Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Member News



Ponca Youth Camp

Native youth learn about the environment while having fun!

July 2026



August 6-9, 2026

Grand Entries: Thurs- 7 pm | Fri & Sat - 1 pm & 7 pm | Sun - 1 pm

Meals provided 1 hour before each Grand Entry

Senior Princess
Emily Oestreich

Junior Princess
Reylynn Lemus

Little Miss
Rhemi Johnson

Head Man
Wakeen Teboe

Head Woman
Gwendolyn A. Wright-Santiago

Head Boy
James Beatty

Head Girl
Cante'Iyapa Blacktail Deer

Additional drums accepted on a first-come, first-paid basis.

MC
Shannon Leroy

Arena Director
Stan Smith

Arena Shadows
Adrian Chavez
Tatum Bear

Head Drum
Drowning Creek

Invited Drums
Lightning Horse
Gunslingers
Soldier Creek
Dakota Boyz



Hand Game
August 6 | 10 am

Diabetes Fun Run
August 7 | 10 am

Cornhole Tournament
August 8 | 10 am

Horseshoe Tournament
August 9 | 10 am

Team Dance Contest
Golden Age Special
Men's Fancy Dance Contest

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

For the most up-to-date information, follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/PTNCultureDepartment

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

WJAG KIX 97.5 Rock

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and its organizers, agencies, representatives, agents, employees, and sponsors ("Tribe") do not accept responsibility and expressly exclude liability for any loss or damage to any personal property during the Annual Powwow or any injuries that may occur or be suffered at or during the Annual Powwow. The Tribe makes no warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, including with respect to information posted about the Annual Powwow. By attending the event, vendors, participants, and attendees assume any and all risks, known and unknown, and responsibility for any harm, loss, damage, injury, and/or death resulting from, arising out of, or in connection with participation any and all activities at the Annual Powwow. In consideration for being permitted to attend and participate in the Annual Powwow, attendees and participants release, waive, discharge, and relinquish any right of recovery and release the Tribe from any liability or claims of loss or damage whether known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated that may occur from attendance at or participation in the Annual Powwow, regardless of cause of origin.

On the cover: . Ponca youth during water fight during Ponca Youth Camp. More photos on pages 8–9.

Poems Written While Reading Louis Headman's *Walks On the Ground*

Dr. Louis Headman's Walks On the Ground: A Tribal History of the Ponca Nation remains a powerful and enduring work, inspiring reflection and cultural connection among Ponca readers. Building on this, Ponca writer Cliff Taylor began a series titled Poems Written While Reading Walks On the Ground, responding to the book and the living culture of the Ponca Nation.

Below is the fourth poem in this series:

Mr. Headman writes of this Ponca term 'K'ìwáškąìgà' which means "practice your own prowess" or "tend to your own powers of strength."

From the get-go birds have their own bird-nature inside of them, and then life activates and energizes their bird-nature into existence!

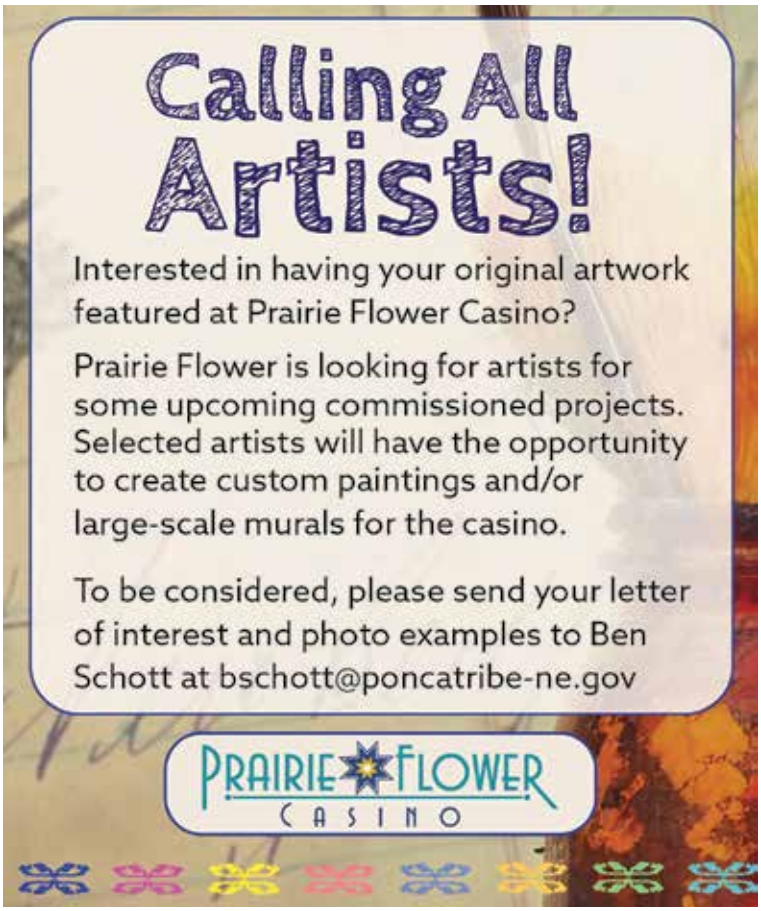
Similarly, us Ponca have our own Ponca–nature inside of us, before our first breath even, fully present while we're in our mother's womb.

