



## **ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture  
Educating Youth • Building Capacity

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2024 NATIVE YOUTH SUMMER CAMP GRANTS**

Native Country, U.S.A., July 8, 2024 – The Association on American Indian Affairs is proud to announce the recipients of the 2024 Native Youth Summer Camp Grants, continuing a tradition that dates to 1963. These grants provide critical support to Native Nation and Native-led summer camps, aiming to create enriching and culturally affirming experiences for Native youth across the United States.

“Our goal is to empower Native youth by helping them reconnect with their heritage and traditions,” said Shannon O’Loughlin, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation and the Association’s CEO and Attorney. “By investing in these summer camps, we ensure that future generations continue to thrive and maintain the strength and diversity of Native cultures.”

The 2024 grant recipients are:

- Boys & Girls Club of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Boys & Girls Club of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Summer Day Camp 2024, Wewoka, Oklahoma, serving Seminole, Creek, Sissetonwhale, Pawnee, Choctaw, Citizen Pottawatomie Nation, Arapaho, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Sac and Fox youth
- Tunica-Biloxi Tribe, Tunica-Biloxi Language & Culture Summer Youth Camp, Tunica-Biloxi Reservation near Marksville, Louisiana, serving Tunica-Biloxi youth
- SONS of Mvskoke, SONS of Mvskoke Youth Ballstick Making Camp, Glenpool, Oklahoma, serving Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Seminole Nation, Euchee Nation youth
- Nis'to Incorporated, Bundle Carriers Camp, Sisseton, South Dakota, serving Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate youth
- Camp Laugh A Lot, Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, serving Oglala Lakota Nation youth
- Is'siwa, Is'siwa Youth and Family Camp, Mt. Lassen, California, Burney Falls, California, Pit River Tribal Lands, serving Pit River, Wintun & Yana youth
- Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria, Mechoopda Youth Camp 2024, Yellow Creek Campground (Humbug Valley, California), serving Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria youth

- Cheyenne River Youth Project, Lakota Seasonal Camps- Blokétu (Summer), Near Bear Butte State Park, Sturgis, South Dakota, serving Lakota from the Cheyenne River Lakota Sioux Tribe youth
- Sinte Gleska University Tiwahe Glu Kini Pi, "Bringing the Family Back to Life" 2024 TGKP Sunkawakan/Horse Camp Schedule, Rosebud, South Dakota, Mission, South Dakota, serving Sicangu Lakota youth
- Lakota Children's House, Lakota Children's House presents: Becoming a Lakota Woman, Hermosa, South Dakota, serving youth from Oglala Sioux Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Yankton Sioux Tribe, Lower Brulee Sioux Tribe & all other Oceti Sakowin Tribes
- Return to the Heart Foundation fiscally sponsored by Movement Strategy Center, The Ondabuhku: Newe Wa'aipe Nanamainka Camp (Shoshone), Shoshone Homelands, Nevada, serving Yomba Shoshone Tribe, Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe youth

Each of these 11 camps will engage Native youth in activities ranging from language and cultural preservation to diabetes education and youth health and wellness education. The camps support inclusivity and provide crucial programming for LGBTQ2S+ youth, focusing on diabetes prevention, nutrition, physical fitness, cultural knowledge, language preservation, and community advocacy. Additionally, Native Elders participate to pass along intergenerational knowledge and teachings.

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. In 2023, these efforts reached 336 youth from at least 30 Native Nations, Tribes, and communities.

The Association's Summer Camp funding is made possible through the generosity of donors and varies each year. To support the Native Youth Summer Camp grants and learn more, please visit [Indian-Affairs.org](http://Indian-Affairs.org).

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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.

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