

2009 National Native American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

November is National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. In honor of this observance, the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management (EODM) Division has compiled a list of local events planned throughout November, as well as websites with information on American Indians and Alaska Natives.

American Indian and Alaska Native American Heritage Month Program

Friday, November 6, 2009, 9:50 a.m. – noon

Location: National Museum of the American Indian, Potomac Atrium, 4th Street and Independence Ave. S.W. The program will feature keynote addresses by Gyasi Ross, Blackfeet, and Dr. Lori Alvord, Navajo; cultural presentations by the Black Bear Singers and a traditional food sampling.

NASA HQ Movie: Navajo Code Talkers

Tuesday, November 17, 2009, Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Location: MIC 7A. Known as Navajo Code Talkers, they were young Navajo men who, as WWII marines, transmitted secret communications on the battlefields of WWII. At a time when America's best cryptographers were falling short, these modest shepherders and farmers were able to fashion the only unbreakable code in modern military history.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian will host a variety of free programs throughout November including lectures, theatrical performances, art demonstrations, films and more. Click the link below to view the schedule of events

<http://www.americanindian.si.edu/subpage.cfm?subpage=events&second=dc>

7th Annual George Mason University Veteran's Powwow

Monday, November 9, 2009, 1:00-10:00 p.m.

Location: George Mason University, Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center, 4400 University Dr. Fairfax, VA 22030. The powwow is a central social event in pan-Indian culture, combining dance and music: Host Drum, White Oak (Northern) and Black Bear Singers (Southern). Master of Ceremonies: Lawrence Baker. Arena Director: Manuel Rodriguez. Head Dancers: Mary Phillips and Clayton Old Elk. Head Junior Dancers: Alexander Fire Walker and Laila Mahogany Amin. This event is open to the public and admission is free. A large selection of traditional art and crafts will be available for purchase. For more information contact Donna Brimmer at dbrimmer@gmu.edu or Dr. Yu at 703-993-2700.

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service National American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month Program

Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Location: USDA, Jefferson Auditorium South Building, Washington, DC

The program will feature guest speaker/performer Ms. Dovie Thomason, award-winning Native American storyteller and Class Acts Arts. For more information, contact LaWan Bryan at 301-504-7755.

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. Park Service American Indian and Alaska Native American Heritage Month Program

November 18, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Location: Department of the Interior, Main building, Yates Auditorium, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240 The program will feature an address by Jim Warne, a motivational speaker known for his accomplishments in professional football, television and movies. For more information please call (703) 601-6401.

Library of Congress American Indian and Alaska Native American Heritage Month Event

November 18, 2009, 12 Noon

Location: Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Building, Whittall Pavillion, Washington, DC
Lecture by Judith Nies, Black Mountain Fellow on “The Black Mesa Syndrome: Indian Lands, Black Gold.” Description: In this era of transnational corporations, the methods of separating indigenous peoples from their lands are many, and often quite legal - at least to those making the laws. When Native lands hold important energy resources, like coal, the human rights and environmental impacts take place far from mainstream media. Forty years ago the National Academy of Sciences declared that Black Mesa, Arizona might have to be a National Sacrifice Area. In an era of global warming and climate change, key questions remain: Whose sacrifice and for what reasons?

University of Maryland 5th Annual Powwow

Saturday, November 21, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Grand Entry at 11:00 a.m.

Location: University of Maryland, Nyumburu Cultural Center, College Park, Maryland 20742
This event is open to the public and admission is free.

PBS TV Series on Native American Life and History - Throughout the month of November PBS observes Native American Heritage Month on air and online with content that examines and celebrates the many aspects of Native American life and history. For more information visit http://pressroom.pbs.org/programs/native_american_heritage_month_2009

Additional Websites

[The National Register of Historic Places - American Indian and Alaska Native History](#)

[Navajo Code Talkers](#)

[The Library of Congress - Ancestry and Traditions of Native Americans](#)