



## Navajo Nation Crowns Camille Uentillie as 73rd Miss Navajo Nation



*Camille Uentillie is crowned 73rd Miss Navajo Nation by 2024–2025 titleholder Ranisha C. Begay at the Navajo Nation Fair in Window Rock on Sept. 6, joined by 2021–2022 Miss Navajo Niagra Rockbridge. Photo Courtesy of the Office of Miss Navajo Nation*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Camille Jean Uentillie of Kinlichee, Arizona, was crowned the 73rd Miss Navajo Nation (2025–2026) at the Navajo Nation Fair in Window Rock, Arizona on September 6. She is Tsinaajini (Black Streak Wood People), born for Tłaaashch'íí (Red Bottom People). A graduate of Ganado High School, Uentillie earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies with a certificate in Geographic Information Systems from Fort Lewis College. She steps into the role following the successful reign of 2024–2025 Miss Navajo Nation, Ranisha Begay.

As one of the Navajo Nation's highest honors, the Miss Navajo title places Uentillie in a distinguished legacy as the Nation's official cultural ambassador for a year-long term. Her platform centers on the bond between families, language, and her passion for the land. In her introduction, she pledged to advance community-led water stewardship, support elders, and expand at-home Navajo language learning. She'll blend classroom education with traditional ecological knowledge to protect water, center elders, and pass Diné Bizaad to the next generation.

Uentille bested three contestants in the Miss Navajo Nation Pageant, which is among the most rigorous cultural pageants in the world. Alongside interviews and contemporary skills, contestants demonstrate traditional knowledge through activities such as live sheep butchering and on-site traditional food preparation. Each facet represents the service, humility, and readiness to lead that accompanies the legacy of the crown. Simply entering the pageant is a major achievement; this year's first runner-up was Eriona Tapahe, and the second runner-up was Taneesha Francis.

Uentillie's year will focus on visits to schools, chapter houses, and community events across the Nation, where she will listen, teach, and encourage families to strengthen Navajo language and lifeways. Her emphasis on water, elders, and education aligns with everyday priorities in homes across the Navajo Nation, offering a practical path to cultural renewal that she hopes all Navajo people can see and join.