

Vancouver Branch
 NAACP
 African American Rites of Passage
 Summer Academy
 July 7- August 2, 2008



2008 Rites of Passage Participants posing with Dr. Theo Williams (local physician), as he brings knowledge of good health to our youths.

Sponsored by:
 Vancouver NAACP Branch #1139
 USDA Coalition of Minority Employees
 City of Vancouver
 Gifford Pinchot Nat'l Forest Service
 Washington State University, Vancouver



**"Never let blackness be your problem, but somebody else's problem."
 -Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.**



2008 ROP STAFF

**Charles Simmons, Lead teacher
 Freda Fuller, Chief Operating Officer
 Elizabeth Aguilar, Teacher's Aid**



2008 ROP Students at Washington State University-Vancouver

History & Purpose

The Vancouver African American Rites of Passage Summer Academy is an intense four-week program designed to address the academic, cultural, career, and social needs of middle and high school students in Clark County. This academy is crafted in a cultural emersion framework for the purpose of connecting African American and Multi-racial students of African descent with the history, traditions, literature and folklore of African people in western civilization.

The 2008 Academy marks the fifth year of operation for this program. The Academy provided academic and cultural enrichment experiences and opportunities for 14 students in grades 6 through 12.

Curriculum

The Academy's primary goal is to assist each student in the development of cultural, academic, self confidence, self-esteem, self-awareness and social skills critical for success in school and life. The academic coursework is designed to support each student in the achievement of this primary goal. Coursework is divided into four specific areas:

- **African American History Week 1** is a course designed to introduce students to the great African American men and women whose contributions have served to enhance and enrich our nation and world.
- **African American Literature Week 2** is a course designed to expose students to the depth and richness of the poetry and prose of African American writers, artists and musicians.
- **Empowerment & Life Skills Training Week 3** is a course designed to assist students in the development of critical life and career management skills needed for success.
- **Environmental Justice/Urban Forestry Week 4** is a course designed to introduce students to the concepts of environmental and social justice, environmental sciences and urban forestry.
- **Physical Education Instruction** is designed to assist students in the development of physical and mental discipline and focus. This component will be integrated throughout the four week program.



Dr. Jorge G. Lizarraga (Diversity Faculty Fellow - WSU-V) information regarding campus, and lecturing on Population of Migration presentation.



Discussion (black in American) with Radio Executive Director, Opio Sonkoni KBMS(1480 AM) broadcasting a radio program with the students.



Wildlife Biologist Carol Chandler coordinated this Muddy River invasive weed removal project.



Field trip to Fort Vancouver Historical Reserve African American History Week.



The students final service project was a 1 mile reroute on the Pacific Crest Trail at Gifford Pinchot National Forest.



Here our students slide their way across the WSU-V court as they practice the "electric slide". Now is this a game of chance or is strategy necessary. The students engage in a fun afternoon of cards as they enjoy their lunch break.