

Native Youth Conference in Washington, DC

Who: All MSBSD Indian Education verified students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to apply and ten will be selected

What: Native Youth Conference

Where: Washington, DC

When: April 26, 2025- May 3, 2025

Application Deadline: January 8, 2025

Cost: Included Items listed below will be paid by MSBSD Indian Education Grant

Included:

- Roundtrip airfare
- Transportation to and from the airport in the Washington, DC, area (not Anchorage).
- Hotel accommodations
- Three meals per day during the program (high school program begins with dinner on arrival day and ends with breakfast on departure day).
- All in-town DC transportation
- Instruction during the event
- Academic materials
- 24-hour supervision-Night monitors
- Access to Georgetown University Children's Medical Center
- All entry fees included in the program.
- All tips/gratuities
- Group photo.
- Certificate
- Souvenir
- Secondary medical and liability insurance

Not Included:

- Transportation to and from Anchorage Airport
- Meals during travel days on April 26th and May 2nd-3rd
- Spending money for any additional expenses or souvenirs students may need/want.

Timeline

- **January 8, 2025**
 - **Application Deadline**
(All applications must be submitted by this date)
- **January 24, 2025**
 - **Selected Individuals and Alternates Announced**
(Candidates selected for participation will be notified)
- **January 29, 2025**
 - **Mandatory Parent Meeting**
 - **Time: 6:00 PM (via Zoom)**
- **February 26, 2025**
 - **Travel and Hotel Information Available**
- **April 26, 2025**
 - **Travel Day to Washington, DC**
- **April 27 - May 1, 2025**
 - **Native Youth Conference**
(Conference activities, workshops, and sessions)
- **May 2, 2025**
 - **Travel Day from Washington, DC**
(Return travel to home locations, may extend into May 3, 2025)

Sample Schedule

CLOSE UP HIGH SCHOOL NATIVE YOUTH SUMMIT



SUNDAY



MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY

Arrive in Washington, DC
Meet your Close Up concierge and explore DC with your school

Group Orientation
Meet students from across the country who you will spend the week with, and get to know your Close Up program instructor

Opening Workshop*
What are the biggest issues that we face in our democracy today?

Social Time

Sample schedule subject to change.
*Workshops are small learning communities made up of students from various states. Each workshop community is led by the same Close Up program instructor for the duration of the trip.
** Study visits led by highly trained instructors provide unique opportunities to learn using historic sites and institutions as living classrooms.
CST-1002082-40: Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Breakfast

Deliberation Workshop
Investigate and deliberate current issues impacting Native communities

White House Study Visit
Examine Andrew Jackson and discuss his actions regarding American Indians

Lunch

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian Study Visit
Explore "Nation to Nation," an exhibit dedicated to the history of diplomacy between Tribal Nations and the United States

Tribal Government Workshop
Create a presentation about your organization or tribe's government, culture, and economy to share with peers from other Tribal Nations

Tribal Government Presentations

Dinner at Hotel

DC Night Monument Tour

Breakfast

Action Initiative Explanation

Youth Action Initiative Work Session
Decide which issue impacting your community you want policymakers to address

Citizen Action Seminar
Meet with DC insiders to discuss taking action on issues

Lunch at Hotel

Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Study Visit
Discuss the Indian Reorganization Act and the New Deal's impact on Indian Country

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
Discuss the Red Power Movement and analyze the impact of direct-action initiatives

DC Neighborhood Visit/Dinner

Youth Action Initiative Work Session
Create an issue statement describing how your selected issue is impacting your community

Breakfast

Final Youth Action Initiative Work Session
Assemble action initiatives to display on poster boards and prepare presentations

Smithsonian Exploration
Visit world-renowned museums to learn about history and culture

Lunch at L'Enfant Plaza

Small-Group Presentations
Present your poster boards to your peers and receive feedback before the final presentations on Capitol Hill

Final Edits/Presentation Prep

Workshop Check-In

Dinner

Social Activity
Experience a cultural activity or theater performance at one of DC's famous theaters

Breakfast

Capitol Hill Day
Get an exclusive, insider's look at how our government operates

Group Photo

Action Initiative Presentations

Lunch on Capitol Hill

War Memorials Study Visit
What do the WWII, Vietnam War, and Korean War Memorials say about those who have served and sacrificed?

