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Monthly Features



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,

Happy New Year! Tribal Youth Court wishes you all a beautiful new year filled with health and happiness! How many of our readers make resolutions? Whether you make official resolutions or not, a new year feels like a great time to set new goals, or perhaps reevaluate and dust off some goals that have been set aside, because, life happens. Take some time to reflect on the past year, the good and the bad, and think about what you'd like to achieve in the coming months. Is there a class you have struggled with? Do you want to make a sports team? Consider your strengths and how you can achieve the goals you've set. Whether you are working to keep resolutions, or you have set a goal, try to be specific about what it is you want to achieve. If it helps, write them down! Once you have established what it is you want to accomplish, consider a plan of action. For example, if your goal is to eat healthier, plan how this goal can be reached? Maybe sit down and write out a grocery list and committing to

stick to things only on the list, avoid restaurants that you know will be too tempting during the week, or start off by simply adding a fruit or vegetable to every meal. Customize your plan to fit you! When I set a goal to run a half-marathon, I found a running plan that would fit in with my schedule. I also allowed for time to make up runs on the very high probability that I would skip a run or two.

Depending on the goal, consider seeking help or advice from others. Sometimes we put so much pressure on ourselves, and we forget that so many people are out there, ready and willing to help. Remain hopeful that you have the capabilities and support to achieve whatever goals you set, whether they are short term or long term. Look to your family, mentors, teachers, community, and folks here at Tribal Youth Court to help guide you in the right direction!

Remember, keep yourself accountable, but setbacks happen. Stay focused and you can achieve anything!

"There is but one secret to success: Never give up."

- Ben Nighthorse Campbell

Here's what to look for in January:

January 1st: *New Years Day*

New Year's Day is celebrated on the first day of January. It marks the end of one year and the beginning of another. Many people start the new year making resolutions and hopes for a great a prosperous year. Many also spend this day gathering with family and friends to celebrate another new year, with hopes of great things to come.

January 9th: *National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day*

This day serves as a reminder for all to come together and show appreciation to their local law enforcement. It is an opportunity for people to show officers that we understand how difficult their job and that we appreciate their sacrifice and risk.

January 11th: *International Thank-You Day*

Let this day serve as a reminder to express our gratitude to those who have had positive impacts on our lives in some way. There are so many ways to express gratitude. A genuine "thank you," can go so far, but there are other ways to express thanks. Writing a note, planning a special activity together, or even sending a sweet text can show a person just how much you appreciate them and how thankful you are to have them in

January 16th: *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

This day is observed on the third Monday of January. It is a day to recognize one of the most influential leader of the civil rights movement It also serves a a reminder to recognize all that still needs to be done for racial equality across the globe.



January 22nd: *Chinese New Year*

Chinese New Year is one of the most important celebrations in Chinese culture. It celebrates the new year on the traditional Chinese calendar. There are symbolic foods during the 15 day celebration. And you will note the abundance of the color red during this time, which signifies luck, vitality, happiness and good fortune in the new year.

Month of January:

International Creativity Month

The first month of the new year is a great opportunity for people to start being creative and innovative in their daily lives. Improvement is only possible when attempts are made to do something new!



Coordinator's Corner



Last month, the iconic Los Angeles mountain lion, known as P-22, was humanely euthanized. P-22 was captured on Dec.12 by the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, following reports of his aggressive behavior. After being examined by wildlife officials, it was determined P-22 would be compassionately euthanized, citing significant injuries consistent with being struck by a vehicle, chronic weight loss, and irreversible kidney disease. P-22 was estimated to be about 12 years old.

Also known as the, "Hollywood Cat," P-22 became the face of the National Park Service's (NPS) program to track local mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains. He was outfitted with an electric collar in 2012, when he was about a year old. He roamed the small nine-acre confines of Griffith Park for over a decade.

Local tribes, including the Tongva, are pushing for P-22 to be given a proper burial. They have ensured that P-22 will not be taxidermized for display, stating all animals come from the Earth and therefore should be returned. A free "celebration of life," for P-22 has been announced at the Greek Theatre on February 4th.

Current Events>>>

Law in the News



- ★ The U.S. House of Representatives passed the RESPECT Act last month, after being introduced earlier this year in the Senate by Senator Mike Rounds. If signed into law by President Biden, The Repealing Existing Substandard Provisions Encouraging Conciliation with Tribes (RESPECT) Act, will abolish 11 archaic laws related to the treatment of Indians, including provisions on "hostile tribes," alcohol, work requirements, and placement of youth in boarding schools. The bill will go to President Biden's desk for signing.
- ★ The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) have updated their guidelines to reassure a more unified response for investigating crimes in Indian country. For the first time since 1993, the BIA and FBI have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will promote the interagency coordination of criminal investigations in Indian Country. The MOU will strengthen information sharing and allow for active collaboration. The FBI has jurisdiction to investigate any crimes listed in the *Major Crimes Act*. This agreement supports an "all-of-government," approach in a federal responsibility to address Tribal needs and safety.

Tribal Youth Court: Responsibility and Accountability

As mentioned in our opening feature, the start of a new year is a great time to set new goals. As you get older and begin to take on more personal responsibilities, it is important to hold yourself accountable when working to reach goals. At home, school, work, and in relationships, there are demands that are expected to be met. Participants in Tribal Youth Court will be held accountable for their actions and our Peer Decisions Makers will be too. Though many use the terms responsibility and accountability interchangeably, there are some distinct differences. Being accountable means to not only be responsible for something, but it also requires justification for your actions. Responsibility can be shared, while accountability is something that is held specifically to one person. Responsibility refers to one's ability to respond. If you do not respond, you will still be held accountable. We cannot make someone responsible for something, we can only hold them accountable. When setting personal goals, you are the only one who can deliver on those promises.

Obstacles may arise, and some face more challenges than others, but you are the only one standing in the way of achieving dreams. Granted, most of us have set goals that are not always accomplished, but it is important to recognize why things are not getting done. Hold yourself accountable and understand how to overcome setbacks. Think about what the motivation is behind the goals that you are setting. What are the deterrents? Concentrating on the end goal can help you get through the tough times. Be proactive with intentional and strategic follow-through. You must also hold others accountable, as well. If you have enlisted help in achieving your goals, or in general, if someone in your life is constantly bailing, don't be afraid to be politely inquire about it. We must all take ownerships of our behaviors. Therefore, model the behavior you want to see in others. Accountability is not a one-time thing. Those who do not want to be held accountable will always have excuses. If you find yourself slipping, admit where you may have dropped the ball, pick it back up, and keep going! Everything around you is the outcome of your decisions.



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.

Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians

The Chukchansi people are original inhabitants of what we now know as California. They have inhabited the land of San Joaquin Valley and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada for more than 12,000 years. Today, the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians is led by a Tribal Council of seven elected members. Tribal Council members are responsible for the overall wellbeing of the tribe, as well as day to day functions of government and administration that benefit the tribe.

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



Ask the court >>>

Q: My child has been truant from school, but the school will only issue suspensions for this. Can the Youth Court help?



A: Absolutely! Parents can refer their child to Youth Court for a number of reasons. Please contact the Tribal Youth Court to make a referral.

Final thoughts...

Fun Law Fact: Before 1920, women were not allowed to vote. After a difficult and lengthy struggle, women were granted the right to vote through the 19th Amendment, which was ratified on August 18, 1920.

Court Comedy: What do you hear when a judge is learning to play the piano?

- *The scales of justice*

Announcements:

Tribal Youth Court has recently made some updates to our website. Please stop by and have a look!

www.intertribalcourt.org/youth-court



Coming Soon >>>

In Our February Issue

TYC and ICSC 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 or call (760) 751-4142 ext. 105