

### **Mission**

We, the National Congress of American Indian Youth unite as a commission of all backgrounds and ages to strengthen the past, present and future of our unity, knowledge and wisdom; to serve our people's concerns and interests by enhancing our spiritual, mental, physical and emotional well-being for a better Native America.

### **Purpose**

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Youth Commission is designed specifically for college and high school students with an interest in political science, tribal government and Native American legislative and governmental affairs.

The Youth Commission provides a youth perspective with issues that concern the youth. It is to be a resource to NCAI and Tribal Leaders. It is an opportunity to acquire knowledge from NCAI and Tribal Leaders about the process of NCAI and Tribal Politics. Also to enhance our leadership skills and utilize those we may have obtained prior. Most importantly the NCAI Youth Commission is an avenue to provide a unified voice for ALL Native American and Alaskan youth.

## **YOUTH COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING**

### **Sunday, October 19**

3:30 – 4:30 **Youth Ambassador Orientation Session – Room 102 C**

4:30 – 5:30 **Youth Commission Welcome Reception – Room 102 C**

6:00 - 8:00 **Welcome Reception**

*Hosted by the Arizona Local Planning Committee*

*Sponsored by Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community*

*Heard Museum*

### **Monday, October 20**

8:30 - 9:00 **NCAI General Assembly Procession [Main Agenda]**  
[Youth Ambassadors/Commissioners recommended]

9:15 - 12:00 **Youth Commission First General Assembly – Room 211 B**  
**Patricia Carter, Youth Ambassador Presiding**

Welcome and Invocation

Youth Ambassadors and Youth Commissioners Introductions

9:30 - 10:30 **National Congress of American Indians**

History – John Dossett, General Counsel, NCAI

Legislative Update – Heather Dawn Thompson, Director of Governmental Affairs, NCAI

Resolution Process – Amber Ebarb, Legislative Associate, NCAI

Native Vote – Loren Birdrattler, National Vote Coordinator, NCAI

10:30 - 10:45 **Break**

10:45 - 12:00 **Tribal Governments & their Sovereign Rights**

This topic will explore the powers of tribal governments and the exercise of tribal sovereignty. Other topics will include tribal jurisdiction, Indian Country and tribal rights vs. individual Indian rights.

Kirke Kickingbird,  
Attorney at Law, Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Walker, LLP  
Kiowa Nation of Oklahoma

12:00 - 1:00 **Finance and Economics Careers for Native Students**

**Informal Lunch Discussion with Native Finance Professionals**

Hosted by Merrill Lynch and the Native Americans in Business and Economic Development Group

Sam's Café – 445 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, #114

1:00 - 4:30 **Youth Commission Second General Assembly – Room 211 B**  
Quintin Lopez, Youth Ambassador Presiding

1:00 - 2:00 **National Congress of American Indians [NCAI]**

**Policy Research Center**

What do Native youth have to say?

NCAI Policy Research Center [PRC] staff will share early results from the national Native youth survey. Small group conversations about what the survey results mean for tribal communities and how we should share results with tribal leaders will follow.

Sarah Hicks, Ph.D., Director of the Policy Research Center, NCAI  
Christina Daulton, Program Manager of the Policy Research Center, NCAI

2:00 - 3:00 **National Indian Child Welfare Association [NICWA]**

**Tribal Youth Victimization and Juvenile Delinquency Project**

Communities visited

Focus group process

Results of focus groups

Next steps:

Additional focus groups

Design of national web-based survey

Connie Bear King, Director of Community Development, NICWA  
Kathleen Earle Fox, Ph.D., [Interim] Director of Research, NICWA

3:00 - 3:15 **Break**

- 3:15 – 4:15    **Climate Change: What It Is and What You Can Do About It**  
 This session will discuss some of the science and impacts of climate change, and promote discussion of what tribal youth can do to address it, particularly as the next generation of leaders in environmental stewardship and the protection of tribal lifeways.
- Jose Aguto, Environment Policy Advisor, NCAI  
 Eric Stegman, Program Manager Policy Research Center, NCAI  
 Debra Lekanoff, Environmental Director, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community  
 Jonny Bearcub Stiffarm, Business Development Manager, Native Energy
- 4:15 – 4:30    **McCain Presidential Campaign**  
 John Tahsuda  
 Co-Chair American Indians for McCain  
 Vice President of Navigators LLC  
 Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- 4:30            **Youth Ambassador Cultural Presentation Rehearsals – Room 207**
- 4:30-6:00      **Committee Meetings with Tribal Leadership**  
*See main agenda for locations*

## Tuesday, October 21

- 7:30 - 8:30    **Regional Caucus Meetings with Tribal Leadership**  
*See main agenda for locations*
- 8:30 – 12:00    **Youth Commission Third General Assembly – Room 211 B**  
 Brian Poncho, Youth Commissioner Representative, Presiding
- 8:30 – 9:30    Invocation  
 Committee and Regional Caucus Youth Reports  
 Ambassador Peer Impromptu Questions  
 Break-Out Sessions, Sub-Committee and Area Caucus Assignments
- 9:30 – 9:45    **Obama Presidential Campaign**  
 Keith Harper  
 Chair of the Native American Policy Committee for Obama  
 Partner, Kilpatrick Stockton LLP  
 Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- 9:45 - 10:00    **Break**

10:00 - 12:00 **Taking Control of Your Financial Future**

Do you receive per capita and/or trust fund payments? For many young Natives, these distributions can be an amazing windfall - empowering youth with wealth, opportunity, and security. Knowing how to manage your finances wisely, recognizing potential pitfalls and understanding how a rocky economy affects the whole picture are all vital issues at stake. This two-hour, hands-on workshop will guide you through these topics and more - giving you real skills and knowledge to take home to help you prepare for your future and the future of your Native community.

