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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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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,

We hope your year is off to a great start! Holiday breaks have officially ended, but we are excited for all the wonderful things to come this year. We are happy to announce that our first Honors Program course is set to begin this month. Through our collaboration with American Indian Recruitment Programs (*AIR*), we are pleased to share that the American Indian Studies Course at SDSU will be starting on February 13th. This course is a written communications course that focuses on the rhetoric of written argument from interdisciplinary perspectives, with reference to American Indian content. This course will cover the practice of interpreting, analyzing, evaluating and producing written arguments. You will learn to write and revise papers in which you address complex arguments effectively, use source materials responsibly, and make sound decisions about audience, context, structure, and purpose. We will be practicing these fundamentals of writing and rhetoric by examining the unique phenomena of American Indian Tribal Nationhood. We will investigate what defines

constitutions, the history of tribal constitutions, what influences their structures, and the relationship between Western civic modes and indigenous notions of nationhood. In taking this course, you will be qualifying to serve on our Youth Court peer jury. We refer to our jury of peers as Peer Decision Makers (PDMs). This enhanced training option, referred to as the *Honors Project*, provides academic enrichment with university level credit, native content-based courses on tribal restorative justice principles and governance. These courses provide overviews of the legal system and the issues involved in tribal legal studies, preparing students to serve as PDMs. If you are interested in enrolling in this course or if you'd like to hear about our other training option to volunteer as a PDM, please reach out via email to Tribal Youth Court for information on how to enroll and get started. We hope to see many new faces in our Spring course!

"One of the things my parents taught me, and I'll always be grateful for the gift, is to not ever let anybody else define me." - Wilma Mankiller

Here's what to look for in February:

February 2nd: Groundhog

Day Falling midway between the winter solstice and spring equinox, February 2nd is a significant day in ancient and modern traditions. The annual festivities take place in Punxsutawney, PA, where spectators gather to see if the groundhog will see its shadow, indicating whether or not spring will arrive early, bringing an end to cold winter weather.

February 10th : National Clean Out Your Computer

Day The second Monday of February is a day that reminds us to clean and declutter our computers, inside and out. Dedicate some time to wipe down those keyboards, declutter that desktop, and find some general organization and cleanliness to your devices! Check out our feature story below for some organizational tips!!

February 14th: Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a day recognized to celebrate love! The origin of this holiday, stems from the legend of its patron saint, St. Valentine. St. Valentine was a priest who served in Rome during the third century, who allegedly married lovers at a time when marriage was outlawed by the emperor. Today, we celebrate this holiday by exchanging cards and gifts with our significant others reminding them that they are loved. However, this day is no longer just reserved for couples. It is a day to celebrate all love...friends, family, and even pets!



February 20th: President's Day

Celebrated on the third Monday of February, this federal holiday, which also honors the birthday of our first president, George Washington, is celebrated in the U.S. to the presidents who have served our country.

Month of February: Black History Month

This is a month-long commemoration of African American history and achievement. February was originally selected as the month to celebrate because it was close to the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, who is responsible for the Emancipation of Proclamation, and Frederick Douglas, who was a central figure in the abolitionist movement in the 19th century.



Coordinator's Corner

Netflix has announced a casting call for their new feature film, *Rez Ball*. They are seeking actors to play Native American High School basketball players. The new film was co-written by *Reservation Dogs* co-creator. NBA's LeBron James has signed on to produce the film. The fictional sports drama is set in New Mexico and follows the story of a Native American high school basketball team with hopes of winning the state championship. They run into some trouble along the way, when they lose their star player.

Rez Ball, or *Reservation Ball*, is a version of basketball, predominantly played by Native Americans in Arizona and some surrounding states, including California. It has a following comparable to what high school football would have in Texas.

Filming is scheduled to take place in New Mexico, including shoots on reservation land. All interested applicants must have availability between March and June of this year. Please see the casting flyer on our Instagram for details to apply. If you have acting experience, or you've ever dreamed of trying out your acting chops, this is a great opportunity!

