

*"It seems to me that Indians can best be reached for Christ by other Indians. The Native Americans have been a sleeping giant." - Billy Graham*

Warrior Leadership Summit was my first ever youth conference, which already makes it special. In addition to being my first, it was also among many Native speakers and youth who have battled with so many of the same things that I see here, on the Yakama reservation. To hear relatable anecdotes about fry bread, powwows, or rez dogs made the whole experience that much better; it made me comfortable knowing that we're not alone and dealing with these kinds of topics through jokes is what we do best.

"Your Invisible Backpack" - one of the many 'Warrior Circle' discussions we witnessed that week. The basis of this discussion is that we all have things we keep in the dark, things we don't talk about, or things we hang on to, and these things kill so much value in our lives. The speaker, Weston Francis, related these things to a heavy backpack, our invisible baggage and we think, 'if I forget about it, it'll go away,' but the truth is the longer we hang onto it the heavier it gets. I learned it's time to get rid of this backpack.

I'm so glad I was able to witness discussions such as these and learn more about the bible among so many Native youth from different reservations. It was empowering to see the strength and love from the Lord for all the Native people who attended and how he's moving in so many different communities. I hope to go back again next year!