Reflection Workshop
How will you stay engaged on issues that matter to you?

Banquet and Dance
Enjoy a fun-filled evening with your new friends as you dance the night away

Breakfast

Sightsee in Washington
Prior to your departure, spend some more time in the city with your school

Depart for Home

“
Close Up was wonderful!
I met so many new friends and the instructors were great at explaining things.
Everything we did was engaging, fun, and educational!
”
- ABBY, STUDENT, ALASKA



CLOSE UP
WASHINGTON DC

CALL: 800-CLOSE UP (256-7387) **EMAIL:** info@CloseUp.org **VISIT:** www.CloseUp.org **CONNECT:**



Application Process

Application Deadline: January 8, 2025, the answers may be submitted **in written form, an audio-visual presentation, or an in-person conversation** at a PAC meeting.

SELECT ONE APPLICATION METHOD

- 1. Written Form:** Email written form applications to chasitie.cork@matsuk12.us. Be sure to include your full name, grade, and school along with written or typed answers to the four questions below. Please email your recommendation to chasitie.cork@matsuk12.us before the deadline.
- 2. In-person Conversation:** If you would like to participate with the in person conversation application email chasitie.cork@matsuk12.us with your full name, grade and school along with your parents email to send the zoom link for the January meeting with the IEA PAC. Be prepared to answer the four questions. Please email your recommendation to chasitie.cork@matsuk12.us before the deadline.
- 3. Audio-Visual Presentation:** Please follow the directions below on uploading your presentation. Please email your recommendation to chasitie.cork@matsuk12.us before the deadline.

Follow these steps to upload your audio-visual presentation to Google Drive and share it with a school district employee.

Step 1: Prepare Your Audio-Visual Presentation

- Ensure your audio-visual presentation is in a compatible file format (e.g., .mp4, .mov, .avi, .mp3, .pptx).
- Check that the file is saved on your computer or device.

Step 2: Sign in to your MSBSD Google Drive

1. Open your web browser and go to [Google Drive](https://drive.google.com).
2. Sign in using your Google account (e.g., school-issued account).

Step 3: Upload the Presentation to Google Drive

1. Once you are logged in, you will be on your Google Drive homepage.
2. Click on the **" + New "** button on the left side of the screen.
3. Select **"File upload"** from the dropdown menu.
4. Browse through your computer or device and locate the audio-visual presentation file you want to upload.
5. Select the file and click **Open**. The file will begin uploading to Google Drive.
 - A small upload progress box will appear in the bottom-right corner. Wait until the upload is complete.

Step 4: Organize Your File (Optional)

1. Once the file is uploaded, it will appear in your Google Drive.

2. If you want to organize your file, you can create a folder:
 - Click on **" + New" > "Folder"**.
 - Name the folder and click **Create**.
 - Drag and drop your file into the folder for better organization.

Step 5: Share the Presentation

1. Right-click on the uploaded file or folder (or click the three vertical dots next to it).
2. Select **"Share"** from the dropdown menu.
3. In the "Share with people and groups" field, enter the email address of the school district employee you want to share the presentation with chasitie.cork@matsuk12.us.
4. Choose the level of access you want to give them:
 - **Viewer**: They can only view the file.
5. (Optional) Add a message to explain the file or provide context.
6. Click **Send** to share the file.

Step 6: Verify Sharing Settings

1. After clicking **Send**, ensure that the school district employee's email address appears in the list of people you have shared the file with.

