Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Member News

Defending the Rights of Nature

Convening of the 4 Winds gathering held on Ponca Tribe homelands



SUMMER SAFETY SUPPLEMENT: Page 13

July 2025

31ST ANNUAL
PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
POWWOW
August 7-10, 2025

Grand Entries: Thurs- 7 pm
Fri & Sat - 1 pm & 7 pm | Sun - 1 pm
Meals provided 1 hour before each Grand Entry
All Dancers and Spectators Welcome.
Drums by invite only!

Head Man
Tristan Legate-Lewchuk

Head Woman
Rebecca Wright

Head Boy
Braxton Bear

Head Girl
Ella Smith

Arena Director
Stan Smith

MC
Shannon Leroy

Head Drum
Drowning Creek

Invited Drums
Red Creek
Omaha White Tail
Lightning Horse
Elk Soldiers

Senior Princess
Destiny Rich

Junior Princess
Alizay Ironheart

Little Miss
Rowan Taylor



Hand Game
August 7 | 10 am

Diabetes Fun Run
August 8 | 5 pm

Cornhole Tournament
August 9 | 10 am

Horseshoe Tournament
August 10 | 10 am

Team Dance Contest

Golden Age Special

Archery Range

Security and First Aid Provided. Restrooms, Running Water, and Limited Camping on Site.

Elders receive priority parking, additional parking provided near grounds, with shuttle.

PTN POWWOW GROUNDS DIRECTIONS:

One mile West of Niobrara on Highway 12. Turn left at the Ponca Sign, located across from the Niobrara State Park. Follow the pavement to the Powwow Grounds.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL
With the support of the Nebraska Arts Council.

For the most up-to-date information, follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/PTNPowwow, call: 712.258.0500 or email: aboggs@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Convening of the 4 Winds focuses on protecting nature

The rights of water and nature were the primary focus of the 4th Annual Convening of the 4 Winds event, held on the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska homelands in Niobrara, NE. Presented by Movement Rights, an indigenous led organization dedicated to aligning human law with the laws of the natural world, the event focused on taking action to legally ensure the protection of the rights of water, indigenous sovereignty, and the natural world. Participants from multiple tribes and backgrounds came from across Turtle Island to take part.

As part of the weekend's activities, the Ponca Tribe planted the sacred gray corn on the Agency grounds for the second year in a row.

With sessions that honored the contributions of everyone from youth to elders, the event fostered a sense of community and common cause.

















Ą́bate - Weather

by Steve Laravie, Sr., Language Program Coordinator

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It's time to talk about the weather, with Ponca words for different kinds of weather!

Ą́bate - Weather

Įgđą́ hútą - Thunder

Điába - Lightning

Núxe - Ice

Mąšt'e - Sunny

Nákade - Hot

Nąži - Rain

Ogásni - Cool

Osni - Cold

T'ade - Wind

Xékì - Fog

Įgđą́ sábe - Dark thunder/ Black cloud

Gakúwįxe - Clouds moving in different directions

Žídą́ - Dew

Žigígđì - Sleet

answers on page 28



Join our District Facebook Groups!

All Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members are invited to join our official District Facebook groups! These groups have the most up-to-date information on services and events in the district and are open to all SDA and OSDA members.
Visit our Linktree at **https://linktr.ee/poncatribeofne** for group links or email info@poncatribe-ne.gov.

These groups are for PTN District members and parents/guardians of PTN youth only. Members will not be added to a district page for a district they do not live in.

Scan me!



Interested in obtaining your GED?

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska offers members a $250 incentive upon successful completion of the program plus $60 to be applied toward testing fees.

For any questions or to obtain an application, please contact Aubrey or Pat in Education at 402.371.8834 or you may email them at aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.gov or pate@poncatribe-ne.gov.



Weekly Ponca Language Classes!

5:30-7:00 pm each week!

Norfolk | Mondays
Omaha | Tuesdays
Lincoln | Wednesdays
Sioux City | Wednesdays
Niobrara | Thursdays

Or join us online in real time via Lifesize!

This is a great opportunity to connect with our Ponca language and culture. For more information, or the virtual class link, contact your area instructor.

Sioux City: Deion Miller
402.929.1908
deionm@poncatribe-ne.gov

Omaha: Ruby Wright
402.860.6604
rubyw@poncatribe-ne.gov

Niobrara: Britnie O'Keefe
402.860.3787
bokeefe@poncatribe-ne.gov

Lincoln: Steve Laravie, Sr.
402.405.3875
slaraviesr@poncatribe-ne.gov

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Culture Teachers Wanted!

Are you in the Omaha and Lincoln area? Are you interested in sharing Ponca culture and knowledge with others? The Culture Department is seeking Ponca members interested in teaching various aspects of Ponca culture (regalia, beading, singing, dancing, food, etc.) and offering classes throughout the coming year.

To be considered, please send a sample of your work (video, picture, etc.) to Deputy Director of Tribal Affairs, Alexcia Boggs at aboggs@poncatribe-ne.gov or 712.258.0500 ext. 1005



INVITATION TO OUR ELDERS

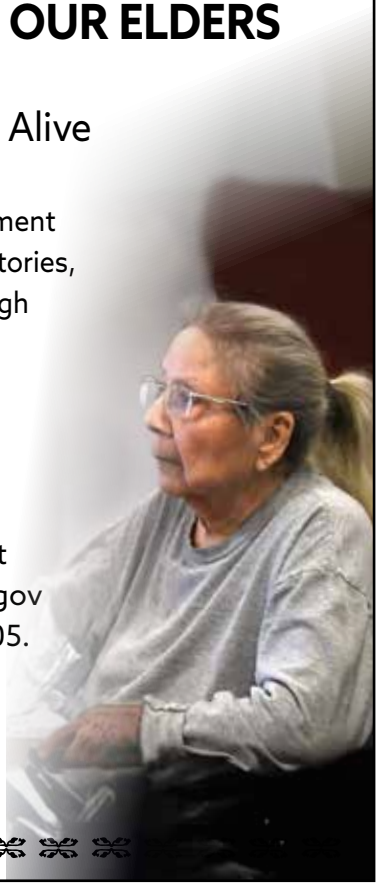
Share Your Stories – Keep Our Traditions Alive

The Ponca Culture Department invites you to share your stories, wisdom, and history through Oral Storytelling.

Interested?

Schedule a time and place that works for you!

Contact Alexcia Boggs at aboggs@poncatribe-ne.gov or 712.258.0500 ext. 1005.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Enrollment reminds parents and guardians to update court documents

As most of you know, the Ponca Youth Enrichment Fund (now the Youth Fund) is being done differently, through a third party called FSA TPA.

The Enrollment department is responsible for providing FSA with the youth's information. This means that it is especially important for parents and guardians to submit their court documents to us. If you have custody, guardianship or have adopted a Ponca child, please make sure that the enrollment department has that paperwork on hand.

This will help keep others from claiming a youth that is not in their care and ensure that the funds are going to the proper parent/child. It also helps our staff know who is responsible for updating/changing the youth's information, such as name or address changes, and who should be receiving any kind of information or documents for them.

To contact or send documents you can reach the enrollment staff at enrollment@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Farmer's Market Distributions!

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska will be having a monthly Farmer's Market open to members of all federally recognized tribes to receive FREE seasonal fruits, vegetables, and other goods. Please bring your tribal enrollment card for sign-up forms.

Mon. July 21 2025 | 4 – 6 pm
Norfolk | 1800 Syracuse Avenue | North Gym Lot
Tues. July 22, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm
Niobrara | 2523 Woodbine Street
Wed. July 23, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm
Omaha | 5815 South 86th Circle
Thurs. July 24, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm
Lincoln |1600 Windhoek Drive | North Lot
Fri. July 25, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm
Sioux City | 125 6th Street

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



Native Craft & Vendor Fair

July 20, 2025 | 10 am – 1 pm
Lincoln Community Room
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska will host a Craft & Vendor show featuring Ponca and Native artists and businesses. Tables will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Each vendor will be allowed only one table to ensure every vendor has space.

Please reserve your booth table by **July 12** by scanning the QR code or using the Formstack **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/native_craft_fair_registration.** For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter at shannac@poncatribe-ne.gov or at 402.805.0883 or Susie Baker at sbaker@poncatribe-ne.gov or at 925.788.0649.

Scan Me!