It's an animated pattern of spirit, a super-packed seed bag, a song with enough lyrics to fill the entire prairie. The Creator made it, Mother Earth organized it, the ancestors used their hands to fine-tune it, and the spirits infused it with their mysteries. We are here to be Ponca! I love this term Mr. Headman shares: it acknowledges that each of us has a strength, a gift, something to contribute to our family and tribe's life. We must see it in ourselves and practice using it, see how it helps others with their path and road.

The language retains the teachings.

"You heard grandpa, K'ìwáškąìgà!"

Don't miss out on next month's poem from Cliff.



Join Us for Lunch!

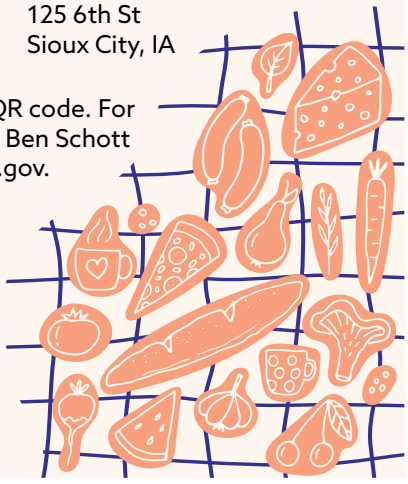
Members are invited to come and share lunch with the Executive Team at our monthly meet and greet! We look forward to sharing a meal, and hearing member input on projects and prospects facing our Tribal nation. Please be sure to RSVP, so we can save you a spot at the table!

July 17, 2026
12 – 1 pm
Lincoln Community Room
1600 Windhoek Dr
Lincoln, NE

August 21, 2026
12 – 1 pm
Sioux City Offices
125 6th St
Sioux City, IA

To RSVP, please scan our QR code. For more information, contact Ben Schott at bschott@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Scan Me!



District 1 SDA

Back to School Gift Cards

July 25, 2026 | 12 pm
Niobrara Headquarters | 2523 Woodbine Street

July 26, 2026 | 12 pm
Sioux City Offices | 125 6th Street

District 1 Tribal Council will be providing a back to school supply gift card for Ponca youth!

Youth who don't pick up a gift card at the office will receive by mail, including out of service area youth. For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Patrick Lamoureux at plamoureux@PoncaTribe-ne.gov or Angie Starkel at astarkel@PoncaTribe-ne.gov.



SDA District 2

Back to School Family Event

July 15 | 5-7 pm
Ralston Cabinet Building | 5811 South 86th Circle | Omaha, NE

Grab the family and come on down to enjoy an evening of fellowship, yard games, program services/sign ups, and a tasty trip to the ice cream truck! Every attendee will be given a ticket to the ice cream truck and every Ponca child attending the event will receive a school backpack of choice and a gift card to assist with school supplies. (Gift cards are for enrolled Ponca youth ages 4-18 years old, must be actively enrolled when lists are pulled).

