

National American Indian Heritage Month

During the month of November as we pause to honor our nation's veterans and gather to give thanks with our friends and family, we also encourage everyone to take time to celebrate the rich culture of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Native Americans have made distinct and significant contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including agriculture, medicine, military, music, entertainment, language, art, ecology, government, law, sports and countless others.

DCS Tribal Relations Team (TRT) promotes celebrating National American Indian Heritage Month as a way to help:

1. **Increase staff awareness and understanding of tribal issues, department policy, tribal history, and tribal culture.**
2. **Build cultural competence in staff.**
3. **Strengthen our statewide government-to-government commitments and relationships.**

We encourage field offices to plan local events to celebrate National American Indian Heritage Month. Here are a few ideas:

1. All staff presentations to increase awareness of tribes, tribal policy, and tribal issues.
2. Tribal speakers and/or storytellers.
3. Tribal drumming and dance groups.
4. American Indian arts and crafts tables and demonstrations (*for education and display*).
5. Luncheon with fry bread and/or Indian tacos.
6. Tribal videos during lunch or all staff meetings. Here are some hyperlinks to some possible videos...most of which are online:
 - **DSHS Children's Administration Video** -- [All My Relations](#), (44min) cultural connections for Native American Children. This video is excellent!
 - **"We Shall Remain"** A very powerful 6-minute YouTube video from The StyleHorse Collective. Published on Aug 21, 2014, [WE SHALL REMAIN](#) was created to address the effects of historical trauma in our tribal communities. Many times, these untended wounds are at the core of much of the self-inflicted pain experienced in Native America. Much like fire, this pain can either be devastatingly destructive or wisely harnessed to become fuel that helps us to rise up and move forward in life with joy, purpose and dignity.
 - **"Off the Rez"** (8:50 min) [Off the Rez](#) and [The Schimmel Effect](#) is the story of sisters Jude and Shoni Schimmel (born May 4, 1992) an American professional basketball player. She was an All-American college player at the University of Louisville and a first round draft pick of the WNBA's Atlanta Dream.
 - **2018 Tribal Canoe Journey at Puyallup**
 - [Connie McCloud on hosting](#)
 - [2018 Power Paddle to Puyallup](#)
 - **2017 Tribal Canoe Journey**
 - [Landing at We Wai Kum and We Wai Kai](#) (2:40)
 - [Catching songs from Suquamish](#) (2:14)

- **Tribal Journeys of the Pacific Northwest**
 - [Tribal Journeys of the Pacific Northwest](#) (5:49)
 - [Canoe Way: The Sacred Journey](#) (2:44)
- **2014 Bella Bella Tribal Canoe Journey**
 - [Tribal Canoe Journey to Bella Bella](#) (9:24)
 - [Life is a Journey: Tribal Journeys](#) (8:18)
- **2013 Paddle to Quinault Tribal Canoe Journey:**
 - [Promotional Video](#) (2:53)
 - [Canoe Journey 2013](#) by EarthFixMedia (3:52)
- **2012 Paddle to Squaxin Island Tribal Canoe Journey:**
 - [Suquamish Elder and Storyteller how the Canoe Journey to Squaxin carriers on Ancestral Tradition](#) (2:23)
- **2011 Swinomish Tribal Canoe Journey:**
 - [Everett Herald Video](#) regarding Swinomish (2:19)
 - [NWIFC Video regarding Swinomish \(3:11\)](#)
- **2009 Paddle to Suquamish Tribal Canoe Journey:**
 - [2009 Tribal Canoe Journey at Suquamish](#) (7:46)
- **Lower Elwha Dam** (A contemporary issue). Here are five videos:
 - [Time Lapse of Elwha River Dam Removal](#) (August 2011 – Oct 2012) (2:17)
 - [KCTS9 Northwest Stories: Elwha River](#) (11:08)
 - Northwest Indian News [Lower Elwha Fish Hatchery & Dam Removal Feature Story](#) (6:35)
 - [Elwha River Restoration](#) (3:03)
 - [Scientists Measure What Dams Have Done to the Elwha](#) (4:42)
- **Pow Wow videos**
 - Two minute slide-show on the Spokane Falls Northwest Indian Encampment and Powwow—click [Here](#)
 - “World of American Indian Dance”, a 60-minute DVD from 2003 that can be checked out from the library. It is excellent! The DVD is narrated by actor Peter Coyote and highlights the many dance styles incorporated into the culture from various Native American Tribes and Nations. This can be split into two 30 minute showings.

Providing food (i.e. popcorn, pop, and candy) is a great way to encourage participation in viewing these videos during a brown bag lunch!

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, or would like a recommendation, feel free to contact any member of the DCS Tribal Relations Team ([DSHS DL DCS Tribal Relations Team](#)) or visit our [website](#) for more information.