

# Coco CASA



Newsletter June/July 2025

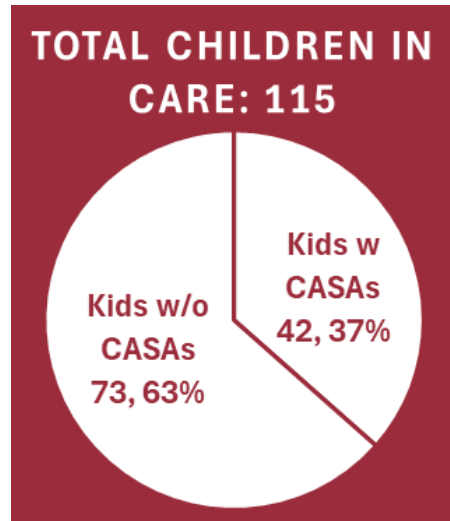


# Happy Summer!

We haven't had a newsletter for a while; we are excited to be back!

As always, we want to express our **gratitude** for everything you do for our Coconino kiddos! We are in awe of your constant, selfless efforts!

To start with, some **updates** on the CASA program here in the county: We have 115 kids in care right now, and 42 of those have CASAs.



In addition, we have some special things coming up to celebrate:

June is **Pride Month** – a time to celebrate and stand with the LGBTQ+ community. It's especially important to show love and support to LGBTQ+ youth, including those in foster care. These young people often face great challenges, and acceptance can make a powerful difference. According to [Advocate.com](https://www.advocate.com), "LGBTQ youth are far more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers ... but a new report from the Trevor Project shows that just one accepting adult can reduce the risk of a suicide attempt by 40 percent." This statistic is a powerful reminder: kindness, support, and affirmation can save lives. During Pride Month and beyond, let's commit to being that supportive presence for LGBTQ+ youth.

June is also **Reunification Month**! We get to "celebrate the power of family reunification" and "highlight the importance of family preservation" ([NationalCasaGal.org](https://www.nationalcasa.org)). As CASAs, you are a huge part of that! Thank you!!

# Events

Important upcoming events are listed here, but the next couple of pages have calendars with some funky, lesser known holidays you can celebrate with your kiddos 😊 ([Brownielocks.com](http://Brownielocks.com)).

**Sat, June 7th**

**Movies on the Square**

(Movie is Wicked)

4-7 pm

Heritage Square,

Flagstaff, AZ

Free

**Wed, June 11th**

**CASA Book Club**

(Book is Safe by Mark Daley)

3-4:30 pm

CCJC Multipurpose room,

Flagstaff, AZ

Author Mark Daley will be joining us via Zoom!

**Mon, June 16th**

**CASA Appreciation Lunch**

11 am - 1 pm

Foxglenn Park,

Ramada #1,

Flagstaff, AZ

We'll have some small gifts to say thank you!

**Thur, June 26th**

**DCS Case Plan Training Part 2**

2-4 pm

CCJC Multipurpose

room, Flagstaff, AZ

**Thur, June 19th**

**CASA Small Group**

3-4 pm

CCJC Multipurpose

room, Flagstaff, AZ

**Thur, July 24th**

**CASA Small Group**

3-4 pm

CCJC Multipurpose

room, Flagstaff, AZ

**Re: Book Club**

**Next time we will be reading "The Deepest Well" by Nadine Burke Harris.**

# June 2025

# Roller Coaster Appreciation Month!



**S M T W T F S**

1 Navajo National Memorial Day

2 National Rotisserie Chicken Day

3 Wonder Woman Day

4 National Cheese Day

5 Hot Air Balloon Day

6 National Donut Day

7 National Play Outside Day

8 Ghostbusters Day

9 Donald Duck Day

10 National Egg Roll Day

11 National Corn on the Cob Day

12 International Falafel Day

13 National Movie Night

14 National Cereal Day

15 Father's Day

16 Fudge Day

17 World Crocodile Day

18 International Sushi Day

19 Juneteenth

20 International Tennis Day

21 International Day of Yoga

22 World Rainforest Day

23 Pink Flamingo Day

24 World UFO Day

25 Global Beatles Day

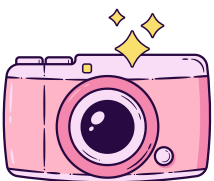
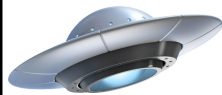
26 National Coconut Day