There will be Program booths including:

Ponca Health Services

- Sports physicals (options to sign up for school physicals)
- Dental providing onsite fluoride treatments (options to make future appointments)

Tribal Home Visiting

- Providing diaper bags and school bags (Options to sign up for programming)

Community Health Worker

- Providing non-Ponca Native youth attending
- the event with school incentives

Ponca Pathways Bin Sale 3-7 pm! All clothing is only $1!

For more information about the in Service Delivery Area Back to School Event, please contact Falon McAlpin at 402-208-0297 or Samantha Gallagher at 402-213-2058

Ponca Health Services

Community Health Worker Program
Ponca Health Services

OSDA D2

Back to School Gift Cards

District 2 Tribal Council is pleased to announce we are providing a Back to School gift card for every actively enrolled Ponca youth age 4-18 years old this year!

We are wishing you a happy and successful school year!

For more information, please contact your D2 Tribal Council Representatives Falon McAlpin at 402-208-0297 or Samantha Gallagher at 402-213-2058

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

District 3 SDA

Back to School Event

August 2, 2026 | 1 – 3 pm

Lincoln Community Room | 1600 Windhoek Drive

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! Every Ponca child attending the event will receive a school backpack of choice and a gift card to assist with school supplies. There will be Program booths including:

Ponca Health Services
Sports physicals (options to sign up for school physicals)
Dental providing onsite fluoride treatments
(options to make future appointments)

Tribal Home Visiting
Providing diaper bags and school bags
(Options to sign up for programming)

Community Health Worker
Providing non-Ponca Native youth attending the event with school incentives

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

Ponca Health Services
Community Health Worker Program
Ponca Health Services

District 3 OSDA

Back to School Gift Cards

This year, District 3 Tribal Council will be sending out 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 3 SDA

Baseball at Haymarket Park

July 24, 2026 | 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 Cleburne Railroaders game! Tickets and dinner will be provided. Doors open at 6:05 pm and game starts at 7:05 pm.

Please RSVP by **July 17** scanning the QR code or using the Formstack **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/saltdogs_2026**.
For more information, contact Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter at 402.805.0883 or Susie Baker at 925.788.0649.

Scan Me!

District 4

Back to School Gift Cards

District 4 Tribal Council is pleased to announce we are providing a Back-to-School gift card for every actively enrolled Ponca student this year. We are wishing you a happy and successful school year!

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Kyle Taylor at ktaylor@poncatribe-ne.gov or Alex Taylor at 402.750.2045.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



Ponca Emergency Management: Summer Safety Tips

Jamie Novacek
Tribal Emergency Services Coordinator

As the weather warms and our Ponca communities spend more time outdoors, Ponca Emergency Management encourages all tribal members and families to take simple steps to stay safe, healthy, and prepared this summer.

Whether you're traveling, enjoying the water, gathering for cultural activities, or working outside, a little preparation can make a big difference.

Stay Safe in the Heat

Nebraska summers can bring high temperatures and humidity. Heat exhaustion can set in quickly, especially for elders, young children, and those working outdoors.

- Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty
- Take frequent breaks in the shade or indoors
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing
- Never leave children or pets inside a parked vehicle

Water Safety for Families

Summer often means swimming, boating, and spending time near rivers, lakes, and splash pads.

Please keep the following in mind:

- Always keep a close eye on children around water – supervision saves lives
- Use life jackets while boating or playing near open water
- Avoid swimming alone and be cautious around fast-moving rivers and creeks

Severe Weather Awareness

Thunderstorms, high winds, and flash floods can strike with little warning.

- Keep a charged phone and weather alerts enabled
- Identify safe shelter locations at home, work, and during travel
- If thunder roars, go indoors – lightning can strike miles from a storm
- Never drive through flooded roads; turn around, don't drown

Wildfire & Outdoor Safety

Dry conditions increase fire risk during summer months.

- Fully extinguish campfires and dispose of cigarettes responsibly
- Maintain defensible space around homes if you live in rural areas
- Report smoke, wildfire, or suspicious activity to local authorities immediately
- When hiking or attending outdoor events, carry water, sunscreen, and basic first-aid items

Health & Community Well-Being

Taking care of ourselves helps take care of our community

- Check in on elders during heat waves or severe weather
- Protect against ticks and mosquitoes by using repellents and checking clothing and pets after being outdoors
- Keep a small emergency kit in your car and home, including medications, water, and a flashlight

Stay Connected

Ponca Emergency Management continues to support tribal members year-round. Follow updates, preparedness tips, and community alerts through tribal communication channels.