SAVE THE DATE! Diaper Distribution

July 8, 2025 | 10 am – 6 pm
Sioux City Office
125 6th St | Sioux City, IA

July 11, 2025 | 10 am – 6 pm
Norfolk Gym
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE

Lincoln Community Room – North Entrance
1600 Windhoek Dr | Lincoln, NE

Niobrara Headquarters
2523 Woodbine St | Niobrara, NE

Cabinet Building Garage
5813 S 86th Cir | Omaha, NE

Please bring Tribal ID or proof of enrollment for you or the child in need to participate.

Seed sovereignty hearing invites member input on growing both plants, and tribal agriculture practices

On Friday, May 16, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska hosted Christina Gish Hill (Iowa State University, American Indian Studies) and Krista Isaacs (Michigan State University, Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences) for a discussion with Tribal members on the topic of seed sovereignty. This open house was one of many steps towards a collaborative effort between tribes and educational institutions to grow, save, distribute, and conserve indigenous seed. Attendees had the opportunity to share their priorities, and their own gardening and seed saving efforts. Look for more seed sovereignty events coming soon!













Back to School Physicals

Believe it or not, school is right around the corner, and it's time for back-to-school physicals! Ponca Health Services is ready to help check that requirement off your list, with specific days set aside for school and sports physicals for Native youth at each of our clinics.

This is also a good time to schedule those back-to-school dental cleanings and assessments for your children. Call your local clinic for an appointment today!

Ponca Health Services

July 16
Ponca Hills Health & Wellness Center
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE
Medical: 402.371.8780
Dental: 402.371.8780

July 21
Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center
2606 J St | Omaha, NE
Medical: 402.733.3612
Dental: 402.733.1325

July 23
Ponca Health Services – Lincoln
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE
Medical: 531.248.3030
Dental: 531.248.5010



ND42 Basketball Camp

July 25, 2025
Norfolk Gym | 9 – 11 am
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE

Lincoln Gym | 2 – 4 pm
1600 Windhoek rive | Lincoln, NE

Scan Me!

Train with a Pro! Behavioral Health, in partnership with ND42, is excited to host a basketball camp with the inspiring retired basketball star Noah Dahlman. With his years of international basketball experience, Dahlman will empower the youth of Norfolk and Lincoln to unlock their potential. Discover the skills, mindset, and work ethic necessary to elevate your game to the next level.

Youth aged 8 to 18 are welcome to attend. Youth younger than 8 may also join, but they must be accompanied by an adult. Spots are limited so sign up today by scanning our QR code or visiting **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/nd42_basketball**. For more information, please contact Leah Franklin at lfranklin@poncatribe-ne.gov or at 402.371.0988 or Joe Bad Moccasin at jbadmoccasin@poncatribe-ne.gov or at 531.739.2107.



District 3 Membership Meeting

July 12, 2025 | 3-5 pm
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE
Lifesize available for those wishing to attend virtually

District 3 Ponca Tribe members are invited to join District 3 Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter and Susie Baker for a District 3 Membership Meeting at the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska offices in Lincoln. This meeting will be a time to share your ideas, comments, and concerns with your District 3 Tribal Council Representatives, and collaborate with other District 3 members. Members from both within and outside the Service Delivery area are invited. Tribal Council will provide the main dish and drinks! Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Tribal members wishing to participate virtually must contact Shanna Carpenter by Monday, July 7, 2025 at 402.805.0883 or shannac@poncatribe-ne.gov.



Reel Mentors event helps kids get hooked on fishing!

The Osni Ponka Youth Council helped kick off summer with a Reel Mentors fishing event for Ponca youth on June 1, 2025 at Platte River State Park. For the past few years, the Youth Council has worked with Reel Mentors founder, Ponca member Ron Suverkrubbe to bring his love of fishing and passion for the outdoors to Ponca youth. Youth learned how to tie fishing knots, how to properly cast, and had hands-on experience catching some fish!














District 2 OSDA

Back to School Gift Cards

District 2 Tribal Council Reps are sending Target Gift Cards to all OSDA Youth Ages 4 - 17 yrs. Members must be actively enrolled in the tribe (all information current with Enrollment) to qualify. Wishing you a happy and healthy new school year!

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Falon McAlpin at falonm@poncatribe-ne.gov or Samantha Gallagher at sgallagher@poncatribe-ne.gov.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

District 3 OSDA

Back to School Gift Cards

This year, District 3 Tribal Council will be sending out $100 Visa gift cards to all Ponca youth aged 4 to 18 outside of the Service Delivery Area to help with the purchase of backpacks and other back to school related expenses for the upcoming school year. Members must be actively enrolled in the tribe (all information current with Enrollment) to qualify.

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter at 402.805.0883 or at shannac@poncatribe-ne.gov or Susie Baker at 925.788.0649 or at sbaker@poncatribe-ne.gov.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



District 2 SDA

Back to School Event

July 20, 2025 | 1 – 3 pm

Ralston Transit Facility | 5701 S 85th Cir | Omaha, NE

Grab the family and come down to the Ralston Office for the annual SDA Back to School event! Each kiddo ages 4 to 17 will receive a backpack and a gift card for school supplies, and everyone attending the event can enjoy a cool treat from the ice cream truck!

For more information, please contact District 2 Tribal Council Representatives Falon McAlpin at falonm@poncatribe-ne.gov or Samantha Gallagher at sgallagher@poncatribe-ne.gov.

****Members much be actively enrolled In Service Deliver Area at the time of lists being pulled from enrollment in order to participate. All supplies are first come, first served.*



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

District 3 SDA

Back to School Fair

August 2, 2025 | 4 pm

Lincoln Community Room
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

Please join us for our annual back to school fair for all Ponca Tribe of Nebraska students age 4-18 years old and their families in the Service Delivery Area! There will be backpacks, gift cards for school supplies, haircuts, school photos, and program booths available for Ponca students. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, contact Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter or at 402.805.0883 or Susie Baker at 925.788.0649.

Intertribal youth group enjoys fishing at Holmes Lake








District 4

Back to School Event

August 4, 2025 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

AquaVenture | 715 S 1st St | Norfolk, NE

Please join District 4 Tribal Council, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Behavioral Health, and the Johnson O'Malley Program for our annual back to school event for students from pre-k to 12th grade!

Backpack pickup will begin at 7:00 PM, followed by free admission to the waterpark for students and their families from 7:30 to 8:30 PM.

For more information, please contact District 4 Tribal Council Representatives Alex Taylor at ataylor@poncatribe-ne.gov or Kyle Taylor at ktaylor@poncatribe-ne.gov.

District 3 SDA

Baseball at Haymarket Park

July 11, 2025 | 7:05 pm

Haymarket Park
403 Line Drive Circle | Lincoln, NE

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska families living in the District 3 Service Delivery Area are invited to the Saltdogs vs Chicago Dogs game! Tickets and dinner will be provided. Doors open at 6 pm and game starts at 7:05 pm.

Please RSVP by **July 1** scanning the QR code or using the Formstack **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/saltdogs_registration**. For more information, contact Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter at 402.805.0883 or Susie Baker at 925.788.0649.

Scan Me!

Honoring and protecting our Elders

by Katie McDonald
Domestic Violence Elders Specialist

Elders are revered in Native American culture. They hold a place of honor for their wisdom, cultural knowledge, and experience and continue to be the lifeblood of our communities. Elders are our Culture Keepers, our Language Speakers and our Spiritual Leaders. They deserve to age with dignity and respect, but what happens when abuse is perpetrated towards our elders, and how does this affect our children? The effects of elder abuse on children can mean a loss of language and culture that can be devastating. What happens when our Elders are experiencing Spiritual Abuse? How does this affect our children? If the elder is not healthy, then neither are our children.

It is estimated that 5 million, or 1 in 10 older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation and for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, more than 79 percent of cases go unreported (National Indian Council on Aging, Inc).

"Witnessing or experiencing violent events as a child has been hypothesized to lead to the intergenerational transfer of violence through imitating or tolerating similar behaviors in adult relationships," (Epedemiol, A., National Library of Medicine, 2013). In other words, "Children Learn What They Live," (Nolte, D 1998). Given an abundance of positive, respectful reinforcement, most children come to understand that they are responsible for the consequences of their actions (Nolte, D. 1998. P.81). Developing a strong internal moral compass is a lifelong process, (Nolte, D. 1998.P. 69).

It is said that, for balance, one should be healthy physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. If one quadrant is "off" they are all off. The same is for the family unit. If one person in the family is being abused, all suffer. A family should be a safe haven for all. Life is a cycle and seen on the wheel: birth, youth, adult and elder.

