

In This Issue >>> November

Welcome

Annual AIR Banquet

Youth Leadership

Monthly Features



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

Tribal Youth Court Periodical

Issue
7



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,

Last month, TYC was proud to join our fellow AIR Program in honoring the Leadership Awardees at their Annual Awards Banquet at UC San Diego Extension Park and Market. It was a night to celebration the well-deserved students who have excelled in their courses and as leaders in their communities.

Tribal Youth Court has collaborated with American Indian Recruitment (AIR) Program on the Honors Project. This project offers native based, college level courses through UCSD and SDSU. Courses address tribal common law and traditional dispute resolution methods, including the examination of the incorporation of custom and tradition into the Tribal court system. These course prepare youth in pursuit of higher education, providing experience with the registration process and work load associated with college courses. These courses also serve as enhanced training for students to serve as peer decision makers at TYC hearings.

The Annual AIR Banquet honors students have excelled in these courses, as well as in other AIR Program projects. They have proven their ability to inspire and motivate others, while

dedicating their time to community efforts and higher education. The 2022 Student Leadership Awardees are Areaya Fernandez, from Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, Jayla Pete, from the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Liyah Martinez, from the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, and Faith Pojas, from the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians. Areaya, Liyah and Faith were able to join with their families in San Diego, and Jayla joined the event virtually to accept her award. The evening started off beautifully with Kumeyaay Bird Singers and a special UCSD welcome from the Keynote speaker, Chancellor Pradeep Khosla. It was a fun night, celebrating the accomplishments of the youth involved in our TYC program, who are well on their way to becoming leaders and pillars of their communities.

"You already possess everything you need to become great."

-Proverb. Crow

Monthly Round Up: November

Here's what to look for in November:

November 2nd: All Souls' Day

Also known as Day of the Dead, or Dia de los Muertos, this day is observed to commemorate the dead. It is believed that the souls of the departed return to visit their living family members on this day. Many people celebrate this day by visiting graves of loved ones or setting up alters with photos and reminders of those no longer with us.

November 6th: End Of Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Savings ends on the first Sunday every November. On this day, we set our clocks back an hour and gain one extra hour of sleep! Our days are a little shorter, with less sunlight, but it makes for cozy fall nights, snuggling up by the fire, sipping on hot cocoa! ☕

November 10th: Sesame Street Day

Chances are most of us have seen at least one episode of Sesame Street and most likely have a beloved character. Sesame Street is the most widely viewed kids show in the world. Let's use this day, established in 2009 to celebrate its 40th anniversary, to spell out our love for this educational, fun, iconic program and its cherished characters.



November 11th: Veterans Day

This day is a federal holiday observed to honor United States military veterans. While Memorial Day honors those who have died in service, Veterans Day honors all military veterans, including those who are still with us. It is a day to remember the sacrifices of those who fought to protect their country.



November 24th: Thanksgiving Day

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday of November to be the national holiday known as Thanksgiving. It is fashioned after the three-day feast of the harvest shared by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indigenous people in 1621.

Month of November: Native American Heritage Month

First declared in 1990, this month honors and celebrates the culture and history of Native American people. Today, there are about 4.5 million Native Americans in the U.S. Let this month serve as a reminder to celebrate the diverse and rich cultures, histories, and traditions, and to appreciate the many contributions of Native Americans throughout the country.



Coordinator's Corner

Coordinator's Corner is typically a space for light news and highlighting exciting stories, but I would like to take this opportunity to mention that Nov. 19th is International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day. The day is recognized each year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving in support of survivors of suicide loss. It's a day to show support and love for people impacted by the grief and trauma of suicide loss. This should be a day of healing, as participants may find connections with others who share similar experiences.

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people 10-24 years old in the U.S. Reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors for struggling youth is critical. There must be active involvement of family, school and community. Anyone may call or text "988" to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, where trained counselors will listen, support and connect the caller to critical resources. The previous Lifeline number, 800-273-8255, remains available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis.

Current Events>>>

Law in the News



★ On November 9th, the Supreme Court will hear oral argument on the *Brackeen v. Haaland* case. The Supreme Court is considering whether certain provisions in the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) are unconstitutional.

Since 1978, ICWA has governed the adoptive placement of Native American children, passed in response to widespread removal of Native American youth from their homes. In this case, ICWA is being challenged, claiming that the law discriminates against non-Indian adoptive parents on the basis of race. In June of 2016, the Brackeens received placement of a Native American infant. Both birth parents had their rights terminated. The Navajo Nation stepped in for Native family placement, but did not succeed and the Brackeens were able to adopt. Still, a federal lawsuit was filed in state court by the Brackeens, along with several other couples and three states, seeking to overturn ICWA.

What is ultimately decided will have far-reaching implications for adoptions around the U.S. and proponents of ICWA argue that this case could have catastrophic implications to Tribal sovereignty as a whole.

Tribal Youth Court: Promoting Youth Leadership

Recognizing that our Native youth, and all youth, struggle to find their paths in life, TYC is dedicated to promoting youth leadership and civic engagement opportunities.

Tribal Youth Court understands and values the importance of having youth involved in leadership roles within their communities. Stepping up into leadership roles builds confidence, increases social skills, and provides many opportunities, while serving the community as a whole.

Whether youth are part of TYC as participants of the court, or as Peer Decision Makers, our court model offers opportunities for the youth to take on leadership roles.

TYC participants are required to partake in community service, cultural activities and life skills assignments that increase social and relationship skills, counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety, and improve practical skills and self-confidence. And, we invite and encourage our participants who complete our program to return to the court as Peer Decision Makers to use their own experiences in the court to help youth as peer jurors,

applying their own knowledge, empathy, and skills to pay it forward.

Our Peer Decision Makers are given opportunities to receive college credit as part of our enhanced training option. Serving on our peer jury also offers a huge opportunity to use positive peer influence at court hearings in their roles and interactions with youth offenders.

Our youth leadership opportunities allow youth to make connections to peers and their communities, and help them understand the impact they can have on each other. We believe that our Native youth represent the future of our Native communities, and that their health and well-being can determine the future health and well-being of the community as a whole. We invest the time and effort into our youth, and their families, so that we can ensure a community with well rounded, cultured and capable future leaders.

Our overall goal is to reach as many youth as we can, on either side of the court, and provide programs that meet the needs of our youth and support them in becoming empowered by culture, family, and tradition.



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.

Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians

Established on June 19, 1900, the Los Coyotes Reservation borders the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Cleveland National Forest, with the highest point in San Diego County. It is the largest reservation in San Diego County. Members of the Los Coyotes Band of Indians are descendants of the Cahuilla and Cupeño tribes. The Los Coyotes Reservation is governed by a general council. Tribal Officers include a spokesperson and five committee members.

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



Ask the court >>>

Q: How much does it cost to be a participant in the TYC program?

A: There is no cost at any stage of the TYC program.

There may be a cost if entry into TYC was due to a citation. If the participant withdraws from our program before completing all requirements, any fees associated with the original citation will be imposed.



Final thoughts...

Fun Law Fact: **There has been some speculation as to the legitimacy of this one, but it has been reported that it is illegal to wear Winnie the Pooh clothing near schools and playgrounds in Poland. Since Pooh does not wear pants, it's thought to be too risqué for impressionable youth.**



Court Comedy: **A man walks into a lawyer's office and asks: "How much do you charge?"**

The lawyer responds: **"I charge \$1,000 to answer three questions."**

Man: **"That's expensive, isn't it?"**

Lawyer: **"Yes. What's your third question?"**



Coming Soon >>>

In Our December Issue

TYC and ICSC Updates

December 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