



## **Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day**

On Monday, October 13, 2025, Native communities across the country will join together to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day. The day celebrates the rich diversity and enduring strength of the original peoples of this land and honors the shared experiences that unite us, including resilience in the face of colonization and assimilation. Most importantly, it's a day to acknowledge that we're still here. Just as our ancestors left their mark on history, our role is to shape the future.

However, Indigenous Peoples' Day is not universally recognized across the United States. In most states, the second Monday in October is solely recognized as Columbus Day. The movement to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day began decades ago and is gaining momentum. There are now 17 states and the District of Columbia that recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, as well as dozens of cities across the country. In 2021, the United States issued its first presidential proclamation of Indigenous Peoples' Day, marking a historic step toward giving this holiday the recognition it deserves.

It is not surprising that many Native people reject the celebration of Christopher Columbus. His arrival in what would later be called the Americas marked the beginning of centuries of violence, displacement, and colonization of the original inhabitants in this land. Non-Native allies have also recognized the need to correct the narrative of "discovery" and instead highlight the long history of Indigenous civilizations across the Americas. Even the Navajo Nation does not officially recognize the day, as we commemorate our own history through Navajo Nation Sovereignty Day and Code Talkers Day. Individual Navajos increasingly celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day in recognition of the solidarity we have with other Native communities.

Indian Country schools and Native organizations have embraced the spirit of the day by hosting educational events, cultural performances, and youth discussions about what it means to be Indigenous in the modern world. These gatherings provide an opportunity for our young people to learn about their heritage, traditional teachings, and the importance of language and ceremony in defining who we are.

For events near you we invite you refer to this list provided by Indian Country Today: <https://ictnews.org/events/indigenous-peoples-day-2025-events/>