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Peer Decision Maker Training
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Monthly Features



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

# Tribal Youth Court Periodical

Issue 19



## 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.

## Hello Readers,

Last month, the Tribal Youth Court conducted its first Peer Decision Maker Training Workshop since 2021. Due to COVID-related challenges and other factors, the Youth Court had to postpone its PDM Workshop trainings for the past few years, relying solely on the Honors Program training, which emphasizes tribal law, governance, and restorative justice, as its primary training source. While we encourage all PDMs to participate in our Honors Program, it's crucial to continue with half-day workshop trainings to provide interested youth with the chance to be part of our peer court without committing to college courses.

The training occurred on Saturday, October 28th, at the UCSD Division of Extended Studies University City Center in San Diego, with both in-person and virtual attendees. The PDM training provided an overview of the Intertribal Court and restorative justice principles. The primary objective of the training was to prepare participants for their roles as peer jurors. The workshop covered all phases of the PDM responsibilities, beginning with the pre-hearing conference and concluding with a mock hearing, where they determine the parameters of participant wellness plans. The PDMs did a great job learning about their responsibilities and using that knowledge during the mock hearing.





## Here's what to look for in November:

## November 2nd: All Souls'

Day Also known as Day of the Dead, or Dia de los Muertos, this day is observed to commemorate the dead. It is believed that the souls of the departed return to visit their living family members on this day. Many people celebrate this day by visiting the graves of loved ones or setting up alters with photos and reminders of those no longer with us.

# November 5th: End of Daylight Savings Day Daylight Savings ands on the first Sunday of

Savings ends on the first Sunday of every November. On this day, we set our clocks back an hour and gain one extra hour of sleep! Our days are a little shorter, with less sunlight, but it makes for cozy fall nights, snuggling up by the fire, sipping on hot cocoa!

November 11<sup>th</sup>: Veterans Day This day is a federal holiday observed to honor United States military veterans. While Memorial Day honors those who have died in service,

Veterans Day honors all military veterans, including those who are still with us. It is a day to remember the sacrifices of those who fought to protect their country.

## November 13<sup>th</sup>: World Kindness Day World

Kindness Day is an international holiday, observed annually, to promote kindness throughout the world. This day presents us all with the opportunity to devote time to both large and small acts of kindness and truly reflect on how those acts can promote positive change.



## November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Thanksgiving Day In

1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday of November to be the national holiday known as Thanksgiving. It is fashioned after the three-day feast of the harvest shared by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indigenous people in 1621.

# Month of November: Native American Heritage Month First

declared in 1990, November honors and celebrates the culture and history of Native American people. Today, there are about 4.5 million Native Americans in the U.S. Let this month serve as a reminder to celebrate the diverse and rich cultures, histories, and traditions. Remember to appreciate the many contributions of Native Americans throughout the country.





## Coordinator's Corner

The Office for Victims of Crime National Indian Nations Conference is held biennially. It is the largest U.S. Department of Justice-sponsored conference for the Tribal community. This year will be the 18<sup>th</sup> national conference. This year, OVC announces the launch of an art initiative to support the conference, scheduled for December 2024. They are seeking original artwork from survivors, advocates, and representatives from Tribal communities. Selected artwork may be used on conference materials and displayed throughout the conference venue. Selected pieces will also be featured with a virtual artist spotlight on the OVC website in the year after the selection. Artists of all ages are encouraged to submit their artwork. Submissions can be individual or as a group/collective.

The deadline for submitting artwork is Friday, December 28, 2023. To see more artwork and eligibility requirements, and review past themes and artwork, please visit the OVC website below.

https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/tribal/national-indian-nations-conference#prior-conferences

# Current Events>>> Law in the News



★ In our September newsletter, our Law in the News piece focused on the impending government shutdown. Thankfully, there was no shutdown, but no settlement has been reached. As the original deadline approached, the Senate passed a last-minute spending bill, averting a government shutdown. This was passed three hours before the shutdown would have taken effect. The measure was signed into law by President Joe Biden, late Saturday night, on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

A government shutdown could have a huge ripple effect. During a government shutdown, "essential," employees continue to work without pay. They are reimbursed when the shutdown ends. Federally funded programs do not receive FY2024 funding. Tribal law enforcement and courts, tribal housing programs, and tribal education institutes will switch to emergency operating plans.

As it stands now, the bill allows the government to stay open for 45 days, giving the House and Senate time to finish their funding plan. They will have until November 17<sup>th</sup> to pass a spending bill.

## Tribal Youth Court

## What's Happening in November

Fall is a fun, festive, and busy time! The Tribal Youth Court has a full schedule coming up! See below for some upcoming dates.

#### - Upcoming Calendar Events:

- Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> Court will be closed in observance of Veterans Day
- Wednesday- Friday, November 22-23<sup>rd</sup> Court will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday

We hope you make time to explore the rich, seasonal tapestry of the earth during the fall season. And, we hope you all are able to gather around the table with loved ones and delight in traditional recipes that celebrate the bounty of the season. Together, let's create a season filled with warmth, unity, and appreciation for all that truly matters.





# 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 court and its member tribes.

## Frequently Asked Questions Ask the court >>>

**Question:** Does the Tribal Youth Court use sanctions and incentives in wellness plans?

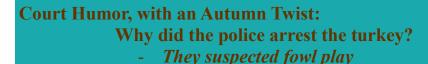
**Answer:** Our current model does not use sanctions as a part of our wellness plans. We are always looking to reward positive behaviors, growth, and progress, but there are no official incentives in our wellness plans.



# Final thoughts...

#### Fun Law Fact:

Passed in 1951 to reduce fire accidents, is a law in the state of Oregon that prohibits drivers from pumping their gas. Violators may be liable for a \$500 fine. In 2015, a bill was enacted to allow citizens living in less populated areas with less than 40,000 people to pump their gas.



#### Announcements:

 Our next PDM Honors Program course will start in Spring 2024. Stay tuned for more course and registration announcements.



Coming Soon >>>

## In Our December Issue

TYC and ICSC Updates

PDM Honors Project Course Updates

Fall Course Final- Moot Court

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