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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,

While we have not quite beat the heat in Southern California, Fall is here! Soon we will enjoy cooler nights, and days, and find some occasions to reach for warmer wardrobe options. Fall also brings back-to-school season. Tribal Youth Court is excited to share about a great learning opportunity!

The Tribal Youth Court runs as a peer court. In developing the court, we chose the peer court model to capitalize on the influence of positive peer pressure to divert at-risk youth away from further misconduct. We refer to our jury of peers as Peer Decision Makers (PDMs). There are two ways that youth can get involved in the court as peer jurors. The first option is a half-day training on restorative justice concepts, tribal justice, introduction to the tribal court and the tribal youth court. The training concludes with a mock hearing. Our second option is offered through collaboration with American Indian Recruitment Programs (AIR). This enhanced training option, referred to as the *Honors*

Project, provides academic enrichment with university (SDSU & UCSD) level credit, native content-based courses on tribal restorative justice principles and governance. Our Fall session courses begin September 5th with *Intro to the Legal System* course. The second session, *Intro to Tribal Legal Studies*, will begin on October 3rd. These courses provide overviews of the legal system and the issues involved in tribal legal studies, preparing students to serve as PDMs while earning college level credits. If you are interested in either of the PDM training options, please reach out via email to Tribal Youth Court for information on how to enroll. We hope to see many new faces in our Fall courses!

"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all other seasons."

- Jim Bishop

Monthly Round Up: September

Here's what to look for in September:

September 5th: Labor Day:

Labor Day serves as an annual tribute to laborers that have contributed to the strength and prosperity of our country. While most of us take this holiday to gather and BBQ with friends and family, we should remember and recognize the works of US laborers of past and present.

September 16th: Mexican

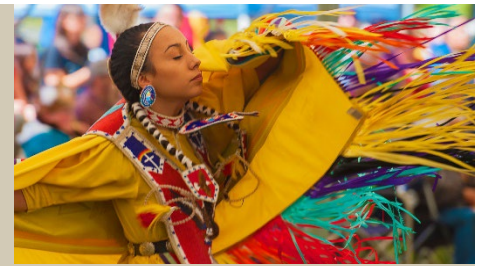
Independence Day: This day marks the celebration of Mexico's declaration of independence from Spain in 1810. People of Mexican heritage celebrate this day all over the world, commemorating this important event in their country's history.

September 11th: Patriot Day

Patriot Day is a day of national remembrance for those who died in the 9/11 attacks. This day also serves as a day to remember and honor the many heroes of that day. Flags are usually lowered at half-mast, many business and schools observe a moment of silence at 8:46 am, the time that the first plane struck the first tower, and memorial services are held throughout the nation.

September 22nd : Fall

Equinox Also known as the first day of Fall, the Fall Equinox happens when the sun's rays square up perfectly with the earth. It marks the official end of summer, and the beginning of Fall. Even with our Southern California heat, there's a shift in the air that kicks off this



September 23rd: California Native American Day:

This day is celebrated on the fourth Friday of September. It is a day that celebrates and honors Native Americans. We take this day to focus on and appreciate the history, heritage and culture of tribes across the country. We honor the long history of culture and traditions that have been preserved for centuries.

Month of September: National Courtesy Month

Let's take this month and sprinkle courtesy and kindness around like confetti. You never know how a simple gesture can brighten someone's day! Hold that door open, share your smile, and practice kindness everywhere you go!



Coordinator's Corner

Astronaut Nicole Aunapu

Mann will be the first Native American woman in space when NASA launches its crew to the International Space Station on October 3rd. Mann and the team will conduct scientific experiments to benefit life and Earth that further prepare for more human exploration of outer space. Mann will serve as commander on the SpaceX Crew-5 mission.