We all are familiar with colonialization and intergenerational trauma and the continuing effects of them. We want healing to take place in order to stop the cycle of trauma from spreading to our children. One of the best ways to raise healthy, respectful, culturally knowledgeable, and spiritual children is to show dignity and respect to their Elders. "Children are like sponges. They soak up everything we do, everything we say. They're learning from us all the time, whether or not we realize we are teaching them." (Nolte,D., 1998. P.3)

One can start to teach children respect for their elders through modeling respect.

"In the Beginning were the Instructions…The Instruction was to live in a good way and be respectful to every-

Child Care Development Fund

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska uses the Federal government's Child Care and Development Fund to provide assistance to families who need child care due to work, work-related training and/or attending school.

In order to qualify for this benefit program:

- You must be a parent or primary caregiver responsible for children under the age of 13 years of age, or under 19 if incapable of self-care or under court supervision who needs assistance paying for daycare
- In order to qualify you must be either employed or enrolled in a training or education program
- You must reside in one of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Service Delivery Areas
- Your daycare provider must have their business in one of the tribe's Service Delivery Areas
- Once you have confirmation from the State of Nebraska showing denial for their Child Care Subsidy Program, you are eligible to be considered for our Child Care and Development Fund program.

For more information or to see if you qualify for acceptance into the program, contact the program coordinator:

Stephanie Pospisil, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
1600 Windhoek Dr | Lincoln, NE 68512
531-248-3030 x 1108 | spospisil@poncatribe-ne.gov



Elders: The health of the family unit depends on the health of all members

body and everything," Vickie Downey, TEWA/ Tesuque Pueblo (White Bison Elder's Meditation for June 3rd). "A long time ago, in the beginning, the Creator gave to all people and to all things the Wisdom and the knowledge of how to live in harmony. Some Tribes call these teachings the original Instructions, the original teachings, or the Great Laws. All of Nature still lives and survives according to these teachings. In modern times, human beings are searching for the Instructions. Many churches claim they have these instructions. Where are these teachings? The Instructions are written in our hearts. Great Spirit, today whisper to me the secrets of the original Instructions" (White Bison Elder's Meditation for June 3rd).

As relatives, we are responsible for each other.

WARNING signs of Elder abuse can include the following:

- Sudden changes in behavior or finances
- Physical injuries, dehydration, or malnourishment
- Extreme withdrawal, depression or anxiety
- Absence of basic care or necessities
- Kept away from others
- Unsanitary living conditions
- Personal items missing

If you need help, Please reach out:

Norfolk Domestic Violence Program
402.371.8834

Ralston Domestic Violence Program
402.315.2760

Lincoln Domestic Violence Program
531.248.3030

Sioux City Domestic Violence Program
712.258.0500

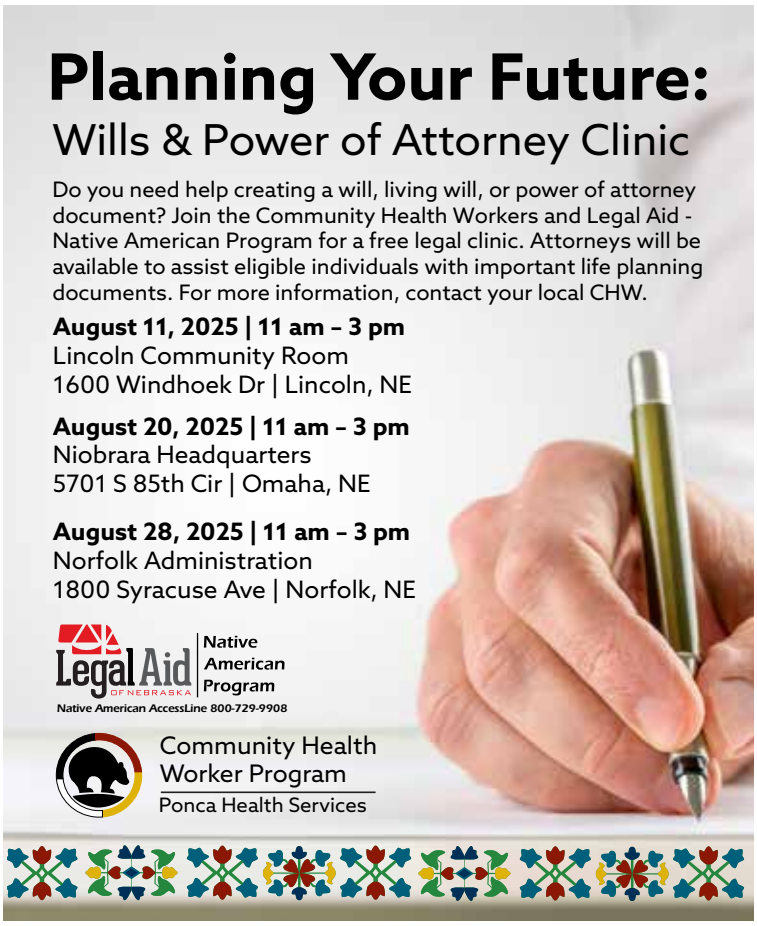
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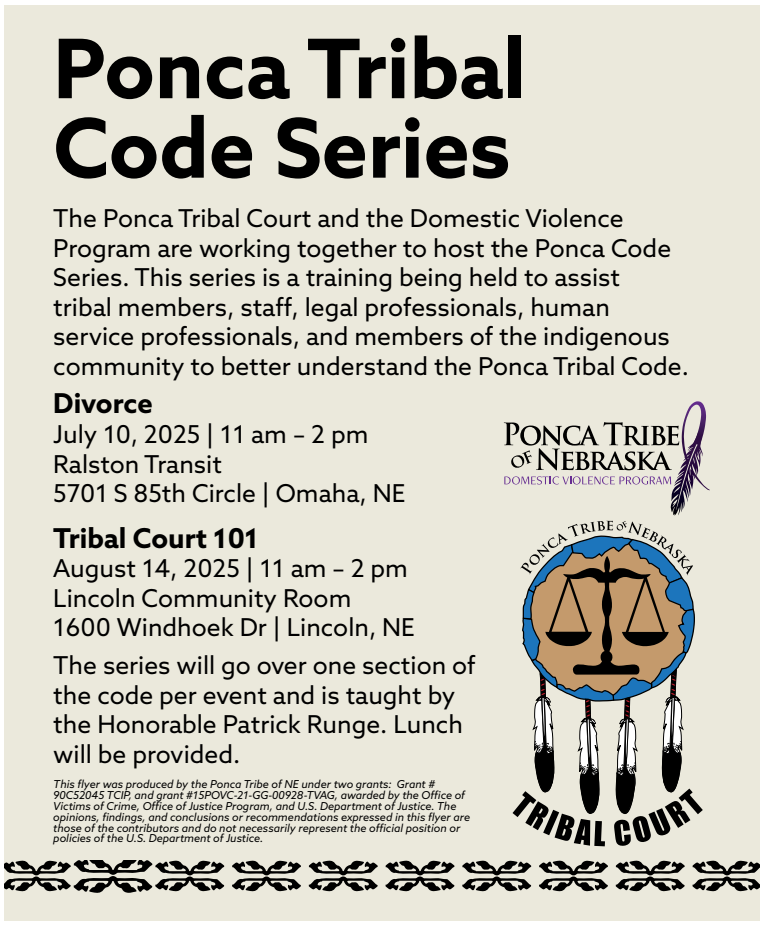
Epedemiol, A., (2013) "Adverse Childhood Experiences and Intimate Partner Violence: Testing Psychosocial Mediational Pathways Among Couples", National Library of Medicine.

NICOA-National Indian Council on Aging. https://www.nicoa.org

Nolte, D. (1998). "Children Learn What They Live". Workman Publishing.

White Bison Elder Meditations (https://wellbriety.com)





Ponca Dental welcomes new provider

The Ponca Dental Clinic would like to welcome our new Dentist, Dr. Joseph McNish, DDS. Dr. McNish will be located in the Ponca Hill Health & Wellness Center's Dental Clinic in Norfolk. Dr. McNish is taking over the dental needs of existing patients and is accepting new patients. You can schedule an appointment with Dr. McNish during normal Dental Clinic Hours by calling the Ponca Hills Health & Wellness Center at (402) 371-8780.

A little bit about Dr. McNish: Dr. Joseph McNish was raised in Marysville, KS. He earned his undergraduate degree from Kansas State University. He then completed his dental education at UNMC College of Dentistry in Lincoln, NE. In his free time, Dr. McNish enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with family. He is looking forward to serving patients at the Ponca Hills Health and Wellness Center.