We hope everyone enjoys a safe, healthy, and vibrant summer season. If you have questions or would like preparedness resources for your family or department, please reach out to Ponca Emergency Management.

Elder's Committee Meetings

July 6 | 10 am
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

August 7 | 10 am
2523 Woodbine Street | Niobrara, NE

A Relaxing Word Search if You're Too In-Tents

by Angie Rodriguez, Language Instructor

É O P H Y S Ị Í N V É C K U À S L V Ž M W Ú
Á T Z I Ž Á G Z Ú V R Ì J S Đ P Í T C P L Ị
N E W S À Ą Đ R Í S Y F D W É ' Á U Ž É Q E
Š M C Š N É E U Š Í L Ì Í O É C J O N L W R
Ú Ą X A A Z Z N Q Š Á Š Ú Š Z B Ú X Q W E L
À Š S À H L Á V È N Đ H ' W G Ą K K V E Á Ž
G T Q B K Í ' C Ú S O Y Ž Í Z Đ G Á W X I M
Ị ' Ì R Ú M Z É Š Z W T Ú ' Í O Ì È Ž À B A
Ž É C O P À À N E G Á Ì Š H P U W T R G R Á
E Z H A S K Á É Y J À À G R G Í Í É E ' É Ą
H M Í ' N U G É O S K Á S K A C X I G E W T
Á I U D A D G A Í V K ' S M P Ú É Š Í D A S
' D O Í K E E R T L Ì Á É R I Í ' N T A M É
T Ì Á B Í X Ú S M N M Ž ' À Đ K C E L K Á N
Ž Í ' D E N Ú X E S N Ì Š F X B Á Ì A Š S '
Ú A R Í E W G Ú X T Ì É F D Q W B ' B Í K Ž
C Ú Í G Í N N È J ' L Đ Í Š G L Á T E Y È É
U X Ì J R U X P Ž Í Í Ú Đ A Q G E È L Đ B Ą
H A C A Z Ị Đ Š Í Ú É V Ú J Ú C W X P S Ú H
S Á K A Đ I D È Í Ž I P B Ì T É Ị C K ' T Ú
Z È H W À P Y Q U I B A Á A O N Ú N Z Á ' É
Ą É Í M Ž H M Ž K Ú W É È M F D T J Á Š À Ž

M í' Nugé Oská ska – July
Ží'de – Red
Ská' – White
Tú' – Blue
Miká'e – Star
Íškade'gàxe – Festivities
T'íúži – Family
Úhą – To cook, to grill
Wamąskè bút'à – Burger
T'ąhe žįgà – Hotdog
Mąšt'é – Sunny day
Gđezá'zà – Striped
Haská – Flag
Sákađidè – Watermelon
Núxe snì – Popsicle





Cleaning up the Ponca Cemetery



















Members plant Ponca Sacred Corn









Member Mailing Questions



Have questions about tribal mailings (gift cards, checks, etc.)? Please reach out to your District Representatives!

District 1
Angie Starkel
402.922.0436

Patrick Lamoureux
712.899.8563

District 2
Falon McAlpin
402.208.0297

Samantha Gallagher
402.213.2058

District 3
Shanna Carpenter
402.805.0883

Susan (Susie) Baker
925.788.0649

District 4
Alex Taylor
402.750.2045

Kyle Taylor
402.750.4299

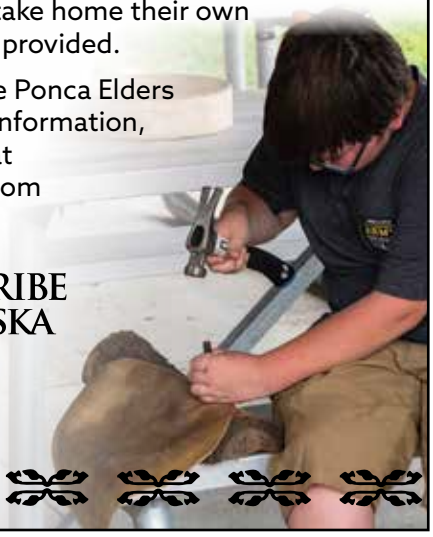
Youth Drum Making

Friday & Saturday | August 7 & 8, 2026
9 am-12 pm both days

Niobrara Powwow Grounds, Next to the old Tannery building - Look for the signs!

