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PDM Fall Honors Project

TYC September Calendar

Monthly Features



The Tribal Youth Court is a division of the Intertribal Court of Southern California

Tribal Youth Court Periodical



Our Mission

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Tribal Youth Court, TYC, aims to cultivate wellness-based responses to low status offenses. The TYC centers on educating tribal youth about tribal restorative justice practices and empowers them to engage in these practices in service of their communities.

Greetings,

Fall is here, and with it comes Tribal Youth Court's Peer Decision Maker training series! In partnership with American Indian Recruitment (AIR) Program, we are pleased to offer a new season of advanced training courses for our youth court peer jurors.

Tribal Youth Court follows the peer court model, using the power of positive peer influence to help guide at-risk youth away from further misconduct. We call our jurors Peer Decision Makers (PDMs). Their role carries both responsibility and impact.

This training series, known as the Honors Project, offers university-level academic enrichment (with credit through SDSU & UCSD) and Native-focused courses on Tribal restorative justice and governance. The fall session offers the following courses:

- Intro to the Legal System – begins September 8th
- Intro to Tribal Legal Studies – begins October 13th



If you're interested in becoming a PDM or advancing your training, contact Tribal Youth Court to learn how to enroll. We look forward to welcoming new faces and growing our community of youth leaders this fall!

Please visit the AIR website at www.airprograms.org for eligibility requirements and information on how to apply.

Here's what to look for in September:

September 1st: Labor Day

Labor Day is an annual tribute to the laborers whose hard work has strengthened and enriched our nation. While the holiday is often celebrated with parades, barbecues, and a long summer weekend, it is also a time to honor the contributions of past and present U.S. workers.

September 11th: Patriot Day

Patriot Day is a national day of remembrance honoring the victims and heroes of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Observed each year with a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., the time the first plane struck the North Tower, it pays tribute to the nearly 3,000 lives lost. Across the nation, communities gather to reflect, honor, and remember.

September 13th: Positive Thinking Day

Positive Thinking Day reminds us of the benefits that come from maintaining an optimistic outlook. It encourages us to focus on uplifting thoughts and steer clear of negativity. Let this day inspire you to carry a positive attitude with you every day.

September 22nd: Fall Equinox

Also known as the first day of Fall, the Fall Equinox happens when the sun's rays square up perfectly with the earth. It marks the official end of summer and the beginning of Fall. Even with our Southern California heat, a shift in the air kicks off this beloved season!

September 26th: Native American Day

Celebrated on the fourth Friday of September, we take this day to appreciate and honor the long, rich history of culture, heritage and traditions that have been preserved for centuries.

Month of September: Self-

Improvement Month September is dedicated to personal growth, self-reflection, and development. It's a time to evaluate your life, set new goals, and make positive changes. This month offers the perfect opportunity to focus on bettering yourself and enhancing your well-being in every aspect.



Coordinator's Corner



Last month, we attended the Pauma Tribal Police Department's National Night Out. This annual event brings law enforcement and community members together under positive circumstances. Celebrated nationwide, National Night Out fosters awareness, trust, and collaboration between communities and their police departments.

Pauma's event was held on August 5th and featured fun activities for all ages, including a life-size, inflatable foosball table, dunk tank, face painting, and opportunities to see police vehicles and equipment. Families had the chance to meet officers, firefighters, and representatives from local agencies. The Tribal Youth Court, along with other ICSC programs, spoke with attendees throughout the evening. It was a community gathering, and we were proud to be part of it!



Current Events>>> Law in the News

★ In July 2025, the Connetquot School District in Long Island, New York, came under federal investigation for its attempt to comply with the state's ban on Native American logos and mascots. The district proposed rebranding its "Thunderbirds" sports team to "T-Birds," a move that was previously rejected by the state.

The U.S. Department of Education argues that the ban unfairly targets Native American imagery while allowing European-based names. The Native American Guardians Association (NAGA), representing 85,000 Native Americans, has filed a legal challenge against the ban, claiming it violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments by restricting free speech and erasing Native American history. The Justice Department is currently investigating the matter.

This case highlights the ongoing challenges in balancing respect for Native American cultures with state and federal laws. It also underscores the importance of platforms, like Native Youth Courts, that foster understanding, dialogue, and respect for traditions within our communities.

Tribal Youth Court

What's Happening in *September*

The Tribal Youth Court has a full schedule coming up! See below for some important dates!

- Upcoming Calendar Events for September:

- September 1st: In observance of Labor Day, the court will be closed on Monday, September 1st
- September 8th- Honors Program PDM course set begins with “*Introduction to the Legal System*”
- September 26th: In observance of Native American Day, the court will be closed on Friday, September 26th



Intertribal Court of Southern California

The Tribal Youth Court is a division of the Intertribal Court of Southern California (ICSC). Please refer to this section to find current news and updates about the court.

About the Court...

The ICSC serves as a consortium of tribes from across Southern California. ICSC currently serves the thirteen of its member tribes hearing cases on public safety issues, tort claims, family law, conservatorships and more. We highlight one of our member tribes below.

Please visit www.intertribalcourt.org to learn more.

Frequently Asked Questions *Ask the court >>>*

Question: What kind of community service is assigned to youth participants?

Answer: Each wellness plan is personalized to meet the needs of the participant, and we do our best to accommodate individual requests. The Tribal Youth Court works with a wide network of Native and non-Native partners and resources to identify meaningful community service opportunities that best support each participant's growth and goal



Final thoughts...

Fun Law Fact: In Arizona, it is illegal for a donkey to sleep in a bathtub. The law dates back to the 1920s, when a dam broke and floodwaters swept a rancher's donkey, comfortably snoozing in the rancher's bathtub, nearly a mile downstream. After a difficult rescue, the law was passed to prevent this from happening again.

Court Humor, with a Fall Twist:

Why did the scarecrow become a lawyer in the Fall?

- *Because he was outstanding in his field...of justice!*

Announcements:

- **Registration is now open for our PDM Fall Honors courses. The start date of our first course, *Intro to Legal System*, begins September 8th. And the second course, *Intro to Tribal Legal Studies*, begins next month.**



Coming Soon >>>

In Our October Issue

TYC and ICSC Updates

PDM – Honors Program Updates

Monthly Newsletter Features

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Please email the youth court to submit a question for the “Q & A” section to be answered in an upcoming issue or inquire about a monthly newsletter subscription. Contact information below.

If you'd like more information on our Tribal Youth Court, please contact us at tribalyouthcourt@intertribalcourt.org or call (760) 751-4142 ext. 105