

Linda Southerland
Second Vice President/Educational Chairman

Educational – Powwows and Festivals

September 8, 2012

Oklahoma's rich Native American heritage is famously diverse, with 39 federally recognized tribes headquartered in Oklahoma. As fall ushers in cooler temperatures, gorgeous foliage and a vibrant event season, you can experience Oklahoma's diversity firsthand by attending a number of time-honored Native American events held throughout the state.

These events, which range from single tribe celebrations to large intertribal powwows, are key to keeping the traditions of Oklahoma's Native American ancestors alive. Tap into the spirit of the powwow by witnessing Native dancing, singing and artistry. Mesmerizing colors captivate and soulful sounds resonate during these activities, where customs are preserved for the future.

For Example:

Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival & Powwow – Tuskahoma

An incredibly popular send-off to summer in early September, the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival & Powwow is an impressive showcase of [Choctaw Nation](#) traditions.

Standing Bear Powwow - Ponca City

The renowned Standing Bear Powwow, one of the most significant, long-standing Native American events in the country, brings together the six north-central tribes of Oklahoma for displays of spectacular regalia and intertribal dancing in late September.

Powwow of Champions - Tulsa

Make your way to [Tulsa](#) to see the powerful sights and sounds of Native dancers overtake the [Mabee Center](#) during the annual Powwow of Champions event. A major intertribal competition, the Powwow of Champions celebrates the artistry of traditional dancers as they stomp and twirl around the arena to the intoxicating beat of drums.

Cherokee National Holiday - Tahlequah

Immerse yourself in [Cherokee](#) heritage at the Cherokee National Holiday in [Tahlequah](#). This event, a gathering of Native American families and communities, commemorates the signing of the Cherokee Constitution in 1839 following the Cherokee removal to Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Indian Summer - Bartlesville

Oklahoma Indian Summer, is a world-class Native American event that has been hosted by [Bartlesville](#) for over 20 years, brings creativity center stage. Craft and cultural demonstrations, along with Native American storytelling, enrich this festival and make it as educational as it is entertaining

Chickasaw Annual Meeting & Festival - Tishomingo

The culture of the [Chickasaw Nation](#) comes alive during the Chickasaw Annual Meeting & Festival, a week-long event held in south-central Oklahoma's Chickasaw Country. Activities are scheduled throughout the week, In nearby [Sulphur](#), tour the [Chickasaw Cultural Center](#),

Comanche Nation Fair - Lawton

Visitors to the Comanche Nation Fair in [Lawton](#) will enjoy an array of festivities, from archery competitions and art shows, to bull riding and a rodeo. Children will have a blast at the free kid's carnival, while adults can check out classic hot rods in the car show.

Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society Ceremonial - Anadarko

In honor of warriors and veterans, the Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society Ceremonial in [Anadarko](#) focuses on Native Americans in the military and their sacrifices, both for their tribe and country.

Miami NOW: Native Oklahoma Weekend - Miami

Held at the Miami County Fairgrounds, all ages will have a great time at the activity-packed Miami NOW: Native Oklahoma Weekend in [Miami](#).

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Cheyenne

Nestled beneath beautiful red hills near [Cheyenne](#) in western Oklahoma, the [Washita Battlefield National Historic Site](#) is one of three sites in Oklahoma administered by the National Park Service. The visitor center, with its striking and symbolic construction, interprets the tragic circumstances of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's surprise dawn attack against the Southern Cheyenne village of Peace Chief Black Kettle on November 27, 1868.

An impressive film, "Destiny at Dawn – Loss and Victory on the Washita," along with exhibits and an interpretative walking trail not far from the visitor center, commemorate one of the most significant events in the tragic clash of cultures during the Indian Wars era.

As Lisa Conard Frost, Washita Battlefield superintendent explains "Our national parks belong to all of us. They teach us much about who we are and how events shape us. What we learn here can take us into the future."

These are just a few of the Traditional Powwows and Festivals you can find information about on the [travelok.com](#) Website. Check one of them out on the computer and learn a little more about our Oklahoma Native American Culture.