Community Health Workers address skin cancer and sun safety

Sun safety for Native Americans is crucial due to increased risks of skin cancer and sunburns, especially in regions with high UV indices. While skin cancer rates may be lower overall in some Native American populations, melanoma (the deadliest form of skin cancer) can be more aggressive and have a higher mortality rate for these populations. Native Americans are more likely to experience sunburns when spending time outdoors, potentially due to a combination of factors including skin pigmentation, sun protection habits, and geographic location. A significant portion of Native Americans surveyed reported not using sunscreen regularly, with some believing that people with darker skin are not susceptible to skin cancer.

Ponca Health Services has started installing sunscreen dispensers in all five Ponca Tribe office locations. Each location will have at least once dispenser. Three more sunscreen dispensers will be intalled at the Powwow grounds in Niobrara. Next time you visit one of the offices, please try the dispenser out and apply to exposed skin.

Here are a few recommendations for sun safety:

1. Limit sun exposure – especially between 10 AM and 3 PM when the sun is its strongest
2. Wear protective clothing – hats, long sleeved shirts and pants
3. Use sunscreen – a water resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher



If you would like to protect yourself from sunburn, but want to use a more traditional plant based practice, historically, some tribes used an infusion of pine needles in sunflower oil.

Keep summer fun with these summer safety tips!

Todd Schimelfenig
Safety & Risk Specialist
Cody Barta
Environmental Specialist
Kayla Vondracek
Water Quality Coordinator



Summer can be a great time for get togethers and getaways, with longer days and warmer temps inviting us to take our fun outdoors. However, the celebrations and activities of summer can carry some additional risks. The following tips can help you and your family have a safe and happy summer!

SWIMMING SAFETY: Most drownings happen in residential swimming pools. But children can drown in just 1 inch of water (such as in buckets, bathtubs, wading pools, diaper pails, toilets, hot tubs, and spas). In addition, open waters, such as oceans, rivers, and lakes, pose a drowning threat to older children.

Parents:

- Never leave your child unsupervised near water.
- Don't rely on personal flotation devices (PFDs) or swimming lessons to protect your child.
- Install childproof fencing around swimming pools. The fencing should be at least 4 feet high and have a self-closing latch that is out of the reach of children.
- Give your child swimming lessons at the earliest age they can handle such lessons.
- Make sure you have rescue equipment, a phone, and emergency phone numbers near the swimming area.
- Use ONLY a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) "Water wings," inflatable rafts, floating toys, and other items, are not considered safe. Don't rely on them to prevent drowning.
- Don't let children dive in shallow or unfamiliar waters. Always have them enter feet-first. Diving in shallow water can cause permanent physical injury or even death.

It benefits parents to learn CPR. In case of an emergency, CPR can save lives, reduce the severity of injury, and improve the chance of survival. CPR training is available through the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska also has trained Heartsaver instructors.

Children:

- BE SURE you have a RESPONSIBLE ADULT watching
- NEVER SWIM ALONE
- USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM.
- ONLY SWIM in supervised or designated areas.
- DO NOT use water wings and pool toys as life jackets or personal floatation devices.
- ALWAYS put on plenty of sunscreen before you go outside. It's also a good idea to wear sunglasses and a hat to protect your skin from the sun's harmful rays.
- Drink plenty of water and fluids when you're outside swimming and playing so you don't become dehydrated.
- Get off the water and away from the shore as soon as you see lightning or hear thunder.
- Don't swim in the dark.

E. COLI, HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS, AND BEACH SAFETY

Swimming in natural lakes and rivers can be a beautiful experience, but lakes can play host to both E. coli bacteria, and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).

Here are some tips to stay safe at beaches with potential E. coli contamination:

- Review weekly Beach Watch Update emails or visit the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's Beach Watch website for current advisories or closures.
- Don't swim in water that looks dirty or is under advisory.
- Avoid swimming after a heavy rain. Rain can wash feces and other

continued on page 14

SAFETY: Just a few simple steps can keep summer swimmers safe

continued from page 13

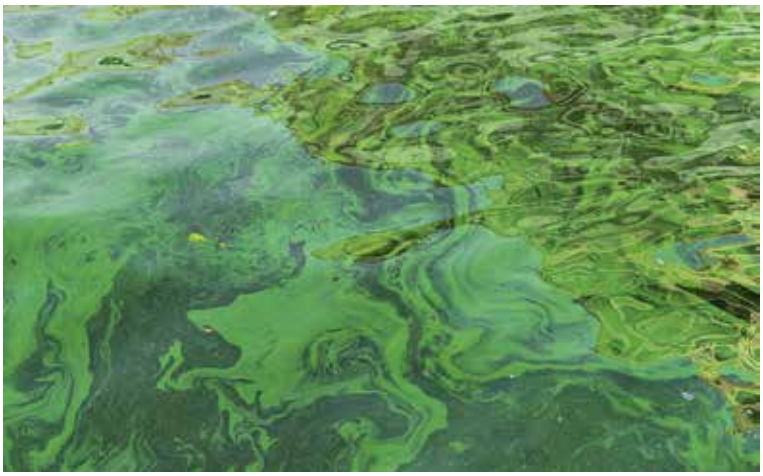
contaminants into the water, raising bacteria levels.

- DO NOT swallow water
- Wash hands with soap after swimming, especially before eating.
- Shower after swimming to rinse off potential contaminants.
- Avoid swimming with open wounds, as bacteria can enter the body through cuts or sores
- Use swim diapers and change them often for children who are not toilet trained.
- Take kids on regular bathroom breaks to prevent accidents in the water.
- Don't Feed Wildlife Near Beaches

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) can appear as green, blue-green, or brown scum, foam, or paint-like streaks in warm, still water—often during summer.

Quick Safety Tips:

- Check for advisories in at NDEE's Beach Watch site.
- Avoid suspicious water—don't swim in scummy, discolored, or smelly areas.
- Keep pets and children away from shorelines with visible algae.
- When in doubt, stay out.
- Rinse off with clean water after swimming.
- Report blooms to NDEE: (402) 471-0096 or ndee.beachwatch@nebraska.gov
- Report symptoms to your doctor and call Poison Control: 800-222-1222



Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) can look like green, blue-green, or brown scum, foam, or streaks in the water. Check local beach watch advisories and watch out for signs of HABs to keep your family and pets safe!

Questions about exposure? Contact DHHS at (402) 471-2937 or dhhs.epi@nebraska.gov

Dogs are highly vulnerable to HAB toxins—fatality rates often exceed 50–90%. Fatal outcomes can occur very quickly, from minutes to hours after exposure.

Symptoms of HAB poisoning can occur quickly and may include:

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Drooling or excessive panting
- Muscle tremors or seizures
- Weakness, disorientation, or collapse

HAB exposure is often fatal. Seek immediate veterinary care and inform them that HAB exposure is suspected.

How to Keep Pets Safe from HABs

- Check local water quality reports or advisories.
- Avoid lakes or ponds with visible scum, algae mats, or unusual odors.
- Don't allow pets to drink from lakes or ponds.
- Rinse pets with clean, fresh water immediately after swimming or wading.
- Prevent pets from licking their paws or fur until they've been thoroughly washed.

INSECT & ANIMAL BITES:

Lots of time outdoors can also expose us and our pets to biting insects and wildlife. Here are a few ways to share the outdoors with wildlife, and avoid painful, itchy, or dangerous bites.

Ticks can carry a number of harmful diseases. Be cautious when being outdoors to avoid bites and infection.

- Wear long sleeves, tuck pants into light-colored socks.
- Use EPA-approved repellent (like DEET or Picaridin).
- Treat clothes with permethrin or wear pretreated gear.
- Stick to trails—avoid tall grass and brush.
- Protect pets with vet-approved tick treatments.

After You're Outside:

- Check your body and clothing—especially hidden spots.
- Brush pets and check their fur thoroughly.
- Dry clothes on high heat for 30 minutes to kill ticks.

SAFETY: The right preparation can take the "bite" out of summer

Tick Removal:

- Use pointy tweezers to pull ticks straight out.
- Clean the area and save the tick in a container for ID.

Mosquitoes are primarily annoying with their itchy bites, but they can also carry West Nile Virus.

- To reduce mosquito populations around your home, empty and scrub, turn over, or cover, items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, toys, pools, and birdbaths.
- Use EPA-registered insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients: (DEET, OLE, PMD, Picaridin, or IR3535)
- Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Wash mosquito bites with warm soapy water, and use anti-itch medications and pain relievers to lessen symptoms.

