

National Native American Heritage Month

November 2020

by Brady Rosnagle, Mary Anderson and Chris Franks

Native Americans were the original inhabitants of what is now the United States. They have inhabited the area now known as Washington State since time immemorial, and tribal members and descendants have greatly helped to shape our social, economic, environmental and political landscape.

The State of Washington has a government to government relationship with each of the twenty-nine federally-recognized Indian tribes in the state, as outlined in the Centennial Accord and RCW 43.376, and the DSHS implementation of that relationship is through DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01, American Indian Policy.

The month of November always serves as a great reminder and opportunity to honor the contributions, achievements, sacrifices and cultural and historical legacy of American Indian and Alaska Natives. Our state, and other state, local and federal governments celebrate National Native American Heritage Month, by honoring the unique heritage and contributions of this continent's First People, and reaffirming the commitment to respect each tribe's sovereignty and cultural identity.

Here are a few ways that you can learn more about Native Americans, Indian tribes, tribal sovereignty, tribal history and tribal culture:

1. **SAVE THE DATE** – Don't miss these very well-known speakers! The ESA HQ Tribal Team (OAS/CSD/DCS) has scheduled for ESA staff, three **TRIBAL TALKS** featuring four excellent speakers and storytellers (Zoom information to follow):

Date / Time	Name	Topic
11/10/2020 1 – 2:00pm <i>*tentative</i>	Natasha Gobin , Tulalip Tribes, Lushootseed Teacher and Tulalip Storyteller	<i>Lushootseed Language and Coast Salish Tribal Culture</i> (tribal storytelling, language teaching, and traditional tribal culture)
11/16/2020 10 – 11:00am	Darrell Hillaire , Lummi Nation leader, coach, mentor, teacher, playwright and former Lummi Nation Chair	<i>Children of the Setting Sun Productions</i> (tribal storytelling, history, treaty rights, sovereignty, and the emerging tribal culture)
11/23/2020 12 – 1:00pm	Jennifer Bereskin , Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska – Unangax/Aleut and Snohomish, Human rights Advocate & Environmental Indigenous Activist Pamela Bond , Snohomish Tribe Councilwoman and Fish, Wildlife and Environment Director	Traditional Storytelling and current life experiences for Urban Indians (regarding poverty, climate change and other struggles)

2. Smithsonian Heritage and History Month is sponsoring free Presentations, Native Cinema Showcase, and some great articles, blogs, lessons, videos and websites:

Date and Time	Topic	Format
11/12/2020 11am – 12 (PST)	“Conversation with Why We Serve” co-author Alexandra Harris	Online via Zoom. Register via the ticket link.
11/18/2020 – 11/24/2020	“Native Cinema Showcase”	Online
11/19/2020 8 – 8:30am (PST)	“Native American Heritage Month”	Online
11/19/2020 1 – 2:00pm (PST)	“Youth in Action: Conversations about Our Future – Indigenous Food Sovereignty”	Online via Zoom. Register via the ticket link.
National Museum of the American Indian, (Articles, Blogs, Lessons, Videos and Websites):		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food 2. Mascots 3. Native American Veterans 4. Native American Women 5. Thanksgiving 6. Trail of Tears/Removal 		

3. U.S. Census Facts for Features: [American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month 2020](#)
4. What is Tribal Sovereignty? [BIA FAQs](#), [Washington State Tribes: What is Tribal Sovereignty?](#) (Video 3:22), [The Tulalip Tribes FAQs](#), [Washington Indian Tribes Today](#)
5. Check out this [DCS resource](#) for some excellent ideas and links to over 25 videos, most of which having to do with Indian Tribes in Washington State.
6. See these great websites and resources:
- [ESA Tribal Relations SharePoint site](#)
 - [DCS Tribal Relations Website](#)
 - [AI/AN Culture Card](#)
 - [NCAI Tribal Nations & the U.S.- An Introduction](#)
 - [WashingtonTribes.org](#)

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