

## **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.

## **NCAI Youth Ambassadors 2008-2010**

J'Shon Lee, White Mountain Apache Tribe  
Quintin Lopez, Tohono O'odham Nation

## **NCAI Youth Ambassadors 2008-2010**

Alexa Old Crow, Cheyenne Arapahoe Tribes – Commissioner  
Jalea Walker, Smith River Rancheria – Alternate Commissioner  
Isaac Juan, Pueblo of San Ildefonso – Commissioner  
Karl Duncan – Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara and San Carlos Apache – Alternate Commissioner  
Francisco Manuel – Tohono O'odham Nation – Secretary

## **YOUTH ANNUAL MEETING**

### **Sunday, October 11**

1:00 – 5:00 **Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force Meeting**  
[See Main Agenda for further information]

The Suicide Prevention Task Force was established to address the ongoing epidemic that Indian Country is facing with suicide. This session will provide an update from our partners on the work that they have done over the past year. We will also discuss Indian specific legislation that has been introduced and develop suggestions for passage this Congressional session.

5:00 – 5:30 **Youth Commission and Ambassadors Pre-Meeting**

### **Monday, October 12**

8:30 - 11:45 **NCAI First General Assembly [Convention registration badges required]**  
*See main agenda for location*

12:00 – 1:30 **Lunch** [On your own]

1:30 - 4:30 **Youth Commission First General Assembly**      **Ventura Room**  
**Youth Commissioners and Ambassadors Presiding**

1:30 – 1:45 **Welcome and Invocation**  
**Introductions**

1:45 – 2:30 **Youth Community Involvement**  
Jocelyn Formsma  
Swampy Cree from Moose Cree First Nation, Ontario, Canada.

She has been a youth representative and advocate since the age of 17 years old at a local, regional, national and international level. This interactive presentation will include the importance of youth involvement, the various forms it can take and lessons learned from 9 years of youth leadership experience.

2:15 – 2:30 **Break**

2:30 – 4:30 **The Justice System and Gang Violence in Indian Country**  
John Harte  
Policy Director  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

This session will provide an overview of current legislative proposals to reform the justice system as it relates to Indian country and address the longstanding public safety crisis on Indian lands. It will then focus on youth and gang violence, and develop and discuss proposals to improve tribal juvenile justice systems and gang prevention alternatives.

4:30 – 6:00 **Committee Meetings with Tribal Leadership**  
*See main agenda for locations*

**4:30 – 5:30 Raven Performance**

6:00 – 8:00 **International Treaty Meeting**

## **Tuesday, October 12**

7:30 – 8:30 **Area Caucus Meetings**  
*See main agenda for locations*  
[Drawings will be held for those youth who participate in the Area Caucus and Break-Out Sessions]

8:30 – 11:45 **Youth Commission Second General Assembly**      **Ventura Room**  
**Youth Commissioners and Ambassadors Presiding**

8:30 Invocation, Youth Discussions and Drawings

Voting – NCAI Youth Leadership Awards

9:00 – 9:30 **White House Update**  
Kimberly Teehee, Senior Policy Advisor *[Invited]*  
Jody Archambault Gillette, Deputy Associate Director  
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs *[Invited]*

9:30 – 11:00 **The Unplanned Pregnancy Bill**  
Alexandria A. Eubanks, NCAI Legislative Fellow  
Lumbee Nation

Teen pregnancy has been identified by the youth of Indian Country as a foremost concern. The rate of adolescent births among American Indians and Alaska Natives is higher than the national rate (69/1000 as compared to 49/1000). One fifth of all births to Native women in the United States are to women younger than 20 years (compared with the national rate of 1 in 9). The House has introduced the 'Preventing Unintended Pregnancies, Reducing the Need for Abortion, and Supporting Parents Act' (H.R. 3312) and it is important that American Indian and Alaska Natives are properly included. The youth commission will discuss this matter and develop ways to address it from both the policy and grassroots levels.

11:00 – 12:00 **Youth Preparation for Health Walk, Run and Rally**

12:00 **Youth Honoring Luncheon** [ticket purchase required]  
*Sponsored by Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians*  
Mistress of Ceremony – J'Shon Lee, Youth Ambassador  
Master of Ceremony – Quintin Lopez, Youth Ambassador  
NCAI Youth Leadership Awards presented by Ernie Stevens, Jr., Chairman  
National Indian Gaming Association

1:30 – 4:00 **Youth Commission Third General Assembly** **Ventura Room**  
*Youth Commissioners and Ambassadors Presiding*

1:30 – 4:00 **Break-Out Sessions**  
*See main agenda for locations*

4:00 – 5:00 **March Point Viewing** **Mojave Learning Center**  
March Point follows the journey of three teens from the Swinomish Tribe who has been asked to make a film about the threat their people face from two local oil refineries. In the late 1950s, two refineries were built on March Point, an area that was once part of the Swinomish reservation by treaty.

4:00 – 6:00 **Subcommittee Meetings with Tribal Leadership**  
*See main agenda for locations*

5:30 – 8:00 **Streets and Legends**  
*Sponsored by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians*

## Wednesday, October 12

8:00 – 12:00 **Youth Commission Fourth General Assembly** Ventura Room  
Youth Commissioners and Ambassadors Presiding

8:00 – 9:00 **Healthy Lifestyles Walk, Run and Rally**  
The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual National Native American Health & Fitness Walk. The Youth will participate to show their commitment to wellness.

9:30 - 10:00 **National Indian Child Welfare Association [NICWA] Update**  
Terry Cross, NICWA Executive Director  
Patricia Carter, NICWA Board Member  
Jalea Walker, NICWA Board Member

This session will provide child welfare and youth mental health updates, plus provides the youth with an opportunity to address their concerns. A brief report will also be provided by the Board Members about their experiences with NICWA.

10:00 – 11:00 **National Indian Child Welfare Association [NICWA]  
Tribal Youth Victimization and Juvenile Delinquency Project**  
Kathleen Earle Fox, Ph.D., [Interim] Director of Research

This session will update the youth on our Youth Victimization Research and the valuable contribution the Youth Commission has made as our advisors. We will be asking for their feedback on our social marketing approach and letting them know about additional opportunities to become involved

11:00 – 11:15 **Break**

11:15 – 12:00 **Follow your Dreams...**  
An inspirational message from Sam McCracken  
GM Native American Business  
Nike U.S.A.

12:00 – 1:30 **Lunch** [on your own]  
**Trade Show Networking Reception – Hall 2-3b**  
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.

1:30 – 4:30 **Youth Commission Fifth General Assembly** Ventura Room

**Youth Commissioners and Ambassadors Presiding**

- 1:30 – 2:30 **National Congress of American Indians [NCAI] Update**  
President Joe Garcia, NCAI  
Jackie Johnson Pata, NCAI Executive Director  
Chuck Trimble, Former Executive Director
- 2:30 – 3:00 **National Indian Education Association [NIEA] Update**  
Lillian Sparks, Executive Director
- 3:00 – 3:15 **Break**
- 3:15 – 3:45 **National Indian Gaming Association [NIGA] Update**  
Ernie Stevens, Jr., Chairman
- 3:45 – 4:30 **Youth Strategy Discussion**  
**Closing**
- 6:00 – 8:00 **Indian Country Counts Jam**

The Youth are encouraged to participate in the remaining Annual Convention. See main agenda for further description.