

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 28, 2011

Dear Tribal Leader,

On behalf of President Obama, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Domestic Policy Council cordially invite your federally recognized tribe to send a representative to attend the 2011 White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C. on Friday, December 2, 2011. The Conference will be held at the Department of the Interior's Sidney R. Yates Auditorium from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Additionally, each federally recognized tribe is invited attend a smaller regional briefing and listening session at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on either Wednesday, November 30 or Thursday, December 1, 2011, with senior members of President Obama's Administration. For more details, please see the attached schedule of events, the frequently asked questions document or visit www.WhiteHouse.gov/NativeAmericans.

This year's conference will build on the past two successful White House Tribal Nations Conferences. In 2009, President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation to improve Indian Country's participation in Federal policy decisions that have tribal implications; in 2010, he announced the United States' support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. The goal of this year's Conference is to continue the meaningful dialogue between tribal leaders and the Administration, which remains committed to strengthening the government to government relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations.

Each federally recognized tribe is invited to designate one representative to attend the Conference, as well as the briefing and listening session to be held at the White House. Please RSVP with the full name (including full middle name), position, tribe, social security number, date of birth, country of citizenship, country of birth, gender, current city and state of residence, e-mail and telephone number of your tribe's representative to tribalnationsconference@who.eop.gov or fax a letter to (202) 456-1647, attention Tribal Nations Conference, by **10 p.m. EST on Wednesday, November 16, 2011**. Following the registration deadline, you will receive confirmation and further instructions.

We hope you will join us for the 2011 White House Tribal Nations Conference.

Sincerely,

White House Domestic Policy Council
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

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White House Tribal Nations Events – 2011
November 30, 2011 to December 2, 2011

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFINGS AND LISTENING SESSIONS WITH TRIBAL LEADERS BY REGION

Eisenhower Executive Office Building

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011

12:30-2:00 Representatives from the Eastern, Eastern Oklahoma, Southern Plains, Great Plains, Midwest and Rocky Mountain Regions

3:00-4:30 Representatives from the Pacific and Northwest Regions

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011

9:30-11:00 Representatives from the Southwest, Navajo and Western Regions

3:30-5:00 Representatives from the Alaska Region

WHITE HOUSE CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE: NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH

Eisenhower Executive Office Building

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011

12:00-2:00 Exceptional Native youth community leaders from the Native American Youth Challenge

WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS CONFERENCE

Department of Interior

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011

7:00-8:30 Registration

8:30-3:00 Opening Session, Breakout Sessions, Wrap up and Closing session for Representatives from each of the federally recognized tribes



2011 Tribal Nations Conference FAQ

Q: Where will the 2011 Tribal Nations Conference be held?

A: The Conference will be held at the Department of the Interior, with the opening session in the Sidney R. Yates Auditorium and breakout sessions in ancillary meeting rooms. In addition to the Conference, the White House is holding regional Briefings and Listening Sessions on November 30, 2011 and December 1, 2011, which will be held in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The schedule for these Briefings and Listening Sessions is;

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011

12:30-2:00 Representatives from the Eastern, Eastern Oklahoma, Southern Plains, Great Plains, Midwest and Rocky Mountain Regions

3:00-4:30 Representatives from the Pacific and Northwest Regions

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011

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Q: Why isn't the conference being held at the White House?

A: We are inviting all 565 federally recognized tribes to send a representative to the Conference, and we needed a location that would ensure we had enough space. The Department of the Interior has graciously offered its main auditorium to use for this important event.

Q: Will the President speak at the conference? Will he interact with the tribal leaders?

A: The President is expected to deliver remarks.

Q: Can Tribal Organizations send a representative to the conference?

A: The purpose of the conference is to further strengthen the government to government relationship between federally recognized tribes and the Obama Administration. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate organizations at the event.

Q: Can I bring more than one representative?

A: Regretfully, due to space constraints we can only accommodate one representative from each tribe.

Q. May a tribal leader designate someone else to attend the conference or briefing and listening session if he or she is only able to attend one event?

A. Yes, only one person per tribe may participate in the White House events. Tribal leaders who cannot attend any of the events will be asked to submit in writing the name and title of another member of the tribe to participate on the tribal leader's behalf. Any requests for exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What topics will be discussed at the White House Briefings and Listening Session and in the Tribal Nations Conference Breakout Session?

A: Throughout November, White House officials will be seeking input from Tribal Leaders to ensure the topics and agenda reflect the desires and input received from Tribal Leaders.

Q: Our tribal chairman cannot attend, may we send another elected representative from our tribe?

A: Absolutely, please send a formal letter from your Chair/President/Chief/Governor etc. with the RSVP of the representative nominated.

Q: Does the White House provide for travel or accommodations?

A: No. The White House is unable provide travel or hotel accommodations.

Q: Is there a host or preferred hotel?

A: No, but we understand that local tribal organizations may be able to assist.

Q: What is the “White House Champions of Change: Native American Youth” event and may I attend?

A: In June, President Obama challenged Native American youth to submit their stories of service and leadership. This event recognizes a select group of Native American youth who are doing great things to improve their communities. If you would like to attend please write us at IndianCountry@who.eop.gov and we will try to accommodate.

Q: Can I get a White House tour?

A: If you are interested in a White House tour, please write us at IndianCountry@who.eop.gov with your preferred dates for a tour. Please keep in mind that space is limited.

Q: Can I RSVP via phone?

A: No, please RSVP through the tribalnationsconference@who.eop.gov e-mail address or send a fax to (202) 456-1647 with the e-mail address of the point of contact to receive a confirmation from the White House with important details of the event.

Q: I am a member of the press, can I cover the conference?

A: Please call Shin Inouye at (202) 456-6238 or email Media_affairs@who.eop.gov.

Q: May our tribal delegation meet separately with the President while we are there?

A: Regretfully, due to the volume of inquiries and the time constraints of the President's schedule, we are unable to consider any meeting requests with the President.

Q: Who do I contact if I have additional questions about the White House events?

A. Please call Quinn Fitzgerald at (202)456-4805, or email us at IndianCountry@who.eop.gov