreery@sagchip.org
- **Phone:** 989.775.5804

Our mission is to support indigenous youth to develop healthy lifestyles and positive relationships with the natural world, to achieve their full potential and to become leaders in their communities

PROJECT VENTURE

Empowering Native Youth

National Indian Youth Leadership Project
NIYLP.ORG

CREATIVE NARRATIONS
EXPRESS. CONNECT. TRANSFORM.

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

989-775-4901
Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services
WISDOM LOVE RESPECT BRAVERY HONESTY HUMILITY TRUTH

Goals of Our Program:

- Assist youth in the development of a positive self-concept
- Build effective social and communication skills
- Build sense of community belonging
- Develop positive decision making and problem solving skills
- Help improve academic performances
- Learn to create personal stories and develop intergenerational connections using the Digital Story Telling program and equipment

Project Venture's Purpose:

To build individual resiliency, increase resistance to substance abuse and develop a deeper sense cultural identity in our tribal youth.

Project Venture Addresses:

- Academic struggles
- Truancy issues
- High risk behaviors
- Cultural Identity
- Community Belonging

Our Program:

- A year-long sequence of challenges and growth opportunities implemented through a weekly afterschool program, a monthly weekend adventure and a 5 day Overnight Summer camp.
- Youth will be participating in community-oriented service projects and cultural activities in connection with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal functions.
- Create and document stories digitally.
- Intergenerational connection building through Digital Storytelling opportunities with Tribal Elders.

Outdoor Learning is Experienced Through:

- Community orientated service projects
- Skill building activities
- Watercraft activities
- Rock climbing
- Snowshoeing
- Camping
- Exploring
- Hiking
- Biking

After a year in the Project Venture Program, participants will be allowed to become "Service Staff" or Peer Leaders to others in the program.

Project Venture Program serves as a means to:

- Increase resiliency factors to contribute to positive, safe choices and lifestyles.
- Aid in connecting youth to healthy and safe activities with peers during leisure time.
- Teach a sense of community belonging that increases cultural identity and growth.
- Offer supports for academic success.

Guiding Principles:

For building a strong foundation of student success:

- Strength based approach
- Experiential learning
- Engagement with the natural world
- Learning through service
- Connections to family and culture