

BROOKS TO BRAZIL: MTA Spring Rendezvous Success!

Friday, May 17th was the first ever Homeschool focused connection at an MTA event. With no idea who or what to expect in terms of a turnout, we planned for middle schoolers. A self guided single day curriculum, as well as a take home month long curriculum was created. We had guided them towards crafts, connecting with a trapper, the sustainability of trapping, and to joining in the demos we had throughout the day.

Turns out the rendezvous caught the eye of a much younger crowd than anticipated. Luckily trappers are quick thinkers and go getters! The curriculum was thrown to the wind, which is what we love about homeschooling, and we went with the flow of the children. Skinning a Raccoon, sack races, setting traps with their feet, and even a few beaver burgers were successes of the day. The parents were enthralled and the kids had a blast!



Approximately 30, yes THIRTY, kids showed up on Friday! We were equally delighted when 3 families returned the following day, with an additional 2 families who couldn't make it the day before. There were estimated about 40 kids total for the weekend, plus parents. Bridges were built and we have found a new connection to the next generation!



One family that returned on Saturday was joined by the father who was unable to make it the day before. To our surprise we discovered he was in Brazil on a business trip just hours before arriving to Brooks! After his wife sent him photos and told him all about the day on Friday he was so curious and excited that he decided sleep could wait. In addition to the photos, his wife sent a video of their children setting traps. Impressed, he showed every one of his business colleagues the video! Our beautiful little rendezvous was topic of conversation all the way in the Southern Hemisphere... feels great to go global!

Throughout the day we connected with parents to brainstorm and get ideas on how to improve. Next year we will be making adjustments to the homeschool aspect. Look forward to seeing a fresh class style set up with a kids demo tent, scheduled crafts, sack races, a wild luncheon and more! Importance of trapping, connection to this earth, sustaining the wild, conservation, learning each animal enough to hone skills and accomplish goals, natural fabrics and food are some aspects of trapping we hope to teach the next generation and the students who attend future events. Excitement builds as Brooks is the start of something wonderful.... One event, two, then across the state, and hopefully the country then world. From Brooks to Brazil already! Could this be the turnaround Trapping needs to survive?



