

Sarah Young Patton Biography

Sarah Young Patton is currently the Associate Director at Victim Witness Services for Coconino County (VWS) in Northern Arizona. She has served in this position since early 2016. In December 2016, she completed a M.S. in Family and Human Development at Arizona State University, where she finished her degree with a thesis on the Intergenerational Transmission of Violence.

At VWS, Sarah is part of the leadership team that oversees strategic planning, program creation and implementation, grant writing and reporting, and community partnering and involvement. Serving Coconino County offers unique challenges, including a largely rural population, having parts of five different Native American Reservations within the County, and having one of the most visited National Parks (Grand Canyon) in the service area. In the past year, VWS opened a new satellite office in Grand Canyon Village (the third satellite location after Page, AZ and Northern Arizona University), creating a new model for community engagement and victim services at a National Park.

VWS also partnered with faculty at Northern Arizona University to develop and implement community needs assessments in Page and the Grand Canyon area in order to better direct and tailor services to these unique areas. VWS plans to continue its expansion with a fourth satellite office in 2020, helping to widen the reach of its mobile advocacy program, and bring 24/7 crisis response teams to new communities within Coconino County.

Prior to working in victim services, she gained over 20 years of professional experience in various fields, including the Sociology and Social Work Department at Northern Arizona University, family law as a paralegal in San Francisco, CA, and even in the entertainment industry as an associate producer on a small, independent film. All of these different work and life experiences have led her to this point, where she is able to apply her skills in problem solving, building partnerships, and research to helping victims of crime and crisis.