Chiggers are small mites that feed on humans by releasing a digestive enzyme that causes intense itching that can last for up to two weeks.

- Wear protective clothing when outdoors (long sleeve shirts, tall socks, long pants tucked into boots).
- Use bug spray or mosquito repellant.



- Avoid outdoor activities near grassy, wet and wooded areas in the summer during warm temperatures.
- Anti-itch lotions like calamine and antihistamines like Benadryl can help soothe the itch of chigger bites.

Only two spiders in Nebraska pose serious threats to human health, the black widow and the more aggressive brown recluse.

- If a spider gets on you, brush it off. Do not crush it.
- Wear gloves if working in an area where spiders are likely to live.
- Avoid wood or rock piles and dark areas where spiders live.
- Shake out and check clothing and shoes for spiders before putting them on.
- If you are bitten by a spider, if possible collect the spider in a container for further identification. Clean the bite with soap and water, and apply and antibiotic ointment. If symptoms worsen (or you believe you may have been bitten by a black widow or brown recluse), seek medical attention immediately.

The odds of being bitten by a snake are astronomically low, especially in the Service Delivery Area, but it pays to exercise caution.

- Watch where you walk or climb. Never step or place a hand where you cannot clearly see what else is there.
- When moving through tall grass or weeds, poke at the ground in front of you with a long stick to scare away snakes.
- Wear loose, long pants and high, thick leather or rubber boots.
- Shine a flashlight on your path when walking outside at night.
- Never handle a snake, even if you think it is dead. Recently killed snakes may still bite by reflex.
- If bitten by any snake, try to get a picture or remember what it looks like, and seek medical attention immediately.

Animal bites can also carry the danger of sickness, especially rabies. The best way to avoid exposure to illness is to avoid being bitten in the first place.

- Leave stray or unknown dogs and cats alone.
- Avoid touching or handling wild animals, whether or not they seem ill.
- If you find a sick or injured mammal, contact animal control.
- Make your property unattractive to wild animals. Cap chimneys and seal off any openings in attics, under porches and in basements. Feed pets indoors and keep trash cans tightly closed.
- If bitten by any mammal, including dogs and cats, seek medical attention immediately.
- Immediately report all animal bites to your animal control agency, police department, or health department for follow-up.

Building for the Future

Ponca students nationwide are invited to apply by August 15, 2025 for this need-based scholarship focusing on career development.

Eligibility:

- The student must be enrolled in some type of Adult Vocational Training Program or working toward a bachelor's degree.
- The student must provide proof of enrollment in the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- The student must provide proof of graduation from high school or completion of their GED.
- The student must complete and submit the following forms: Application, Contract, and Financial Need Form by the August 15 deadline.

Requirements:

- The student must maintain satisfactory academic progress with an accumulative GPA of 2.5 or better for the term funded.
- If the student does not maintain the required 2.5 GPA, they must refund the scholarship.
- The student must also submit an official transcript to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Department of Education for the term funded.

Scholarship amount is $1,000.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

For more information, please contact the Education Department at 402.371.8834, or via email at pate@poncatribe-ne.gov or aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Education Deadlines:

HIED- Fall: August 15th, 2025
Building for the Future Scholarship: August 15, 2025

Attention All AVT/HIED Students Nationwide:

Please remember to submit your official transcripts after **EACH** term funded in order to be eligible to receive future funding. Students must apply each school year.
Fall 2025 deadline: August 15, 2025
Winter 2025 deadline: November 15, 2025
Spring 2026 deadline: December 15, 2025

The Ponca Educational Trust Fund is available nationwide to students who enroll at one of the University of Nebraska Campuses/Online Courses: Lincoln ~ Omaha ~ Kearney (Must be enrolled in 12 or more credit hours per semester to be eligible)

Attention All K-12 YIP Students Nationwide:

- High School Seniors for the 2024-2025 school year are eligible to receive a $500.00 Graduation Incentive!
- Our department is accepting projects for incentives in the following areas: Art, Essay/ Poetry, and Student of the Month. **Winners may receive $100.00 for 1st place, $50.00 for 2nd place, and $25.00 for 3rd place.* Grade divisions are as follows: Primary (K-2), Intermediate (3-5), Middle (6-8), and High School (9-12)
- Perfect Attendance $100.00 (0-.49 days of absenteeism), $50.00 (.5-3.49 days absenteeism), and $25.00 (3.5-5.49 days of absenteeism).

Deadline to apply for the 2024-2025 school year is July 31, 2025.

All Education Department Applications and Program Information are available online on our tribal website. If you have any questions for the education department, please feel free to contact Aubrey Knudsen at: office (402)371-8834, work cell (402)844-0957, or aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.gov. **Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs**

Students honored at annual JOM Banquet

Graduating seniors and Johnson O'Malley (JOM) students were honored at the annual JOM Banquet in Norfolk, celebrating the end of the 2024-2025 school year. At the banquet, held June 5, 2025, graduates were honored with a star quilt, and a certificate. The Johnson-O'Malley program helps meet the unique and specialized educational needs of Native American K-12 youth in Madison County in Nebraska.











UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL!

Are you a Native youth between the ages of 13 and 18 looking to boost your self-esteem, deepen your self-awareness, and connect with your rich cultural heritage? **The Native American Youth Enhancement Program (NAYEP) is here to support you on that journey!**

NAYEP offers a unique and engaging learning experience, designed to help you thrive. This five-unit program promotes a deeper understanding of Native culture, while developing a stronger sense of self. **Here's what to expect:**

- **Flexible Learning:** Our curriculum is available online via Google Classrooms, allowing you to learn at your own pace from anywhere in the nation. ***In-person sessions (Norfolk, NE) also available!***
- **Earn Incentives:** We believe in celebrating your hard work! Incentives will be awarded as you complete each unit of study.
- **Certificate of Completion:** Successfully complete all five units and the final assessment to receive a certificate of completion.



Don't miss this incredible opportunity to empower yourself and connect with your heritage!

Ready to get started?
For more information, contact project coordinator Amber Appling at aappling@poncatribe-ne.gov or 402.371.8834, ext. 2037



COMING THIS FALL!
FREE FINANCIAL EDUCATION CLASSES

Ever feel overwhelmed trying to make ends meet? You are not alone. Millions of Americans report feeling stressed by money. In fact, MarketWatch estimates 57% of households live paycheck-to-paycheck. Millennials and Gen Zers in particular face greater financial barriers than previous generations. Fortunately, help is available. Starting in September 2025, the Ponca Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO) will offer **Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families**, a culturally relevant financial literacy curriculum developed by Oweesta Corporation specifically for Natives.

Delivered in partnership with the Ponca Education Department and Northern Ponca Housing Authority, **Building Native Communities** empowers tribe members to adapt traditional skills to financial management. Learn about budgeting, developing a spending plan, managing checking and savings accounts, accessing credit, and being a smart consumer. Reach out to PEDCO today to reserve your free spot!

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BUILDING NATIVE COMMUNITIES

FREE FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE

FACILITATED BY PEDCO

INTERESTED? CONTACT
PEDCO
Info@pedco-ne.org
402-434-2127

Calling all Ponca Artists

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members are invited to sign up to sell their handmade items at the Niobrara Market.

Please scan our QR code or visit **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/ponca_artists_niobrara_market** to sign up. For more information, contact Rebecca Sullivan at bsullivan@osniponca.com.

NIOBRARA MARKET

PONCA YOUTH AGES 14-24:

Complete PEDCO's needs assessment survey for a chance to win a $50 Visa gift card!



Share your needs in the areas of education, job training, and career exploration and help us develop our Workforce program to better serve Ponca youth!

Scan attached QR code and take the survey for your chance to win a $50 Visa gift card. Contact: Greg Moser, PEDCO Director at 402-434-2127 Ext. 7.



AVAILABE NOW!
PEDCO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The PEDCO Workforce Development program provides our members access to services designed to help nurture self-sufficiency, assist in eliminating barriers to employment, and provide members a means to achieve professional success. This program is available to all members 14+ wanting pre-employment assistance, to further their career, or to advance professional skills. Please contact info@pedco-ne.org to sign up for our e-Newsletter!