Youth ages 8 and up are invited to join Ponca Elder Bob Sweeney for a drum making class. Each child will learn to make and take home their own drum. Materials will be provided.

Event sponsored by the Ponca Elders Committee. For more information, contact Dana Hansen at danalynn1965@gmail.com



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Native youth get wild at Ponca Youth Camp









































Roaming with the herd: a Buffalo update



Emerging Contaminants: how water contaminates can affect your summer plans

Olivia Pospisil
Environmental Hazards Specialist

With summer approaching and families beginning to visit bodies of water for fishing, camping, or other outdoor activities, it is important to do research to make sure the bodies of water you're visiting are safe.

The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (NE DWEE) has a segment on its website dedicated to reporting the different hazards to human health that can occur in lakes that they call "Beach Watch." Two of the most common and illness-inducing bacteria that NE DWEE tests for are Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and E. coli bacteria.

During Beach Watch, they will show which beaches have HABs and E. coli that are above safe exposure levels. If a beach or lake has a "Health Alert," it is recommended to have no contact with that body of water. This includes swimming, kayaking, and paddleboarding.

Join us for future editions for more on these emerging contaminants and ways to reduce their impacts on you, your family, and the environment around us.

For more information, contact the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Environmental Department or visit the NE DWEE's website for their latest Beach Watch at deq-iis.ne.gov/zs/bw/.

Three Sisters Gardening Kits

Youth Council, in collaboration with the Environmental Program, is sending out garden kits to Ponca youth aged 14 to 24 to expand access and knowledge of culturally significant agricultural practices! Each kit includes Ponca Corn, Hupi Pole Beans, and Buttercup Squash seeds, compressed soil pellets, a planting guide, and biodegradable pots.

Kits are limited, so claim your kit by scanning the QR code or visiting **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/three_sisters_kits**. For more information, please contact Megan Baker at baker.megan9519@gmail.com or Olivia Pospisil at opospisil@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Scan Me!



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



Return to your roots

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's
Native American Youth Enhancement Program

Are you a Native youth between the ages of 13-18? An exciting opportunity awaits you! For a limited time, you could earn $100 in incentives and a certificate of completion when you participate in this enriching program. This program is a dynamic path to success, culture, and community. As you move through the program, you'll find many ways to earn incentives that reward your dedication and achievements. We've structured NAYEP into five engaging units:

- ★ **Self-Esteem and Self-Awareness**
- ★ **Native American History**
- ★ **Native American Contributions**
- ★ **Cultural Traditions**
- ★ **Native American Role Models: Past & Present**



Ready to take your first step? Sign up today!

Contact Aubrey Knudsen at aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.gov or at 402.371.8834 ext 2026, or visit us at www.poncatribe-ne.gov/services/education/

(Make sure to include your email and phone number with your application as well as proof of lineal descendancy, or proof of enrollment in another type of Indian program).

Education Deadlines:

HIED - Fall 2026: August 15th, 2026

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 2026 deadline: August 15, 2026
Winter 2026 deadline: November 15, 2026
Spring 2027 deadline: December 15, 2026

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 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 school year is July 31, 2026.

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

Grow Your Own Scholarship

AWARD: Up to $2500.00

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- ☑ Enrolled Ponca members
- ☑ Pursuing a degree/career in the healthcare, mental health, or substance abuse field
- ☑ Currently enrolled in a college (2 or 4-year accredited institution), graduate, or certificate/licensure program
- ☑ 2.5 GPA or higher

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- ☑ An essay explaining how the educational opportunity will be used to help the Tribe
- ☑ Three written character references (Respondents need to be ***non-family members***)
- ☑ A completed financial need form

Scan Me!