Current Events>>>

Law in the News



★ On January 7th, Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old African American man, was taken into custody in Memphis, TN, after being pulled over on a traffic stop. Nichols was forcibly removed from his vehicle, but escaped and fled the scene. He was soon located and again detained by the officers, which escalated into a violent confrontation. During the arrest, Nichols was subject to a brutal beating delivered by five male police officers. He was taken to the hospital in critical condition, where he succumbed to his injuries, and passed away three days later. Officer body cams and surveillance videos from the location of the incident, show officers dragging, beating and shouting profanities throughout the confrontation.

The five officers involved in the incident were fired on January 20th and charged soon after. A grand jury indicted and delivered all five officers with the same charges, which include second-degree murder, aggravated assault, aggravated kidnapping, official misconduct, and official oppression.

The Justice Department and the FBI have also launched a civil rights investigation into Nichols' death, as well as the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, launching their own investigation. We will be following and updating on this story.

Tribal Youth Court: The Perks of Organization

As we return from holiday breaks that may have allowed for relaxing days and shorter to-do lists, we start to get ourselves back into our school and work routines. We may have also used the extended break time to get some overdue tasks done around the home, or at least start to think about them! You might be wondering how to begin the daunting task of getting more organized. I myself have set this as a personal goal. You might see the perfectly organized kitchen on social media, or see how neatly and put together your coworker's office is, and you wonder, how do I start?

Finding a manageable and sustainable plan to keep yourself organized is key to avoid falling behind on tasks, keeping up with deadlines, and avoiding the stress of disorder. Finding a method of organization that fits your lifestyle can be tough. It does not always carry over from one area of life to the next. For example, you may be very organized at work, but have difficulty keeping order around the home, or vice-versa.

The technical definition is quite easy to grasp. To organize is to arrange into

a structured whole. To abridge even further, one can define organization as simply, "order." When you are taking on organization, consider the objective of the order. Are you trying to keep all school tasks and responsibilities on point? Have you been given more responsibility at work and need to keep order over a group with the purpose of achieving a common goal or target? Knowing the purpose will help with achieving the final goal.

Time management is a critical part of keeping organized. If you are not in control of your time, you will not have control over your tasks. For example, there will be a few steps in getting enrolled in our upcoming Honors Program task. There are certain forms that require signatures from a parent and school representative. This task is not something that can be completed the night of the deadline. Look over what you need to do and jot down a quick timeline or list of things that need to be completed, considering the time it will take to complete them.

Another component in getting organized is to declutter! Declutter your physical, virtual and emotional space. Donate those clothes you haven't worn in years. Clean out that inbox! Stop sweating the small stuff! Extra "stuff," can be a heavy burden.

Allow the time, space and attention to get each task done correctly and efficiently. Remember, one step at a time!



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.

San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians

The San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians is a federally recognized tribe of Kumeyaay people. The San Pasqual Reservation was originally established in July of 1910. It is located in San Diego County, totalling in about 1,400 acres housing about 450 members in the general area. They are governed by a Tribal Council, that consists of five Tribal members, who have been elected by their peers. The Tribal Council is responsible for looking after the well-being of the tribe.

Please visit www.intertribalcourt.org to learn more court and its member tribes.



Ask the court >>>

Q: *I have received a letter from the Youth Court, but I am not enrolled in this program. What should I do?*

A: If you receive a letter from the Youth Court, but you are not a current participant, it is because the Youth Court has received word of your written citation, issued by Tribal Law Enforcement. The Youth Court will reach out to all cited youth and inform them of our diversion program, in lieu of citation fines and penalties.



Final thoughts...

Fun Law Fact: In Skamania County, in the state of Washington, it is a crime, punishable by either a fine or a jail term to harass a big foot, sasquath, or any any undiscovered species. Any person violating this law is likely to be charged an amount not exceeding \$100,00.00 or a jail term, not exceeding two years.

Court Comedy:

A lawyer woke up from surgery to a dark hospital room. He asked the nurse, "Why are all the blinds drawn?"

The nurse replies, " There's a fire across the street and we didn't want you to think you had died."

Announcements:

If you are interested in enrolling in our Spring Honors course at SDSU, please email tribalyouthcourt@intertribalcourt.org for more information or enrollment assistance.



Coming Soon >>>

In Our March Issue

TYC and ICSC Updates

Program Updates

Monthly Newsletter Features

Intertribal Court of Southern California
Tribal Youth Court
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Valley Center, CA 92082
www.intertribalcourt.org

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 or call (760) 751-4142 ext. 105