



## **ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture  
Educating Youth • Building Capacity

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS HAS BEEN PROVIDING SUMMER CAMP GRANTS FOR OVER 60 YEARS!**

Native Country, U.S.A., March 19, 2024 - The Association on American Indian Affairs is proud to announce the opening of applications for Native Youth Summer Camp Grants, continuing a tradition dating back to 1963. These grants support Native Nation and Native-led summer camps aimed at providing enriching experiences for Native youth. The application window will be open from March 18 through May 1, offering organizations and Native Nations the opportunity to secure funding for their summer camp programs.

In 2023 alone, supporters helped fund summer camps that reached 336 youth from at least 30 Native Nations, Tribes, and communities. The impact report highlights the importance of these camps in connecting Native youth with their cultural heritage while also providing crucial education on health, wellness and self-care.

"Our summer camp grants are instrumental in fulfilling our vision to create a world where diverse Native cultures and values are lived, protected and respected," said Shannon O'Loughlin, citizen of the Choctaw Nation and the Association's CEO and Attorney. "Research shows that when Native youth are connected to their culture, they experience better mental and emotional health, which is essential for sustaining strong Native cultures and protecting Native sovereignty."

Since 2003, the Association has granted \$240,000 to 180 camps, emphasizing the importance of maintaining cultural connections and promoting healthy lifestyles among Native youth. These grants support activities ranging from language and cultural preservation to diabetes education and youth health and wellness education.

Grant applications are evaluated based on several criteria, including providing summer programming to Native youth up to 18 years of age, inclusivity, and support for LGBTQ2S+ youth, education on diabetes prevention, nutrition, physical fitness, cultural knowledge, language preservation, and community advocacy. Additionally, programs must involve Native Elders and maintain safety and security protocols to ensure the well-being of participants and community members.

The Association acknowledges that its Summer Camp funding is dependent on the generosity of donors and may vary from year to year. Therefore, while funding is not guaranteed, the Association encourages support for Native Youth Summer Camps through donations to sustain these vital programs.

For more information on how to apply for our Native Youth Summer Camp grants, or to learn more about how to support camps through donations, please visit [Indian-Affairs.org](http://Indian-Affairs.org).

**XXX**

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The Association on American Indian Affairs is the oldest non-profit serving Native Country protecting sovereignty, preserving culture, educating youth and building capacity. The Association was formed in 1922 to change the destructive path of federal policy from assimilation, termination and allotment, to sovereignty, self-determination and self-sufficiency. Throughout its over 100-year history, the Association has provided national advocacy on watershed issues that support sovereignty and culture, while working at a grassroots level with Native Nations to support the implementation of programs that support Native Peoples.

**Donate at [www.Indian-Affairs.org](http://www.Indian-Affairs.org)**

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