

November is National Native American Heritage Month



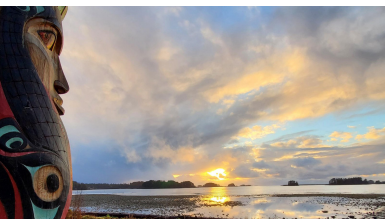
Native American Heritage Month helps us honor the diverse cultures, traditions and heritage of the remarkable Native, Indigenous persons. It is an opportunity to raise awareness about the unique challenges they have endured as our Nation has grown, and their contributions to America.



During World War I & World War II, hundreds of Native Americans joined the Armed Forces and used their words as weapons. The famous Navajo (or Diné) code talkers used their traditional language to transmit secret Allied messages in the Pacific theater of combat during World War II. During Iwo Jima, six (6) Navajo Code talkers sent over 800 encrypted messages across front lines. All were transmitted, and received without error, giving the Marines a critical advantage throughout the war.³



America is a land with cultures dating back thousands of years to the original, Indigenous inhabitants of the land. Throughout the United States, there are 574 federally recognized Indian Nations on 324 distinct, federally recognized, Native American land reservations, not including tribes who are recognized by their state governments.² Within these Nations, this month is a time to celebrate their traditions, languages, and stories of the Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island communities, helping ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation. The Indigenous People of America are as diverse in their customs and experiences as those who settled here from other continents. Acknowledging their differences and histories is important when celebrating Native American Heritage Month.



Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the “First Americans” from 1912-1915. Senate Joint Resolution 392 was signed by President Ronald Reagan on October 14, 1986, designating November 23-30, 1986 as “American Indian Week. President George H. W. Bush approved House Joint Resolution 577, designating November 1990 as the first “National American Indian Heritage Month.”⁴



NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

