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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.*

## Dear Readers,

As we welcome June, we relish in those long summer nights, vacation time, warm weather and relaxing days. It can be a time for slowing down, tackling some summer projects, spending time with loved ones, and getting outdoors.

Summer is upon us! What are your favorite summer activities? TYC encourages you to get outdoors and stay active this summer! How can this be done when school is out and most extracurricular activities and sports are on pause? Try looking into a summer program with our partners at American Indian Recruitment (AIR). In addition to spearheading our Peer Decision Maker training program, AIR has been serving our San Diego American Indian community and Native youth through their after-school mentoring programs. The AIR program uses a “Teaching Through Culture,” model in which Native youth can learn about traditions, culture,

history and current issues affecting their tribal communities.

This summer, AIR offers a program with a focus on Tribal Cultural Landscapes. The program will run from June 27<sup>th</sup> -July 25<sup>th</sup>. Some program activities include basket weaving, hiking, rope courses and kayaking. In addition to offering outdoor fun, AIR promotes the success of American Indians within education. The summer program will include workshops on higher education and will offer exposure to local college campuses to all participants.

If interested, please visit the AIR website at [www.airprograms.org](http://www.airprograms.org) for eligibility requirements and information on how to apply.

*“The earth has received the embrace of the sun and we shall see the results of that love.” - Sitting Bull*

## Monthly Round Up: June 2022

# Here's what to look for in June:



### June 5th:

#### *World Environment Day*

First held in 1978, World Environment Day was inspired to create a global platform for positive change and action to celebrate, protect, and restore our planet.

### June 14th:

#### *Flag Days*

Flag day commemorates the adoption of the US flag on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.



### June 19<sup>th</sup> :

#### *Father's Day*

Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. Celebrate fatherhood and take the time to show appreciation to all fathers and father figures. Set aside a little extra time this day to show love and appreciation for the men who raised us!



### June 21<sup>st</sup>: *National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada)*

This holiday is celebrated in Canada and is meant to honor the culture and contributions of the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

### June 22nd:

#### *ICSC Open House*

ICSC will host a private event to highlight court services, Tribal Youth Court, and to mark the launch of ICSC OVC Agave Project. Please look out for a special feature on this event in our July issue.

### Month of June: Internet Safety

Month June has been designated as Internet Safety Month, to bring awareness to internet safety. However, this is a year-round issue and precautionary measures must always be taken. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children provides free resources to learn more about the risks that children face online, as well as tips for parents and caretakers on how to safely respond.

## *Coordinator's Corner*

### Wilma Mankiller Quarter



On June 6, 2022, the U.S. Mint will release its third quarter in a series of quarters honoring American women. The first two coins featured poet, Maya Angelou and astronaut, Sally Ride.

The newest quarter features Wilma Mankiller, the first female principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Mankiller is the first woman to head a major Native American nation in the U.S. Her leadership set the standard for every chief to follow. Elected as the Principal of the Cherokee Nation in 1985, Mankiller served as chief for ten years. She is credited for reforming and improving tribal programs for health, education, children and housing.

One side of her coin will be a portrait of George Washington and the other side will have Chief Wilma wrapped in a shawl with the seven-pointed star of the Cherokee nation on her left. The quarter should serve as a lasting reminder of her accomplishments.

## *Current Events>>>*

# *Law in the News*



★ In the wake of multiple mass shootings last month, the Judiciary Committee Chair has called committee lawmakers to mark up gun legislation laws. Under the bill, "Protecting our Kids Act," the committee will look at the separate bills under this act and propose new regulations on the sale and use of firearms and associated equipment.

★ The US Senate has confirmed the first Native federal judge in California history. Navajo Citizen, Judge Sunshine Skyes has been appointed US District Judge for the Central District of California. When sworn-in, she will become the first Native American Article III federal judge appointed in California and only the seventh Native federal judge ever appointed.

# Tribal Youth Court: Why the peer court model?

*Peer Court offers the opportunity to demonstrate the power of civic engagement and leadership amongst our youth.*

Tribal Youth Court acknowledges the pivotal role peers play in youth decision making. A peer jury capitalizes on the influence of positive peer pressure to help divert the participant away from further misconduct. If we view negative peer pressure as a primary factor in leading some youth down a path of wrongdoing, then we should use positive peer pressure as a redirection tool to lead our youth back towards the path of becoming productive members



TYC refers to our jury of peers as Peer Decision Makers (PDMs). PDMs are educated on various elements of the legal system. They will assist the TYC staff in finalizing wellness plans at the initial hearings for each participant. The role of a PDM is an active role and offers the opportunity to directly interact with the participant and the Judge. PDMs are able to ask questions, hear case facts and ultimately decide the boundaries of the sentencing phase at scheduled hearings for each participant. Their input will directly impact the activities that will be incorporated into the wellness plans. By meaningfully engaging the youth in our justice system, we are able to offer education and prevention, while offering a sense of empowerment to make healthy choices and positive connections with like-minded youth.



## 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. Below, we highlight the one of our member tribes.

### Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians

Established in 1875, the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians occupies a 5,000-acre reservation in Valley Center, Ca. It is one of six tribes in Southern CA composed of Luiseño people. Its Tribal Council consists of a Chair, Vice Chair and three council members that serves as the board of directors for all tribal enterprises. The Rincon Band uses profits from tribal enterprises to fund their tribal police department, culture programs, an education committee and public safety

**ask the experts >>>**

**Q:** *How does the youth get in our youth court?*

**A:** *There are a few ways to get referred into TYC...*

The youth can be referred through a citation, issued by tribal law enforcement. A school or tribal representative, or family member can make the referral. TYC receives the referral, we will ensure the youth can participate, based on our eligibility requirements. If the youth is eligible, TYC will reach out to the youth and family to begin the intake process.



# *Final thoughts...*

*Fun Law Fact:* **It is against Michigan state law to tie a crocodile to a fire hydrant.**

*Court Comedy:* **Did you hear about the guy that went to court over a stolen bag?**

- *It was a brief case*



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To submit a question for the "Q & A" section to be answered in an upcoming issue, please submit to the TYC Court Coordinator.

Contact information below.

*coming soon >>>*

## *In our July Issue*

*TYC and ICSC Updates*

*ICSC Open House*

*July News*

*Monthly Newsletter Features*