27 National Food Truck Day

28 Great American Backyard Campout

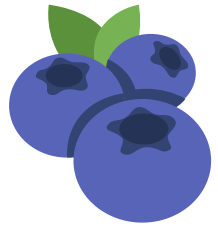
29 World Camera Day

30 California Avocado Day



# July 2025

## National Blueberries Month!



S

M

T

W

T

F

S



1  
Canada  
Day

2  
Made in the  
USA Day

3  
Plastic Bag  
Free Day

4  
American  
Independence  
Day

5  
Corn Hole  
Day

6  
Fried  
Chicken  
Day

7  
Chocolate  
Day

8  
Coca Cola  
Day

9  
National  
Dimples  
Day

10  
Don't Step  
on a Bee  
Day

11  
7-11 Free  
Surplee Day

12  
National  
Jell-O Day

13  
French Fry  
Day

14  
World Orca  
Day

15  
Gummi  
Worm Day

16  
National  
Guinea Pig  
Day

17  
World Emoji  
Day

18  
National  
Pajama Day

19  
Words with  
Friends Day

20  
National Ice  
Cream Day

21  
International  
Balloon Day

22  
National  
Mango Day

23  
National  
Sprinkle Day

24  
National  
Drive-Thru  
Day

25  
Lumberjack  
Day

26  
National  
Day of the  
Cowboy

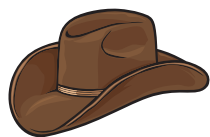
27  
Love Is Kind  
Day

28  
National  
Waterpark  
Day

29  
Lasagna  
Day

30  
Cheesecake  
Day

31  
National  
Chili Dog  
Day





# Arizona Summer Food Service Program

**Free Summer Meals for Arizona Kids & Teens**

## **Cromer Elementary School**

June 2 – June 27 | Monday – Thursday  
Lunch: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

## **Killip Elementary School**

June 2 – June 27 | Monday – Thursday  
Breakfast: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM  
Lunch: 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

## **Kinsey Elementary School**

June 2 – June 27 | Monday – Friday  
Breakfast: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM  
Lunch: 10:45 AM – 12:30 PM

## **Leupp Public School**

June 2 – June 27 | Monday – Friday  
Meal Pick-Up: 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM  
Lunch: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

## **Marshall Elementary School**

June 2 – July 18 | Monday – Friday  
Breakfast: 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM  
Lunch: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

## **Thomas Elementary School**

June 2 – June 27 | Monday – Friday  
Breakfast: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM  
Lunch: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM



# NOW PROVIDING **DIAPER ASSISTANCE**

## **Who Qualifies?**

- Each pre-newborn to 17-year-old child in a household
- Households whose income is at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

## **What Should I Bring?**

- Parent or guardian I.D.
- Child's Birth Certificate **OR** document with **BOTH** parent and child's names
- Income verification (example: paystubs/income statements, AHCCCS, SNAP/EBT, **or** WIC card)

## **TO SIGN UP, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY:**

2625 N. King Street, Flagstaff, AZ 86004 | (928) 679-7272

467 Vista Ave., Page, AZ, 86040 | (928) 645-9400

[coconino.az.gov/SocialServices](http://coconino.az.gov/SocialServices)



Diapers provided by the **Arizona Diaper Bank** in partnership with **Wildfire AZ** made possible by the Diaper Distribution Demonstration & Research Pilot.



# Positive Indigenous Parenting Classes

*This is a **FREE** eight-week parenting course focusing on traditional and culturally specific parenting practices and values. Each class will be 2 hours long. Participants must attend 7 of 8 classes to receive a certificate. Classes may be offered virtually or in-person.*

## What will I learn?

- ✓ Traditional Parenting
- ✓ Lessons of the Storyteller
- ✓ Lessons of the Cradle Board
- ✓ Harmony in Child Rearing
- ✓ Traditional Behavior Management
- ✓ Lessons of Mother Nature
- ✓ Praise in Traditional Parenting
- ✓ Choices in Parenting

QR code to receive referral



## Contact us: ▶

- 📞 928-226-5425
- 🌐 [vbarriga@courts.az.gov](mailto:vbarriga@courts.az.gov)



**NICWA**  
National Indian Child Welfare Association  
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture



Honoring Our Children by Honoring Our Traditions



# Positive Indigenous Parenting Classes

*This is a **FREE** eight-week parenting course focusing on traditional and culturally specific parenting practices and values. Each class will be 2 hours long. Participants must attend 7 of 8 classes to receive a certificate. Classes may be offered virtually or in-person.*

## 2025 Class Dates

Thurs. January 9th - February 27th, 2025

Tues. April 8th - May 27th, 2025


Thurs. July 10th - August 28th, 2025


Tues. September 2nd - October 21st, 2025

QR code for referral!



