

In This Issue >>> October 2025

Welcome

PDM Fall Honors Project

TYC October 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 October:

October 5th: *National Be Nice*

Day Kindness should be a part of our daily lives, but we all face moments that test our patience. Use this day as a reminder to pause, reflect, and choose compassion. Focus on how your words and actions can affect others. Commit to spreading a little kindness wherever you go.

October 10th: *World Mental*

Health Day This day is used to raise awareness about mental health, reduce stigma, and promote well-being. It is a reminder to check in with ourselves and others, practice self-care, and support those who may be struggling. Remember, small acts of kindness and understanding can make a big difference.



October 13th: *Indigenous Peoples'*

Day Celebrated on the second Monday of October, this day honors the rich cultures and histories of Indigenous peoples. It honors the traditions, resilience, and knowledge of Indigenous communities, encouraging us to learn, reflect, and appreciate their lasting impact on society and culture.

October 15th:

National Pug Day With so many pet and animal observances throughout the year, this is a personal favorite! As a proud pug owner, I truly appreciate the purpose and sentiment of the day. Let us always treat our pets with the same love they give us, but today, let's us celebrate pugs in all of their silly and snorty glory!

October 31st: *Halloween* Halloween originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, intended to ward off ghosts with bonfires and costumes. Later blended with All Saints' Day, it became the Halloween we know today, filled with pumpkins, candy, and spooky

Month of October: *Bullying*

Prevention Month October may serve as a reminder to promote kindness, inclusion, and respect in our communities. It is an opportunity to stand up against bullying, support one another, and create safe spaces where everyone feels valued and heard.



Coordinator's Corner

October is Youth Justice Action Month. Every October, communities across the country recognize this time to raise awareness, take action, and stand up for fair and supportive systems for our youth.

For our Tribal Youth Court, this is more than just a national observance. It is a reminder of why we do this work. Youth in our program deserve opportunities to grow and heal, not be defined by their mistakes. Through culturally grounded practices, utilization of our Peer Decision Makers, and community accountability, we help create pathways that restore balance and strengthen support for each participant.

This month, we encourage our communities to support youth who are taking responsibility and choosing positive change. We also encourage you to get involved by either joining our Peer Decision Maker program or simply spreading the word.



Current Events>>> *Law in the News*

★ Since October 1st, the U.S. government has been in a shutdown. This means that federal offices and services have temporarily stopped because Congress could not agree on how to fund them.

Each year, lawmakers must pass funding bills that allow government programs to operate. When they cannot reach an agreement, money stops flowing to certain departments, forcing them to close or limit services. Essential functions, such as national security, mail delivery, and air traffic control continue, but many workers are furloughed without pay until the shutdown ends.

This particular shutdown stems from disagreements over healthcare and spending priorities. Shutdowns can affect programs that rely on federal funding such as education grants, housing support, and community health services. Even short delays in funding can impact local services that many communities depend on.

For now, the government remains closed as leaders in Washington work toward a deal. The hope is that the agreement comes soon so that essential programs, workers, and communities can resume functions.

Tribal Youth Court

What's Happening in October

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

- Calendar Events:

- October 13th: In observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day, the court will be closed on Monday, October 13th
- October 13th - Honors Program PDM course 2, *Introduction to the Tribal Legal System*, begins
- October 28th – 30th: TYC will be tabling at the 32nd Annual Statewide ICWA Conference
- October 31st: The Court will be closing early at 3:00 PM on Friday, October 31st



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 Alabama, it's technically illegal to dress up as a member of the clergy if you are not one.

Court Humor, with an October Twist:

Why did the ghost go to court?
He wanted his spirit to be heard!

Announcements:

- **The Court will be closing early at 3:00 PM on Friday, October 31st**



Coming Soon >>>

In Our November 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