

# Native Youth Program Guide





## Boys & Girls Club of America Native Services

Specialization: Youth Development

Location: Richardson, TX

Website: [www.naclubs.org](http://www.naclubs.org)

Social Media: [#nativeclubs](https://twitter.com/nativeclubs)

### Our Native Vision:

“For all American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and American Samoan communities that seek to embrace Boys & Girls Clubs to be provided the opportunity to work in partnership with the entire Boys & Girls Club Movement in achieving our ambitious vision of great futures for all young people, while sustaining and respecting each community’s unique cultural values, traditions and ways.”

### Programs and Activities:

At Boys & Girls Clubs of America Native Services, we believe that youth are our future and our greatest asset. We enable Native Boys & Girls Clubs to provide safety, hope, opportunity, and resilience to every young person who enters our doors. Clubs touch lives by providing a variety of programs including education, career development, health, STEM, life skills, arts and sports. Native Clubs have continued the invaluable work of incorporating culturally relevant adaptations into programming, allowing indigenous heritage to be integrated into the youth development we provide to those who need us most. We serve Native Youth in grades K-12.

### For more information:

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National  
Congress of  
American  
Indians

## National Congress of American Indians

**Specialization:** Youth Empowerment, Governance

**Location:** Washington, DC

**Website:** [www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org)

**Twitter & Instagram:** @NCAIYouth

### **Mission:**

To protect and enhance treaty and sovereign rights. Secure our traditional laws, cultures, and ways of life for our descendants. To promote a common understanding of the rightful place of tribes in the family of American governments and to improve the quality of life for Native communities and peoples.

### **Programs and Activities:**

The National Congress of American Indians holds in high regard the accomplishments, potential, and impact of Native Youth. As an important part of tribal communities, tribal leaders have, for time and immemorial, strived to ensure that youth have the tools and resources to positively impact their communities. In addition to implementing a number of year round, ongoing programs, NCAI strives to support events which bring youth together on a National scale and celebrate youth achievements. We serve youth between the ages of 14-24.

The NCAI Youth Commission is a working body within NCAI as a collective youth voice. The Youth Commission works along-side and serves a resource to tribal leaders and other stakeholders when engaging and developing solutions to challenges facing AI/AN Youth. The Youth Commission collaborates with tribal leaders, the NCAI Executive Committee, and other interested stakeholders in the creation of workshops, conference events, resolutions, white papers, red papers, policy memos, and online content which addresses and provides input from AI/AN Youth in NCAI forums. Among many other things the Youth Commission serves as positive role models of strong character and leadership to AI/AN Youth throughout Indian Country.

### **For more information:**

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## National Indian Education Association

Specialization: Education

Location: Washington, DC

Website: [www.niea.org](http://www.niea.org)

Facebook: @NIEAFanPage

Twitter: @WereNIEA

### **Mission:**

The National Indian Education Association advances comprehensive, culture-based educational opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. NIEA targets College students aged 18 and up.

### **Programs and Activities:**

NIEA provides post-secondary resources (scholarships, fellowships, internships, etc) on the organizational website. NIEA has 2 student board member representative positions and funds a post-secondary student as a fellow who will work for 9 months at the NIEA office.

### **For more information:**

[niea@niea.org](mailto:niea@niea.org)

(202) 544-7290





# Center for Native American Youth

**Specialization:** Youth Empowerment

**Location:** Washington, DC

**Website:** [www.cnay.org](http://www.cnay.org)

**Twitter:** @Center4Native

**Instagram:** @Center4Native

**Twitter:** @GenIndigenous

**Instagram:** @genindigenous

## **Mission:**

The Center for Native American Youth is an advocacy organization that works to improve the health, safety and overall well-being of Native American youth. Our vision is for all Native American youth to lead full and healthy lives, to have equal access to opportunity, and to draw strength from their culture and inspire one another.

## **Programs and Activities:**

Founded by Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, we strive to bring greater national attention to the issues facing Native youth while fostering community-driven solutions, with special emphasis on youth suicide prevention. CNAY has four pillars of work (1) Advocacy & Policy: Resource roundtables, keeping youth at the forefront of policy; (2). Youth Voices: Ensuring the native youth narrative is told through their voice, strengthening relationships with media (3) Resource Exchange: Connecting organizations and youth leaders; (4) Youth Recognition, Engagement & Leadership: including Champions for Change, Fresh Tracks, local recognition programs and other programs promoting positive change led by youth. We serve youth between the ages of 14-24.

## **For more information:**

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## WE R NATIVE

**Specialization:** Health, Education, Youth Empowerment

**Location:** Portland, OR

**Website:** [www.wernative.org](http://www.wernative.org)

*(Housed at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board)*

### **Mission:**

We are a comprehensive health resource for Native youth, by Native youth, providing content and stories about the topics that matter most to them. We strive to promote holistic health and positive growth in our local communities and nation at large. We work to address health and social issues important to Native youth and promote holistic health and positive identity among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) teens and young adults.

### **Programs and Activities:**

Our service includes an interactive website ([weRnative.org](http://weRnative.org)), a text messaging service (Text NATIVE to 97779), a Facebook page, a YouTube channel, a Twitter account, and print marketing materials. Special features include monthly contests, community service grants (\$475), an “Ask Auntie” Q&A service and medically accurate information reviewed by experts in public health, mental health, community engagement, and activism. We serve youth between the ages of 13-24 as well as LGBTQ2.

**Our Values:** We Are Native. We are members of diverse and vibrant communities. Learn more about your culture, history, and current events.

**I am Strong in Mind and Spirit.** By sharing with one another, we can teach each other lessons about self-confidence, self-respect, pride, courage, and spirituality.

**I Control My Body.** My body is mine and mine alone. I have control over my physical and sexual health.

**We Are Not Alone.** Regardless of the issue, there are other Native teens and young adults going through the same life challenges....hear their stories and share your own. Together we can support one another through tough times and come out stronger in the end.

**We Can Change Our World.** Community involvement is something that can start small and make a big impact. We have the tools you need to get started shaping your community in positive ways.

### **For more information:**

Thomas Ghost Dog (*Burns Paiute/Oglala Lakota*)

We R Native Project Coordinator

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