To start the application process, scan our QR code or visit our link: **https://www.poncatribe-ne.gov/services/education/grow-your-own-scholarship/**. Applications are due **August 15, 2026**.

This scholarship opportunity is available through the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Education Department.

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NOW AVAILABLE! FREE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

Have you ever wanted to start your own business? Anyone can do it—but there are certain things you need to know first. Fortunately, you can now access a free entrepreneurship program geared specifically for Native Americans, thanks to our partnership with the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC). NICC's Indianpreneurship curriculum provides comprehensive information on the most important aspects of starting a business, including planning, accessing capital, bookkeeping, human resources, problem-solving, and marketing. Equip yourself with the skills you need to take your business idea from daydream to launch. To learn more and enroll, please visit https://www.thenicc.edu/career-services/TCSBA-Indianpreneurship.php.

Nebraska Indian Community College
TCSBA
Indianpreneurship

INDIANPRENEURSHIP®

FREE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE

FACILITATED BY THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INTERESTED? CONTACT
Anthony Warrior
sanawarrior@thenicc.edu
402-241-5943

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 June email them at aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.gov or pate@poncatribe-ne.gov.



NATIVE ARTISTS WANTED!

CALL FOR NATIVE & INDIGENOUS ARTISTS, MAKERS, AND CRAFTSMEN

The Niobrara Market is seeking Native and Indigenous artists, artisans, and makers interested in selling their handcrafted items through a consignment partnership.

We are looking for a variety of authentic, high-quality items, including:
- Beadwork
- Jewelry
- Quilts and textiles
- Traditional and contemporary artwork
- Pottery and ceramics
- Woodworking and carvings
- Cultural gifts and décor
- Apparel and accessories
- Books, music, and other Native-created products



Why Consign with Niobrara Market?
✓ Reach customers year-round
✓ Showcase your work in a retail setting
✓ Support Native entrepreneurship and economic development
✓ Keep ownership of your inventory until it sells
✓ Gain exposure to visitors from across the region

More details?
Contact Rheadina at
rfoster@osniponca.com

CredibleMind

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Start Your Wellness Journey Today

About Us

CredibleMind is the free online platform where you can learn new skills, understand your own mental health, take a mental health assessment and browse a library of thousands of mental wellbeing resources.

Benefits

Confidential
Available 24/7
Personalized
Expert-Vetted

PEDCO.crediblemind.com



PONCA PATHWAYS
THRIFT AND CAREER CENTER

SUPPORT NATIVE SOVERIGNTY
SELF-DETERMINATION
AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO THE PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA TO HELP FUND JOB TRAINING, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, FOOD SECURITY AND MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAMS

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PONCA PATHWAYS THRIFT

Save 20% on your first online purchase!

Hunting for that perfect, timeless thrift store find *and* supporting an iconic cause just got better!

We've made exciting updates to PoncaThrift.com to create faster, easier, user-friendlier shopping for everyone. Save more $$$$, and do more to help the world, simply by assembling creative new looks through our virtual thrift store!

What's New?

- Expanded inventory with fresh items added daily
- New, curated collections to help you shop by style & category
- Easier navigation and improved browsing experience
- Featured daily deals, staff picks, and last chance markdowns
- More one-of-a-kind finds and vintage treasures

poncathrift.com 402-405-3773

PEDCO Participates in Give to Lincoln Day

On May 28, the Ponca Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO) manned a booth at the Give to Lincoln Day outdoor expo, providing informational handouts and a demonstration of the powerful career exploration technology used by PEDCO participants.

Give to Lincoln Day is a grassroots, community-led fundraiser for 501(c)(3) nonprofits based in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Organized by the Lincoln Community Foundation, this increasingly popular event gives nonprofits a powerful platform to promote their mission, educate the public, and attract new donors.



Although the fundraiser happens virtually, some lucky participants, including PEDCO, were afforded free exhibition space in Tower Square – a vibrant, highly trafficked area of downtown Lincoln – to showcase their work. Out of 497 nonprofits joining Give to Lincoln Day online, PEDCO was one of only 66 chosen to participate in-person at the Tower Square exposition.