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PEDCO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

CAREER EXPLORATION

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

CAREER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

VIRTUAL SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

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Lincoln, NE 68510
402-434-2127

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FEATURES

- Mobile-friendly training anytime, anywhere
- 1000+ free training courses in various in-demand industries
- Microlearning lessons can be completed in as little as 3-7 minutes
- Skills-based training and job readiness content available



For free access, please contact info@pedco-ne.org

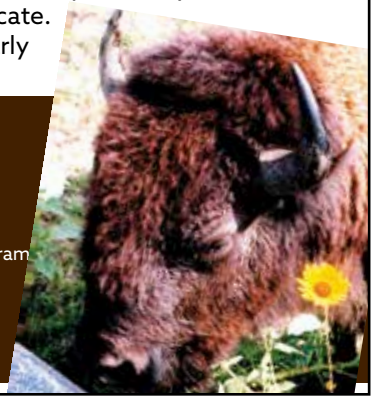
Adopt a buffalo today!



You can help our buffalo to prosper by adopting one or more members of our herd. Our Adopt-A-Buffalo program is open to both Tribal members and Non-Tribal friends. You will receive a photo of your buffalo along with an official adoption certificate. Just choose from the three categories of yearly support listed below:

$25 for the Yearling Group
$50 for the Buffalo Herd Group
$100 for the Head Herd Bull Group

Make Checks payable to: Northern Ponca Buffalo Program
Mail to: Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, Nebraska 68760
ATTN: Northern Ponca Buffalo Program



HELP US UPDATE OUR MEMBER INFORMATION!

Hello Members,

The Enrollment Department is doing their best to keep our members information current and up to date but we can't do it without your help. If you've moved or need to report a death please contact us to let us know.

Below is a list of members that are inactive. **This means that we do not have a current address for them on file or maybe a death was never reported or documents were never received.** If you see the name of someone you know who has moved please contact them and tell them to update their information with us. If there is the name of someone you know who has passed please contact us. We need a death certificate or document on file in order to change their status.

You may contact the Enrollment Department at enrollment@poncatribe-ne.gov, or contact the Niobrara office. We appreciate your help!

INACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF 7/1/2025

Anthony, Jr., Steven Scott
Aschinger, Shelby Nicole
Bagent, Wayne Orval
Bair, Wesley David
Baker, Skylar Dominick
Baker-Ferguson, Jared Riley
Banuelos, Christa Rose
Bear, Joshua Gilbert
Bear, Max Starr
Beaver, Jason Chaska
Beaver, Jason Eugene
Becker, Jr., Anthony Arnold
Becker, Sr., Anthony Arnold
Becker, Tyller Randell
Bell, Darian Patrick
Bell, Shaune` Kay
Birdhead, William Randolph
Blair, Hunter Wo Day Leon
Blowe, Dominick Adams
Blowe, Isaiah Fredrick
Blowe, Tyrone Richard
Boettger, Dakota Birdhead
Bonge, Stevie Lorene
Bonge, Todd Joseph
Boone, Lola Belle
Boyd, Myron Ralph
Boyer, Berlin N.
Brooks, Angela Ellen
Brown, J. Wesley
Brownrigg, Steven Francis
Buffalo Chief, Uriah Jordan
Burgon, Jeremy Edward
Burston, Sandra Lee
Carter, Amber Lynn
Castulo,
Cheryl Francisca Katherine
Chwalowski, Kaitlin Martika
Courtright, Michael Todd
Crouse, David Lee
Cutshall, Katline James
Da Moude, Deborah Kay
Danielson, Daniel James
Davis, Mary Frances
Drapeaux, Juston Lee
Droescher, Samantha Roma Rae
Droescher, Savannah Jo Anne
Eckley, Lane Emory
Eckley, Leigha Irene
Engles, Donna Antonette
Evans, Kareem Antwon
Fegan, Maria Christina
Feldhaus, Christopher Joseph
Fierro, Brandon Michael
Flagg, I I I., George Albert
Flowers, Joseph
Flyinghawk, Landon Alan
Foley, Michael Joseph
Freeman, Xavier Lee
Glenn, John Allen
Glisan, Cynthia Lynn
Goss, Mamie L.
Govia, Isaiah Lee
Govia, Mc Kenzie Jo
Grant, I I I., Jesse Clarence
Green, Brooklyn Marie
Gutierrez, Vincent Clarence
Haahr, Anneliese Teresa
Hagler, Joshua James
Harris, Paul Joseph
Hart-La Londe, Kaedyn Mikael
Hendren, Adavia Gabrielle
Hennek, Gail Howe
Henritze, Karen June
Hocking-Gosnell, Zalla C.
Hope, Dorothea Jo Ann
Horine, Ashley Danielle
Howard, Truman Ardell
Howe, Richard H.
Huber, Christopher Lee
Humphreys, Belinda Kay
Jeppesen, Zachary Lee
Johnson, Lukus Tyler
Juarez, Theresa Rose
Keeling, Lamont Terrill
Kellogg, Mardale Eddie Wayne
Kelso, James Alan
Kettula, Ruby Jean
King, Gavin Michael
Knudsen, Crystal Mae
Krueger, Annette Marie
Kyles, Jarred Joseph
LaPointe, Alejandro Jauquine
LaPointe, Robert James
Laravie, Jr., Steve Alan
Larson, Scott Andrew
Latimer, LaRohn Lewis
Leach, Isaiah Marcus
Lerew Jr, Zachariah Ray
LeRoy, Gisele Marie
LeRoy, Sophia Storm
Lieb, Donovan Joseph
Lieb, Sylas Vittorio
Lindenberg, David Charles
Little, Jeromy Todd
Loftis, Timothy Duane
Loftis, Timothy James
Lopez, Jr., Juan Francisco
Maben, Jessica Paige
Mann II, Steven Michael
Mann, Desiree` Leann
Mann, Sydney Desiree`
Marlow Anderson, Saidra Lea
Mategko, Janet Louise
Mategko, Lisa Louise
Mategko, Michael Steven
Matthews, Jett Haden
McGrath, Bryan Thomas
McGrath, Daniel Patrick
McGraw, Rowan Bay Leigh
McKeen, Juanita Rose
Mercier, Jade Sharice
Miodowski, Jesse Thomas
Mullen, Deven Miles
Mullins, John Frederick
Muscutt, Elias Gordon
Muscutt, Jr., Gordon Dean
Olmer, Dakota Michael
O'Meara, David Joseph
O'Rear, Makenna Shay
Peck, Brandalynn
Peck, Tyler Duane
Petersen, Kevin Lee
Picotte - Felde, Diamond Rose
Pierce, Raychel Marie
Poafpybitty, Misty Brook
Polly, Rachael Anne
Prichard, Joseph John
Prunty, Austin Joe
Quintana Jr, Arthur Jose
Raymond, Joseph Allen
Rich, Mitch Andrew
Roberts, Marquitta Ruby
Rodas, Christian Jayce
Rulo, Byron
Russell, Kristina Anne
Sainz, Tritia Jeanene
Sarton, Gwendolyn Lee
Schmidt, Dylan Andrew- Philip
Schmidt, John Thomas Carl
Schmitz, Jennifer Joy
Scuderi, Jana Marie
Scurlocke, Athena Larissa Lucille
Sherman, Cody Lee
Sherman, David Alan
Sherman, Harold Dewayne
Sherman, John Glenn
Sherman, Michael Ray
Sherman, Mitchell Everett
Sherman, Robert Le Roy
Sherman, Sage Mae
Sherman, Savannah
Sherman, Tristan Ray
Smith, Danial Ray
Smith, Stephanie Rae
Smith, Vi, William Thomas
Snoozy, Ben Michael
Spencer, Peyton Thunder
Standsblack, Daniel Skye
Standsblack, Marko Tulio
Stastny, Rachel Colleen
Stegman, Mi'a Miwasa Nevaeh
Stuczynski, Drake Keegan
Suverkrubbe, Colt Everett
Suverkrubbe, Nathan Fernando
Swinarski, Alicia Estrada
Taylor, Ka`ili Brianna
Taylor, Samantha Rose
Teboe, Temperance Tayen
Thomas, II,
Scott Richard Herbert
Thomas, Jenny Anne
Thomas, Natana Lynn
Thomas, Robin Diane
Torrez, Jr., Lawrence DeWayne
Treichler, Jasmine Dawn
Vaughan, Linda Lou
Veals, Clifford James
Velder Jr., Jason Lee
Velder, Tristen Leo Spencer
Voss, Joshua Le Roy
Voss, Michael Roy
Waters, Deon Koleen
White, Abrianna Aliya
Williams, Andrea Michelle
Wilson, Samantha Tyre
Wright, Alina Lee
Wright, Asheena Lee
Wright, Cherita Alberta
Wright, Cruz Montgomery
Wright, Eric David
Wright, Howard Floyd
Wright, Jacob Martin
York, Gregory Allen

(Please sign your name in the area below with a BLACK felt tip marker)

I I

TRIBAL MEMBERS
(please print)

NAME:_____DOB:_____

MAILING ADDRESS:_____

_____ PHONE: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT THAN MAILING):

_____

_____

EMAIL:_____

VETERANS ONLY: MILITARY BRANCH:_____

*****Service papers must be submitted to the enrollment department if you are requesting a military seal.**

**FOR A PHOTO ID PLEASE SIGN AND FILL OUT THIS PAGE.
DON'T FORGET TO SEND (EMAIL) YOUR PICTURE AS WELL**

Photo ID Instructions

1. **Signature**
   Please completely fill in the information on the bottom of the signature page. With a **black** felt tip marker please sign your name in the middle of the top of the signature page. **(Please note that children do not require a signature for theirs.)**

2. **Clear readable copies of the following must be submitted:**
   a: State Driver's License, State ID Card or other valid Picture ID card
   (It **must** have your picture and signature on it)

   b: If you are **not** an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe, but your child is, you must still submit a copy of your State Driver's License, State ID Card or other valid Picture ID and a copy of your child(s) Social Security Card and Tribal Enrollment Card for proof of enrollment.