Mann is an enrolled member of the Wailacki Tribe of the Round Valley Indian Tribes in Covelo, Ca where she lived until she left for college at the U.S. Naval Academy. She earned her master's degree in mechanical engineering from Stanford, and became a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps. This expedition will be Mann's first flight since becoming an astronaut in 2013. Mann says she hopes that she can be a role model to Native youth and wants them to know that any barriers they think are standing in their way, are meant to be broken. In her allocated personal items, limited to only 3 lbs., Mann will bring her wedding ring and a dream catcher, given to her by her mother.

Current Events>>>

Law in the News



★ 2022 brings the first year that Native American Day in California will be a paid holiday. Native American Day is observed in several states across the country. It is a day to recognize and celebrate Native American culture. This year, California court system employees will have this day as a paid holiday. California State Assemblymember, James C. Ramos, member of the Serrano/Cahuilla tribe, has been working to get this accomplished since 1998 and is proud to celebrate the first paid Native American holiday in California.

★ September 20th is National Voter Registration Day. This day is set to encourage anyone who is not currently registered, or is in need of updating any of their information, to take the few minutes to register or update, so that all eligible voters can cast their voices on the important issues of our country. Voting is our fundamental right and all voters have the opportunity to make an impact. The deadline to register in time for November elections is October 11th.

Tribal Youth Court: Meaningful Community Service

When chosen specifically for our Native youth, community service can be an important and valuable tool on the path to wellness

In general terms, community service is defined as unpaid work performed with the purpose of benefitting and bettering the community. In terms of our Tribal Youth Court, community service is one of the three core components of our wellness plans. Community service is integrated into each participant's wellness plans with the intent of helping participants take accountability for actions that may have hurt their communities. TYC also integrates community service to reconnect the participants with their communities, and become a part of bettering the community. It also offers them the chance to make things right with those harmed or affected by their actions. We strive to connect each participant with meaningful community service hours that will directly serve the community.

This is a tangible way to offer redemptive opportunities for our offenders.

Engaging in meaningful community service is meant to provide participants with the opportunity to increase social and relationship skills, counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety, and improve practical skills and self-confidence. It also reinforces ideals of restorative justice when the services benefit the community harmed by the participants' behavior. This is community restitution.

When participants enter TYC, they may give input on what type of community service they would like to partake in. We also open this up to families of the participants. Ultimately, the youth court coordinator will take all recommendations into account, as well as consider options with our approved providers, to help with selecting and coordinating community service hours.

It is important to TYC that the participants find these community service hours meaningful and beneficial to them, as well as to their communities.



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.

Jamul Indian Village: A Kumeyaay Nation

Tribal members of the Jamul Indian Village can trace their roots back 12,000 years. Jamul Indian Village is a federally recognized reservation in San Diego County, established in 1912. The tribe is governed by their General Council, and an executive Tribal Council, responsible for its political integrity, as well as the overseeing of its economic, education, and health departments, promoting and ensuring the overall welfare of the tribe and its members. The Tribal Council consists of eight members, including a Chairwoman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and five executive council members.

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



Ask the court >>>

Q: How many hours of community service will participants receive?

A: Community service hours are determined by the selected track.

Each TYC participant is given an individualized wellness plan that has a scheduled sentencing track. The track is selected by the youth court judge and coordinator prior to the initial hearing, based on the severity and nature of the offense that brought the participant to TYC. Each track contains a range of community service hours, cultural participation activities and life skills assignments. At the hearing, the PDMs will determine the exact amount of community service hours that the participant will need to complete in order to graduate from our program. Community service hours can range from 10 to 35 hours.



Final thoughts...

Fun Law Fact: **Between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., it is illegal to walk a camel down Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs, California.**

Court Comedy: Lawyer: “Now that you have been acquitted, will you tell me truly? Did you steal the car?”

Client: “After hearing your amazing argument in court this morning, I’m beginning to think I didn’t.”



Coming Soon >>>

In Our October Issue

TYC and ICSC Updates

October News

Monthly Newsletter Features

Intertribal Court of Southern California
Tribal Youth Court
49002 Golsh Road
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