Jennifer Villalobos and Shawn Spruce, Financial Education Consultants, Oweesta Corporation

12:00 - 1:00 **Youth Honoring Luncheon** [*Ticket purchase required*]

Mistress of Ceremony – Patricia Carter, Youth Ambassador

Master of Ceremony – Quinton Lopez, Youth Ambassador

Keynote Speaker: Crystal Shawanda

An Ojibwe country music singer-songwriter from Wikwemikong, Ontario Canada

Ernie Stevens, Jr. – Youth Leadership Award Presentation

Chairman, National Indian Gaming Association [NIGA]

Jacoby Ellsbury, Boston Red Sox [*Invited*]

1:00 - 4:00 **Break-Out Sessions**

*See main agenda for locations*

4:30 – 5:30 **Youth Ambassador Leadership Program – Room 207**

The National Congress of American Indians Youth Ambassador Leadership Program (YALP) is a scholarship program open to males and females age 17-25. The Ambassadors, one male and one female, will be selected to serve a two year term representing and promoting NCAI and the NCAI Youth Commission.

6:00 – 9:00 **Youth Social Event**

Phoenix Zoo - 455 N. Galvin Parkway

Transportation and light snacks provided

Hosted by the Phoenix Local Planning Committee

## Wednesday, October 22

7:30 - 8:30 **Regional Caucus Meetings with Tribal Leadership**

*See main agenda for locations*

- 8:30 - 11:00 Youth Commission Fourth General Assembly – Room 211 B**  
 Daryl Lynn Jay, Youth Commissioner Representative, Presiding  
 Invocation  
 Sub-Committee and Area Caucus Youth Reports
- 8:40 **Ambassadors to present on Main Agenda**
- 9:00 - 10:30 **Health Walk/Run Preparations**
- 10:30 - 10:45 **Break**
- 11:00 - 12:30 **National Native Just Move It Day**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Annual National Native American Health & Fitness Walk**
- 12:00 – 1:00 **Trade Show Networking Reception – Hall 1 Lobby Level**  
 This networking opportunity is to engage in discussions with colleges, businesses, federal recruiters and tribal entrepreneurs, who can unfold your future career. Light snacks and refreshments provided.
- 1:00 - 4:00 **Youth Commission Fifth General Assembly - Room 211 B**  
 Cynthia Biro, Youth Commissioner Alternative Representative, Presiding
- 1:00 – 2:00 **Communications Training**  
 This training will provide youth with the tools and knowledge necessary to effectively communicate their issues and messages to tribal members, the general public and decision makers.
- Kathy Kerchner, Media & Speaking Expert  
 InterSpeak, LLC
- 2:00 - 2:15 **Break**
- 2:15 - 3:30 **Youth Commissioner Candidates**  
 Speeches  
 Peer Impromptu Question & Answer Sessions  
 Elections  
 Youth Commission leadership is elected every two years by the Youth Commission during their annual meeting. We will be electing a male and female representative, male and female alternate representative and a secretary.
- 3:30 - 4:00 **Closing**
- 4:00 - 4:30 **Meeting with Ambassadors, Commissioners and NCAI Youth Team Staff**

7:00

**Cultural Event**

*Hosted by the Local Planning Committee*

*Sponsored by Gila River Indian Community*

**Thursday, October 23**

**Shadow your Tribal Leader**

Observe the responsibilities and duties of your Tribal Leadership firsthand as they discuss the protection of sovereignty and the advancement of tribal governance, treaty rights, promote economic development and health and welfare and to educate the public toward a better understanding of Indians and Alaskan Natives.

**2006-2008 Youth Ambassadors**

Patricia Carter, Youth Ambassador, Nez Perce Tribe

Marrisa Corpuz, Youth Under-Ambassador, Tlingit and Haida

Quintin Lopez, Youth Ambassador, Tohono O'odham Nation

Nick Stranger, Youth Under-Ambassador, Confederated Colville Tribes

The NCAI Youth Commission was established at the 1997 NCAI Mid-Year meeting in Juneau, Alaska by resolution [#JNU-97-003](#). It was created in response to the vocalized need for an entity that would provide Native youth an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns. The Youth Commission seeks to provide Native youth with leadership development opportunities and to provide a forum for networking with other Native youth throughout the nation.

**2006-2008 Youth Commission Representatives**

Brian Poncho, Representative, Bishop Paiute Tribe

Daryl Lynn Jay, Representative, Gila River Indian Community

Michael Lewis, Alternate Representative, Gila River Indian Community

Cynthia Biro, Alternate Representative, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians

Kelly Beym, Secretary, Bishop Paiute Tribe