Step 7: Confirm the Employee Has Access

1. Send an email to chasitie.cork@matsuk12.us to confirm they received the shared presentation. Include your full first and last name in the email and that you applied for the Native Youth Conference.

Application Questions for High School Indian Education Students to Apply to attend the Native Youth Conference in Washington, DC 4/26/25-5/2/25.

Overview: This conference aims to empower Alaska Native/American Indian youth by fostering leadership skills, cultural pride, and awareness of critical issues affecting Indigenous communities. The selection process will identify students who are enthusiastic about advocating for their communities and learning about Indigenous sovereignty. Students will be asked to present answers to questions in the selection criteria below. These answers may be submitted **in written form, an audio-visual presentation, or an in-person conversation** at a PAC meeting.

Selection Criteria: Applicants must address all the prompts to the best of their understanding.

1. Community Engagement:

- Please describe how you demonstrate active involvement in your community that reflects your commitment to Indigenous issues and cultural preservation.

2. Understanding of Community Issues:

- Provide a brief description of the most pressing issues facing your community. This may include topics like access to education, health disparities, environmental concerns, or language and cultural preservation. Explain why these issues matter and how they impact youth.

3. Concept of Tribal Sovereignty:

- Describe what Tribal sovereignty means to you. Highlight your understanding of self-governance, the rights of Tribes, and how this impacts your community and identity.

4. Cultural Living and Expression:

- Share how you actively live and express your culture in your daily life. This could include sharing traditions, language use, ceremonies, and community gatherings. Illustrate how these lifeways shape your identity and worldview.

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5. Recommendations:

- Provide at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, community leader, or Tribal citizen who can attest to your engagement and understanding of your culture and community issues.

Additional Information: Applicants should be currently MSBSD IEA enrolled high school students. A personal interview may be conducted as part of the selection process.

Conclusion:

This conference is an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of their culture and community while connecting with other Indigenous youth. We encourage all eligible students to apply and share their voices and experiences.

Rubric for Application Questions and Recommendation: Native Youth Conference in Washington, DC (4/26/25-5/2/25)

This rubric is designed to assess the qualifications of high school students applying to attend the Native Youth Conference in Washington, DC. Each section of the application will be evaluated based on the quality and depth of the responses. Students are encouraged to provide thoughtful, authentic, and well-articulated answers that demonstrate their engagement with Indigenous culture, community, and sovereignty.

Application Evaluation Rubric						
Criteria	(5 points)	(4 points)	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	Score
Community Engagement	Demonstrates extensive involvement and leadership in community activities.	Shows solid involvement in community activities.	Participates in some community activities.	Minimal involvement.	No evidence of community involvement.	
Understanding of Community Issues	Provides a thorough analysis of pressing community issues; explains significance and youth impact in depth.	Describes key community issues and their importance; some connection to youth.	Identifies some community issues but lacks depth in explanation.	Mentions issues but provides little detail or relevance.	No clear understanding of community issues presented.	
Concept of Tribal Sovereignty	Clearly articulates a strong understanding of tribal sovereignty; connects it to community and identity effectively.	Provides a good explanation of tribal sovereignty; connects to community identity.	Mentions tribal sovereignty but lacks depth or connection to personal experience.	Limited understanding of tribal sovereignty; unclear connections.	No understanding of tribal sovereignty presented.	
Cultural Living and Expression	Provides rich examples of cultural practices integrated into daily life; clearly articulates their significance.	Shares some cultural practices; explains how they shape identity.	Mentions cultural practices but lacks detail or connection to identity.	Minimal mention of cultural practices; vague descriptions.	No evidence of cultural practices included.	
Recommendations	Letter of recommendation is highly supportive and provides strong evidence of engagement and understanding.	Recommendation is supportive and indicates applicant's involvement and understanding.	Letter provides some support but lacks strong examples of engagement.	Recommendation is vague or lacks detail about the applicant.	No recommendation included.	