

River of Time Museum

Tips and Tidbits

FT. McDOWELL

- 1903 Ft. McDowell was formed as a reservation
- Remaining Yavapai groups:
 - Camp Verde
 - Prescott
 - Ft. McDowell
- Yavapai originally owned 12.5 Acres
- Yavapai were nomadic - traveled in bands: they lived in caves during the winter, and wickiups and/or ramadas during the summer
- Yavapai were known as People of the Sun and/or People of the Water
- Their main meal was late in the day
- Men did the hunting while women processed the food and cared for children
- When a Yavapai dies, they and all their belongings were cremated
- There are no medicine men; when one is needed for ceremonies, they borrow from other "pai" tribes
- They believe that their point of origin (creation story) was Montezuma's Well
- Important stories are told from early frost to late frost - not in the summer
- Politics were dominated by men
- Total current population is approx 900; one half is under 16; half of that is under 6
- The following churches are on the reservation:
 - Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Mormon
- Ft. McDowell Indian Community changed their name to Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation
- School - pre-K through 3rd are taught on the reservation. There are less than 100 children (including employees' children), they then attend Mesa schools (they are in the Mesa School District), for Fountain Hills High School