## Contact us: ▶

 928-226-5425

 vbarriga@courts.az.gov



# Flagstaff City – Coconino County Public Library

The Summer Reading Program, “Color Our World”, is starting up on June 9<sup>th</sup>! Click the logo to learn more:



The library hosts a ton of other fun events to take your kiddos to!

[Library Calendar](#)

## Other Resources

If your kids or their families ever need anything, and you don't know how to help, don't hesitate to reach out to us!

But, the links below also have a great collection of resources spanning all topics. Check them out:

[Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth](#)

[The Guidance Center – Flagstaff Resource Guide](#)

# Spotlight: Micaela Leighton

**How long have you been a CASA?** I finished the training in October 2024.

**Why did you become a CASA?** It's something I've wanted to do for years. I have strong feelings about advocating for children! And I'm finally at a point in my life where my children are grown and I have free time, and it seemed like a very worthy cause.

**What do you like to do during your free time?** I love to run, hike, read, and travel.

**What book are you currently reading?** I just finished Brave the Wild River by Melissa Sevigny, plus the CASA book club book!



**What surprised you about doing CASA work?** So many things! I was surprised by how complicated and difficult navigating the system can be, but also by how many resources are available to children and families.

## Birthdays

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Frederick Meek  
June 4<sup>th</sup> – Meredith Heller  
June 11<sup>th</sup> – Diana Lopez  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mark Edwards  
June 27<sup>th</sup> – Kimberly Abrew

June 30<sup>th</sup> – Deborah Sheehan  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lynda Ging  
July 11<sup>th</sup> – Claudia Jurowski  
July 20<sup>th</sup> – Kristlin Gear

## Anniversaries

June 5<sup>th</sup> – Ilona Anderson became a CASA in 2024!  
June 5<sup>th</sup> – Brooke Shaden became a CASA in 2024!  
June 19<sup>th</sup> – Judith Marfechuk became a CASA in 2024!  
June 21<sup>st</sup> – Lynda Ging became a CASA in 2017!  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Kathleen Mackie became a CASA in 2024!



# Training Opportunities

**Remember that you have to log 12 hours of continuing training throughout the year. Here are some ideas to get that done:**

[Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth Webinars](#)

[National CASA/GAL Webinars](#)

[Zero to Three: Ensuring Active Efforts for Native Kids and Families Webinar](#) (Click this link, then put in your name and email, then the webinar will come up for you to watch.)

Have any ideas on training topics you want more of? Click the following link to submit your ideas, suggestions, and wants for training, and we'll see if we can find or create a training for you 😊

[Training Ideas Survey](#)

## Court Etiquette



### Do:

- Dress in Business Casual.
- Stand when the judge enters, remain standing until she invites you to be seated.
- Address the judge as “your honor”.
- Use appropriate language, and communicate with politeness, dignity, and respect.
- Be quiet.
- Turn off your phone.
- Keep the doorway and walkway clear.

### Do Not:

- Talk or whisper to others out of respect for the court.
- Make inappropriate hand gestures or expressions.
- Express PDA.
- Use any recording device, computer, or tablet.
- Chew gum.
- Smoke, vape, or use e-cigarettes.
- Bring in food or drink, except water.
- Repeatedly enter and leave the courtroom during the session.

## Help us Recruit more CASAs!

You are all so amazing! But, you can't help all the kids that need it. So, spread the word! Tell your neighbors, friends, enemies, the lady at the grocery store! Most people don't even know what the CASA program is, so even if they don't volunteer, you're helping spread awareness 😊



## We want to hear from you!

We want to know how things are going out there in the field.

Click the link below to submit cool stories, wins, and successes you've had with your kiddos, and we'll share them in the newsletter!

[Stories Survey](#)

# Staff Contacts

**Jill Schuldt:** jschuldt@courts.az.gov  
*Dependency Division Manager*

**Nicole Snow & Franklin:** nsnow@courts.az.gov  
*CASA Program Coordinator & Courthouse Dog*

**Valorie Barriga:** vbarriga@courts.az.gov  
*CASA Program Coordinator*

**Kate Bracken:** kbracken@courts.az.gov  
*CASA Recruiter and Trainer*

**Fran Randall:** frandall@courts.az.gov  
*CASA Admin*

**Shannon Hardy:** shardy@courts.az.gov  
*CASA Admin*

**Kirsten Mellinger:** kmellinger@courts.az.gov  
*Dependency Clinician*

**Sandy Quintanilla:** squintanilla@courts.az.gov  
*Dependency Program Coordinator*

**Amanda Gallegos:** agallegos@courts.az.gov  
*Family Treatment Court Peer Recovery  
Support Specialist*

**Jessika Nelson:** jenelson@courts.az.gov  
*Family Support Coordinator*

