

Whalen Symposium Abstract

Immigration, Migration and Borders in Southern Arizona: Park Scholar Senior Service-Learning Trip

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Each year, senior Park Scholars embark on a service-learning trip. This year the theme was immigration. Park Scholars learned about this issue while engaging in public service to organizations working in the area. Immigration issues south of Tucson on the Mexican border were explored through working with Humane Borders, and organization that maintains water station throughout the desert between the U.S and Mexico to prevent migrants from dying of thirst.

Students learned about the refugee situation in Tucson through working with Iskashitaa Refugee Network, and the refugee advocacy organization Owl and Panther.

Students had a chance to really look at what being a nation means, and how national borders are established by speaking to members of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Finally, the students had a chance to witness the U.S. judicial system in action as we visited an initial hearing for people who were being charged with illegal entry into the country.

Over the course of the eight-day trip, topics explored included colonialism, nationalism, border-control, citizenship, judicial practices and human rights.