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

# Tribal Youth Court Periodical

Issue

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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.*

## Warm Welcome

*Dear Readers,*

We are delighted to share our first newsletter with you and we thank you for your interest! We will use this platform to inform you of current happenings and upcoming events with our Tribal Youth Court. Please look to your monthly subscriptions for all TYC updates.

The Tribal Youth Court is a division of the Intertribal Court of Southern California. Our mission is to provide at-risk Native youth with opportunities to generate brighter futures by creating healthy habits and decrease negative behaviors. We have created a model program that utilizes tribal restorative justice ideals. Each participant in our program receives an individualized wellness plan designed to restore community relationships through community service and participation in cultural activities and life skills assignments.

We collaborate with local service agencies and may make referrals to address any physical, mental, psychological, educational and family needs as part of our wellness program. A panel of peers serves as the jury at court hearings. Our jurors, or Peer Decision Makers (PDMs), receive Law Related and Tribal Governance education and training so they are prepared to make informed decisions during the sentencing phase of each court hearing. Our goal in sentencing is to provide opportunities of service, education, culture and healing.

*"It is better to have less thunder in the mouth and more lightning in the hand."  
- Apache*

## Monthly Round Up: May 2022

Here is what to look for in May:

### May 1<sup>st</sup>: Law Day

Law Day is commemorated annually to acknowledge law and its role in society.



### May 8<sup>th</sup>: Mother's Day

Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May. Celebrate motherhood and take the time to show appreciation to all mothers and mother figures. Try cooking her a special meal or bringing her some fresh flowers!



### May 5<sup>th</sup>: MMIWG

In Canada and the U.S., May 5th marks the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The aim is to raise awareness, promote action and remember those who have lost their lives.



### May 10<sup>th</sup> - May 15<sup>th</sup>:

#### Juror Appreciation Week

We are thankful for all of our Peer Decision Makers and we recognize your accomplishments and the important role you play in our program! Thank you!

May 30<sup>th</sup>: Memorial Day; Court will be closed in honor of those of who have died in our nation's wars

Month of May: May is National Pet Month. Show your pet some extra love this month with longer walks, tighter snuggles and few more nightly treats!

## Coordinator's Corner

\*\*Our Youth Court Coordinator will use this platform to highlight hot topics, features, exciting opportunities, and contemporary stories.

### Bicycle Challenge

The American Indian College Fund will begin its 200-Mile Cycle Challenge on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The fundraiser will benefit their mission to give Native students better access to higher education. Less than 25% of Native Americans between the ages of 18-24 are enrolled in college.

The American Indian College Fund aims to close this gap.

The Challenge is to bike 200 miles by the end of May. For those interested, please visit the American Indian College Fund Facebook page to register Here, you can also create a team or solo funding page, share challenge progress and learn more about the College Fund's mission.



## Current Events>>>

## Law in the News



★ In a historic vote, Senate confirms Kentaji Brown Jackson as the first African American woman to serve as Supreme Court Justice. She will be fully sworn in late July, replacing Justice Stephen Bryer.

★ The state of Washington will set up the first national statewide alert system for missing Indigenous people. This is under a law signed in March by Gov. Jay Inslee. The new law authorizes law-enforcement agencies to designate Indigenous people reported missing for endangered-missing-person advisories.

# Tribal Youth Court: Breaking the Cycle of Recidivism

*Diversion programs have found been found to reduce recidivism by 45% for those who participate.*

Our primary focus in the development of the Tribal Youth Court is to break the cycle of recidivism, through diversion, among our Native youth. Tribal Youth Court addresses unmet needs in our local communities by offering a culturally appropriate forum for juvenile issues. We aim to provide educational opportunities and to reduce juvenile delinquency for Native youth.



Tribal Youth Court provides culturally appropriate education and service opportunity to engage at-risk Native youth as both participants and volunteers of the Court. Our peer court model enables us to provide educational training programs to our Peer Decision Makers. TYC promotes mentorship and meaningful interactions with juvenile offenders to generate positive peer pressure. Participation in our TYC will offer opportunities for success. Tribal Youth Court seeks to create these opportunities for our peer decision makers and youth participants, with the ultimate goal of reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism for at-risk youth offenders. We look to our community to work with our Native juvenile offenders to restore and heal, rather than judge and punish.



## 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.*

### History of the Court...

The Intertribal Court of Southern California, ICSC, was formed in 2002 when the Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association received a grant from the United States Department of Justice. The ICSC has been in operation since August of 2006.

### ICSC Services...

The ICSC serves as a circuit court where judges travel to different reservations to resolve cases based on each tribe's laws, customs and traditions. ICSC will hear cases on public safety issues, tort claims, family law, environmental issues, conservatorships and more. Please visit [www.intertribalcourt.org](http://www.intertribalcourt.org) to learn more about the court and court services offered

ask the experts >>>

**Q:** *How can I get involved with TYC?*

**A:** *There are a few ways to get involved...*

*Our Youth:* If you are interested in our Peer Decision Maker Program, please contact our Youth Court Coordinator for more information about our training programs and eligibility requirements.

*Our Community:* Please contact our Youth Court Coordinator if:

- You would like to make a referral to our program
- Are interested in forming a PDM Cohort
- You are affiliated with an organization that may be beneficial to our wellness plan



# Final thoughts...

*Fun Law Fact:* **It is illegal to ride an ugly horse in Wilbur, Washington**

*Court Comedy:* **A courtroom artist was arrested today for unknown reasons...**

- **The details are a little sketchy!**



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To submit a question for the “Q & A” section to be answered in an upcoming email, please submit to the Youth Court Coordinator.

Please find contact information below.

coming soon >>>

## *In our June Issue*

*TYC and ICSC Updates*

*ICSC Open House*

*June News*

*Monthly Newsletter Features*

For more information or for inquiries about Tribal Youth Court, please contact the Youth Court Coordinator, at [TribalYouthCourt@intertribalcourt.org](mailto:TribalYouthCourt@intertribalcourt.org) or call (760) 751-4142 ext. 105