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

# *Tribal Youth Court* *Periodical*

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*Hello Readers,*

Once again, Tribal Youth Court is happy to work with our partners at American Indian Recruitment (AIR) for another fun-filled summer for Native youth. In addition to spearheading our Peer Decision Maker training program, AIR has been serving our San Diego American Indian community and Native youth through their after-school mentoring programs. The AIR program uses a “Teaching Through Culture,” model in which Native youth can learn about traditions, culture, history and current issues affecting their tribal communities. The program will run from June 26<sup>th</sup> -July 26<sup>th</sup>. Some program activities include a fun and challenging day at a ropes course, working and cooking at a local farm, and kayaking in the beautiful waters at La Jolla Cove. There will also be some great guest speakers throughout the summer learning days. In addition to offering outdoor fun, AIR promotes the success of American Indians within education. The summer program will include workshops on higher education and will offer exposure to local college campuses to all participants.

## *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.*

Please visit the AIR website at [www.airprograms.org](http://www.airprograms.org) for eligibility requirements and information on how to apply.



# Here's what to look for in June:

## June 8<sup>th</sup>: National Best Friends Day

Remind your friends just how much they mean to you on this day. Friends help celebrates the joys in your life and offer support during the hard times. Today is the day to show these people how much you appreciate them!

## June 11<sup>th</sup>: National Children's Day

This day is recognized on the second Sunday of June in the U.S. This observation aims to address the importance of children in society and the numerous challenges that some youth face. The day aims to improve children's welfare, and reminds us to invest in their

## June 18<sup>th</sup>: Father's Day

Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. Celebrate fatherhood and take the time to show appreciation to all fathers and father figures. Set aside a little extra time this day to show love and appreciation for the men who

## June 21<sup>st</sup>: National Day of Indigenous People

This day can refer to different days in different countries that celebrate the cultures and histories of the native people of those lands. In the U.S., we celebrate this day in October, coinciding with Columbus Day. In Canada, this day is celebrated on the 21<sup>st</sup>, the summer solstice, to recognize the contributions and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.



## June 23<sup>rd</sup>: "Let it Go" Day

Celebrated annually, this day serves as a reminder to stop wasting time and energy on negative feelings from negative things you can't control. Everyone deals with things that are difficult to overcome, but for the sake of your mental, and sometimes physical, health...let it go!

## Month of June: Month

Introduced in 1999, this month we are encouraged to - look out for special discounts all month long in your honor!



Coordinator's  
Corner



On June 25, 1876, 147 years ago, the Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho peoples came together to overcome and defeat the US Army's 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, led by General George Armstrong Custer. The battle ended in an overwhelming victory for the tribes, led by major leaders Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and Chief Gall. Many people refer to this battle as "Custer's Last Stand," and call what happened that day a massacre. Many Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho people refer to this day as, "Victory Day."

Events leading up to the "battle of the Little Big Horn," were typical of the confusing and irresolute policies of the US government toward Native Americans. Miners in search of gold were settling in lands sacred to the tribes in the territory. Unwilling to remove the miners, and in breach of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Treaty of Fort Laramie, the U.S. government issued orders that Native Americans return to designated reservations.

The death of Custer and his troops increased efforts to force Native people onto reservations.

## Current Events>>>

# Law in the News



★ This month, the Supreme Court made a decision on what is a massive victory for the future of Native children, families, and people on the whole. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Supreme Court released its decision in *The Brackeen v. Haaland* case, upholding the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. The Court's decision affirmed that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), is constitutional, puts the best interest of Native children first, and is grounded in tribal sovereignty.

This ruling allows Indian Country to continue to advocate for the best interests of Native children, and affirms that Tribal Nations are and will remain sovereign nations. Tribal Nations, similar to states and foreign countries, have the inherent powers of self-government and have the rights to provide for the social, economic, safety, and cultural needs of their citizens.

# Tribal Youth Court: Let it Go!

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrate “Let it Go” Day. Long before Queen Elsa sang this Disney favorite tune, people have been trying to figure out how to release negative energy. When we harbor negative emotions, such as anger, resentment, or even sadness, we potentially allow these feelings to take a toll on our mental and physical health. Persistent negative feelings can lead to increased stress levels, anxiety, depression, and a weakened immune system. They can also affect our relationships and hinder personal growth. It’s important to find healthy ways to manage and release these negative emotions. See below for some tips on how to...let it go!!



## 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.*



Confide in a trusted friend. Sometimes talking it out might be all you need.



Don't beat yourself up. We can be our worst critics. Healing takes time, allow time to heal.



Practice self care regularly. This can be helpful in managing stress and coping in tough times.



Sometimes, you might need some extra help. Reach out to professionals if you need to.

*“Worrying does not take away tomorrow’s troubles, it takes away today’s peace.”*

## Ask the court >>>

**Question:** What is restorative justice?

**Answer:** Restorative justice is an approach to addressing harm or wrongdoing, that focuses on repairing the harm caused to victims, which could include individuals, families, and communities. Restorative justice promotes accountability, healing, wellness, and reconciliation. Restorative justice encourages dialogue, empathy, and community involvement within the healing process. Tribal restorative justice allows space for cultural considerations and ideals based on tribal community values.



## 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.

### **Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians**

The Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians is a federally recognized tribe of Cahuilla Indians, located in Imperial and Riverside counties in California. In May of 1876, President Ulysses S. Grant created the Torres and Martinez reservations. In 1891, the reservations were combined. The tribal administration consists of a Tribal chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and three elected council members. The tribe owns and operates the Red Earth Casino in Salton City.

Please visit [www.intertribalcourt.org](http://www.intertribalcourt.org) to learn more about the court and its member tribes.

# Final thoughts...

**Fun Law Fact:** In Prince William County, it is illegal to keep a skunk as a pet. Man, the law stinks.

*Dad Joke-* In honor of Father's Day, we are substituting our usual "Court Comedy" feature for a good, old dad joke:

***What did the baby panda give his dad for Father's Day?***

- *A bear hug*

## ***Announcements:***

- **Palomar course has been postponed until fall. More details to come.**



**Coming Soon >>>**

## ***In Our July Issue***

*TYC and ICSC Updates*

*Summer Program Updates*

*Monthly Newsletter Features*

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To submit a question for the "Q & A" section to be answered in an upcoming issue, or to inquire about a monthly newsletter subscription, please reach out to our email.

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