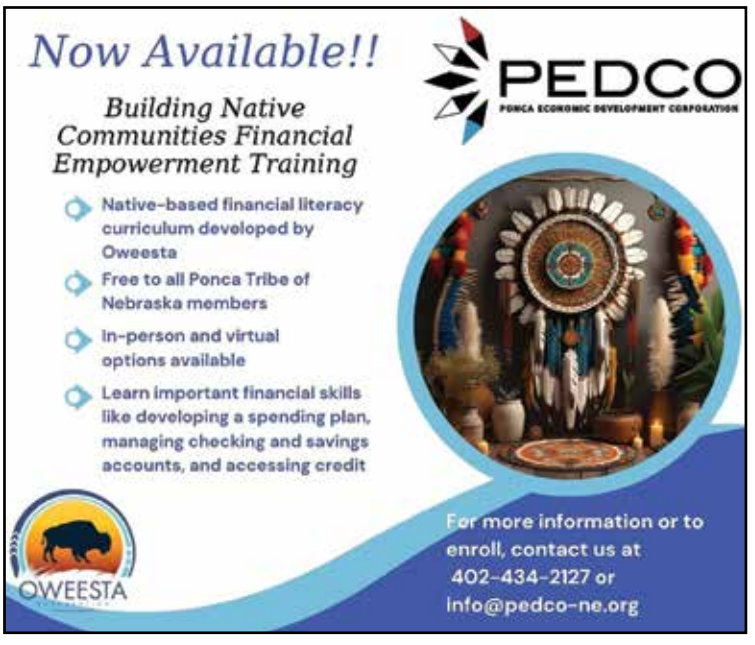
During the crowded outdoor event, PEDCO Director Greg Moser and Osni Ponca Office Manager Troy Spencer spent the day speaking one-on-one with the public, distributing flyers about PEDCO programs, and meeting fellow nonprofits. Throughout the day, PEDCO connected with 44 attendees and gained five new donors who might not have heard about the organization otherwise.

"It was truly an honor to be chosen to showcase our work alongside so many other worthy nonprofits," Moser said. "Give to Lincoln Day was inspiring, humbling, and a great reminder of our collective power to make good things happen here."

A follow-up email from Michelle L. Paulk of the Lincoln Community Foundation confirmed that Give to Lincoln Day this year garnered 28,115 individual donations totaling over $11 million—the most successful giving day so far, Paulk said.







Meet our Ponca Health Services Providers



Dr. Rebecce Lechner, APRN, FNP-C
Chief Medical Officer | Ponca Health Services – Lincoln | Lincoln, NE

Rebecca Lechner is an accomplished healthcare professional with a deep connection to her community. As the Chief Medical Officer of the Clinical Services Department at Ponca Health Services, she plays a crucial role in delivering comprehensive care. With a Doctorate in Family Practice from Nebraska Methodist College and board certification through the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Rebecca is well-equipped to manage the health needs of individuals across all stages of life. Her 14+ years of healthcare experience span various settings, including family practice, emergency care, hospitalist work, long-term care, and health coaching. This broad experience has shaped her approach to patient care, which emphasizes wellness and collaboration.

Rebecca is deeply connected to her roots as a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. Her sense of gratitude for the resources and support she received from the tribe while pursuing her education drives her dedication to giving back to the community and advocate for the improvement of healthcare access and quality.



Halley Friedman, APRN, FNP-C
Family Nurse Practitioner | Ponca Health Services – Lincoln | Lincoln, NE

Originally from Raymond, NE, Halley brings more than 15 years of nursing and nurse practitioner experience to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska team. Throughout her career, she has traveled across the United States, seeking opportunities to grow both professionally and personally while serving diverse communities. Halley began her nursing career as an RN at Johns Hopkins in inner-city Baltimore before completing her Family Nurse Practitioner degree and relocating to New Mexico. There, she lived and worked on the Navajo Nation, completing a Nurse Practitioner Residency Program serving the Dine community. She later continued her work as a Nurse Practitioner with Indian Health Services and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Outside of work, Halley enjoys gardening, hiking, art, reading, cooking, and fostering animals. Raised on a Nebraska farm, she has always loved animals and currently shares her home with her two cats, