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**Left photo:** Apache Crown Dancer brings blessings to Monument Valley, June 16, 2012. Monument Valley Welcome Center. **Right photo:** Kayenta Girls Scouts Troop post colors for the Tse'bii'nidzsigai Community Celebration on June 16, 2012 *(Photos by Geri Hongeva, Media Representative, Navajo Parks & Recreation)*

## “Tse’bii’nidzsigai Community Celebration at Monument Valley”

MONUMENT VALLEY, UT - The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Tse’bii’nidzsigai Community Celebration generated a lot of dynamic energy on June 16<sup>th</sup> at the newly-opened Monument Valley Welcome Center near Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park.

As the committee members began planning the event, their goal was to coordinate family oriented activities for young and old. The morning began with a brisk fun walk from the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park to the Welcome Center. A horseback trail ride began from Monument Pass and concluded at the Welcome Center as the crowd awaited with morning activities.

Colors were posted by the captivating Kayenta Girls Scouts Troop, as each little girl wore their traditional attire. Miss Western Navajo, Ann Marie Salt welcomed her community to the celebration and jump-started the fun filled day.

San Juan County Commissioner, Bruce Adams, made a special appearance as he commended the Monument Valley Tribal Park staff for their outstanding work in producing community events and also thanked the Oljato community for their ongoing projects for a better community. Accompanied by Adams, was Charlie DeLorme, director of economic development for San Juan County.

As the day had plenty to offer for all ages, the most populated area was the amphitheater where all the entertainment took place. There were special performances by Davis Mitchell,

Davis Boys, To'di'neesh Zhee Singers, Joe Tohonnie Jr & the Apache Crown Dancers. As each song allured the audience, it was difficult to determine the best performance.

“The audience danced to the music although it was hot,” stated Navajo Parks and Recreation Department Manager, Martin L. Begaye. “I’m glad to see all the participation by the community and the coordinators.”

Navajo Parks and Recreation sponsored a free luncheon for all that attended, as the Peshlakai family served an earth oven roast beef dinner - the luncheon provided a meal for over 400 people. Meanwhile, a Chili Cook Off coordinated by Special Diabetes competed for top prizes.

Monument Valley Tribal Park Manager, Herb Yazhe presented the Elders and Veterans with gifts to recognize them as special guests. Gifts included; watermelons, flour, household items and shepherders special.

In addition to the one-day annual event, this year Navajo Parks & Recreation and Navajo Nation Agriculture included a Horse Clinic on June 15th. Working with Lorenzo Begay, Horseback Trail Ride Coordinator and Grey Farrell from Navajo Nation Agriculture, Navajo Parks & Recreation staff were able to facilitate a day filled with workshops. From Equine Nutrition to Equine Dental Care, experts were called to present valuable information to better care for your horse.

The community celebration concluded with fireworks, sponsored by Goulding’s Lodge. Many families had compliments for the coordinators of the event. The annual event had many joining forces, such as: Goulding’s Lodge, the View Hotel, San Juan County Utah, Special Diabetes, Monument Valley Tour Operators, Monument Valley Vendors Association, Navajo Nation Agriculture, Ferrellgas, Kayenta Township and Kayenta Girls Scouts.

If you have any questions, please contact the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department at 928.871.6647 or visit our website at [www.navajonationparks.org](http://www.navajonationparks.org).

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