3. **Photo Options:**
   You must submit a current photo without filters and a solid colored background. You can email it to enrollment@poncatribe-ne.gov or you may mail documentation and current photo to:
   Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Enrollment Department, PO Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760-0288
   *****Please note that we can/will NOT use a photo from your state ID or driver's license.**

4. **Military Seals:**
   Military branch seals are available for veterans. Military service papers must be submitted to the enrollment department to show proof of veteran status.

Change of Address Form

Mail to: PTN Enrollment Dept PO Box 288 Niobrara, NE 68760
Fax: 402-857-3771 or enrollment@poncatribe-ne.gov

ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBER REQUESTING ADDRESS CHANGE:

_____

OTHER ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS IN HOUSEHOLD:

_____

_____

_____

PREVIOUS ADDRESS: (Street/P.O. Box, Apt #, City, State, Zip, County)

_____

_____

_____

NEW ADDRESS: (Street/P.O. Box, Apt #, City, State, Zip, County)

_____

_____

_____

PHONE NUMBER:_____

ALTERNATE/CELL NUMBER:_____

E-mail: _____

DATE NEW ADDRESS IN EFFECT:_____

To provide better services to Ponca tribal members, this information will be shared with all PTON Departments as needed. Any service may be suspended until this information is corrected and/or updated.

_____ _____
SIGNATURE REQUIRED DATE

**** NOTICE: All Tribal Members ****

LAW AND ORDER CODE REVISION
Discussion on August 5, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.
During Tribal Council Meeting

**** NOTICE: All Tribal Members****

The Ponca Tribal Council will be reviewing proposed additions to the Law and Order Code. The addition is being considered because the Tribal Council wants to expand the sovereignty of the Tribe by adding a Probate Title to the Code.

The changes being proposed is adding Title 23, Probate and Trusts. The revisions being considered include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Adding a chapter on Summary Probate**
- **Adding a chapter on Informal Probate**
- **Adding a chapter on Formal Proceedings**
- **Adding a chapter on Wills**
- **Adding a chapter on Change of Names**

A complete copy of the proposed addition is available at the tribal offices, or one may be obtained by contacting Jan Colwell, Executive Assistant to Tribal Council at 402-857-3391 Ext. 5016 or janc@poncatribe-ne.gov.

There will be a discussion by Tribal Council that is open for public comment on August 5, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard.

Written comments will be accepted until August 1, 2025. The written comments may be emailed to janc@poncatribe-ne.gov or mailed to

Jan Colwell,
P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760

MEMBERS NEEDED

PEDCO/PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD

There will be two positions open due to terms expiring. Applications are now being accepted. The general mission of the Corporation is: a) to assist the members of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to become more employable, including through technical assistance, training, and development of skills; b) to increase members marketable employment and business skills and proficiency in order for them to achieve better employment and economic opportunities; c) to assist members with establishing, developing, and growing their own businesses and increasing their business opportunities, including through loan and other funding programs as well as the provision of technical assistance and training for business; and d) to otherwise improve and increase the economic well-being of the members and community of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska as a whole. The Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Ponca Economic Development Corporation and the Bylaws are on the website www.poncatribe-ne.gov for your viewing or a copy can be e-mailed to you if requested.

The management and affairs of the Corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors to carry out the purposes of the Corporation. To be eligible for appointment as a Director an individual:

a. Need not be a resident living on Tribal lands or within the territory of the Tribe.

b. Must meet all requirements set forth in the Business Entities Code and any other law of the Tribe applicable to the Corporation; and

c. Must meet any other standards or requirements which the Member's Representatives may from time to time require.

A $250 stipend per meeting is paid as well as mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip. Applicants must submit letter of interest and current resume to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov. Deadline for application is August 5, 2025.

Join Us for Lunch!

Members are invited to come and share lunch with the Executive Team at our monthly meet and greet! We look forward to sharing a meal, and hearing member input on projects and prospects facing our Tribal nation. Please be sure to RSVP, so we can save you a spot at the table!

July 18 | 12 – 1 pm
Ralston Transit Building
5701 South 85th Circle

August 15 | 12 – 1 pm
Sioux City Offices
125 6th Street

September 19 | 12 – 1 pm
Lincoln Community Room
1600 Windhoek Drive

October 17 | 12 – 1 pm
Ralston Transit Building
5701 South 85th Circle

November 21 | 12 – 1 pm
Norfolk Housing Authority
1501 W Michigan Ave

December 19 | 12 – 1 pm
Niobrara Headquarters
2523 Woodbine Street



To RSVP, please scan our QR code or visit our link: **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/meet_and_greet**. For more information, questions, or to request a link to join virtually, please contact LaTia Young at lyoung@poncatribe-ne.gov.

MEMBERS NEEDED

OSNI PONCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tribal Council is accepting applications for the Osni Ponca Board of Directors due to two terms expiring. The purpose of Osni Ponca LLC is to engage in economic development activities for the benefit of the Tribe and its members. This Board manages the activities and affairs of Osni Ponca. No member of the Tribal Council, employee of the Tribe or any entities thereof, shall serve on this Board. The Board members must have the following minimum qualifications: 1) Be at least twenty-five (25) years of age; 2) either (a) possess a Bachelor's Degree in business or a related field, or (b) possess a high school diploma (or GED) and have at least five (5) years of business, financial, legal government contracting, tribal government or industry experience; 3) have no felony convictions; and 4) submit to a background investigation which yields no results showing convictions involving tax evasion, tax fraud, embezzlement or moral turpitude. Applications will be accepted from Tribal and non-tribal members. A $250 stipend per meeting is paid as well as mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip.

Applicants must submit a letter of interest and current resume to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail to crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov. A background check is required. Deadline for application is August 5, 2025.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The objectives of this group shall be to provide a collective voice and represent the tribal youth in all matters that concern them; to serve as a means of mobilizing and coordinating the actions of youth, other community members and organizations toward positive goals; to promote the development of future tribal leaders; to help solve problems facing tribal youth; to coordinate school and community service projects and provide opportunities for the youth to interact for fun and fellowship. In addition, the youth shall focus on cultural revitalization and sustainability to include being an active generational voice in regards to tribal governing and tribal affairs.

The youth members shall consist of one (1) participant from each District (D1, Niobrara and Sioux City areas; D2, Omaha area; D3, Lincoln area; and D4, Norfolk area) and five (5) at large positions for a total of up to nine (9) council members to reflect Tribal Council. One of the five at large members may reside outside the Service Delivery Area, while four must reside within 100 miles of the Service Delivery Area.

To be qualified the group shall consist of Ponca Tribe of NE youth between the ages of 14 and 24 years of age. If a member is appointed before 24 years of age, but turns 25 during his/her term, she/he may serve until they turn 25.

Tribal Council is accepting letters of interest and resumes for terms that will be expiring. Youth Council are paid a $200.00 stipend per meeting plus mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip. A letter of interest and resume to apply for the position of Ponca Youth Committee must be forwarded to Ponca Tribal Council, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, Nebraska or crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov. Deadline for applications is July 29, 2025.

MEMBERS NEEDED

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

The Tribal Council is accepting applications for District 1 – SDA for the Language and Culture Committee due to a vacant position. Applications are now being accepted. This Committee focuses on the preservation and revitalization of the Ponca language.

Members will be expected to attend all Committee meetings scheduled monthly and will be paid a stipend of $250 per meeting and claim associated travel at the government rate, not to exceed a total of 410 total miles.

Some of the responsibilities of this committee are:

- To provide guidance to the Culture Department and Language Program with long-term planning, programming, and the use of traditional knowledge.
- To generate culturally appropriate programming to increase tribal involvement on culture and language activities and create a sustainable culture and language program for tribal members inside and outside the SDAs.
- To act as a resource for Tribal departments to create culturally based programming by providing guidance, knowledge, wisdom, and expertise on Ponca culture, traditions, history, and beliefs.
- To assist the Ponca Tribal government in the formulation of policies and procedures pertaining to the Ponca Language, culture, and history.
- To review and approve all Ponca culturally related educational material, such as instructional materials and modern communication media productions, to be used to provide instruction to
- To review and reserve approval on all other activities and tasks related to the Ponca language, history, and culture as may be referred the Committee.
- To periodically assess and review the Language Program and provide such assessments to the Tribal Council.

Please forward your letter of interest including your qualifications/resume for this Committee to Ponca Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or via e-mail to crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov. Deadline for Applications is August 1, 2025.

COMMITTEE/BOARD
APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ DOB (date of birth) _____

Are you a Ponca Tribal Member _____ District # where you reside _____

Email Address _____

Committee/Board applying for _____

Current Committee/Board(s) serving on _____

_____

Committee/Board(s) you have served on in the past _____

_____

Have you ever been removed from a Committee or Board(s)? Yes or No. If yes, please explain

_____

_____

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor (other than minor traffic violations)? Yes or No. If yes, please explain _____

_____

_____

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes or No. If yes, please explain _____

_____

_____

Please fill out, sign, and date the required form. Please submit with your letter of interest or resume. Email to Candace Repenning Administrative Assistant crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov or mail to PO BOX 288, Niobrara, NE 68760.

_____ _____

Signature Date

Traveling Alice painting in Lincoln in July!



Ponca members and descendents of Grandma Alice will be able to view the painting at each office location at the following dates, and have an opportunity to write a story or memory they have of Grandma Alice. A memory notebook will be set up next to the artwork.

Traveling Alice Tour Dates:
July - Lincoln Office
August - Ralston Admin

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word search answers from page 2

CORRECTION

In the July 2025 Graduate Section, Anthony Smith's family was listed incorrectly. Anthony's graduation announcement appears correctly here.

Anthony Smith

Niobrara High School

Future Plans: Go to Wyotech and become a mechanic

Family: Tina Motacek (Grandmother), Donald Smith (Uncle), Rocky Smith (Father), Jerry Motacek (Grandfather), Talthia Duncan (Mother)

Keep up the good work and congrats. Can't wait to see what you do in life!



Tee-Time For Members!

Tatanka Golf Club

53138 NE-12 | Niobrara, NE

Ponca Members can now request one tee-time per day for one foursome of golfers at the Tatanka Golf Club. **Some exclusions apply.

To book a tee-time, please book with the QR code For more information, please contact Kyle Taylor at ktaylor@poncatribe-ne.gov

Elder's Committee Meetings

July 7 | 10 am
PTN Headquarters | Niobrara, NE

August 8 | 10 am
PTN Headquarters | Niobrara, NE

Congratulations E'Saunjia Ne'Vionn Stewart!

E'Saunjia Ne'Vionn Stewart was born November 19th 2001 in Fort Riley, Kansas to Neva Ruth McCray-Johnson and Isa Alim Stewart. She is the Granddaughter of Rita Mae McCray-St.Cloud, Reda Kay Bradley and Great Granddaughter of Eva Ruth Knudsen-WhiteCoat. E'Saunjia is the 2nd youngest of 4 on her mother's side and has 2 younger siblings on her father's side. She has always been persistent and very outgoing. Growing up she always took on every chance she had to explore and learn new things.





E'Saunjia graduated with her High school Diploma from Ralston High in May 2020 during the worldwide Covid outbreak, and did not get to properly walk the stage for her graduation along with all the other students in her class. All graduations were canceled and students were left to graduate by video. Nevertheless, E'Saunjia was still determined to press forward and continue her education by getting a scholarship to play college basketball at the College of Saint Mary's in Omaha, NE. After playing and studying for 2 years, she earned her Associates in Psychology. E'Saunjia knew that the Lord was calling her to a greater purpose, so after her 2nd year of playing ball she put it down and started to focus on her career and passion of becoming a detective. That's when she transferred her studies to the University of Omaha where she earned Bachelor degrees in Psychology and Criminal Justice, and finally got to walk the stage on May 16, 2025 in Omaha, NE at the Baxter Arena.

Despite all the hardship, stumbles and trials she had to endure along the way, including the heartbreaking loss of her Grandmother Rita McCray- St .Cloud and the recent passing of one of the most inspiring, loving women in her life, her auntie Denise Henderson, who without a doubt was always there for her as an aunt and mother. E'Saunjia continued to press on with faith that the Lord would give her strength to persevere, and she did, graduating with a 3.5 GPA. E'Saunjia's plans for the future include becoming a police officer for either the Omaha or Bellevue police Department. She said that this is only the beginning for her and plans to further herself, to make a change.

From ALL of E'Saunjia's family and friends, we would like to Congratulate her on this great achievement. We are so overjoyed and beyond proud of her and most definitely are behind her 100% WE LOVE YOU!! "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."





















PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760

www.poncatribe-ne.gov

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Office Locations

NIOBRARA 68760

Headquarters
2523 Woodbine St., P.O. Box 288
Ph: (402) 857-3391
Fax: (402) 857-3736

Enrollment
2523 Woodbine St., P.O. Box 288
Ph: (402) 857-3391
Fax: (402) 857-3771

Cultural
P.O. Box 288
Ph: (402) 857-3519
Fax: (402) 857-3652

LINCOLN 68512

Administration
1600 Windhoek Dr.
Ph: (402) 438-9222
Fax: (402) 438-9226

Ponca Health Services-Lincoln
1600 Windhoek Dr
Ph: (531) 248-3030

Osni Ponca
2756 O Street
Ph: (402) 434-2127
Fax: (402) 434-2128

NORFOLK 68701

Administration Building
1800 Syracuse Ave.
Ph: (402) 371-8834
Fax: (402) 371-7564

Gym Building
1800 Syracuse Ave.
Ph: (402) 371-8834
Fax: (402) 379-0988

Ponca Hills Clinic
Ph: (402) 371-8780
(402) 371-5726
Fax: (402) 379-4291 - Pharmacy
(402) 379-4293 - Registration
(402) 371-4094 - Medical Lab

Ponca Express
Ph: 877-769-3111

Northern Ponca Housing Authority
1501 Michigan Ave.
Ph: (402) 379-8224
(800) 367-2320
Fax: (402) 379-8557

Purchased/Referred Care
Ph: (800) 405-0365
Fax: (402) 371-0176

OMAHA 68107

Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Clinic
2602 "J" Street
Ph: (402) 733-3612
Fax: (402) 733-3487

Administration
5805 South 86th Circle, 68127
Ph: (402) 315-2760

Dental
2602 "J" Street
Ph: (402) 733-1325
Fax: (402) 733-3487

Northern Ponca Housing Authority
10635 Birch., 68134
Ph: (402) 505-3055
Fax: (402) 505-3066

SIOUX CITY 51103

Administration
125 6th Street
Ph: (712) 258-0500
Fax: (402)939-0297

OTHER RESOURCES

Child Abuse Hotline
800-652-1999 (Nebraska)
800-362-2178 (Iowa)
877-244-0864 (South Dakota)

National Child Abuse Hotline
800-422-4453

National Suicide Hotline
800-273-8255

Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-7233

National Human Trafficking Hotline
888-373-7888

National Problem Gambling Helpline
800-522-4700

Elder Abuse Hotline
800-252-8966

Boys Town Crisis Line
800-448-3000

Drug Treatment & Referral Hotline
877-726-4727

Nebraska Family Helpline
888-866-8660

Veterans Crisis Line
800-273-8255

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Newsletter is published monthly and printed by Printco Graphics, Omaha, Nebraska.
Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month. In the event the 1st falls on a weekend, submissions are due the Friday before.
All submissions of a political nature are subject to Tribal Council approval. Send to Jessica Hitchcock, jhitchcock@poncatribe-ne.gov.
See or print the newsletter archives in full color on the web site at: www.poncatribe-ne.gov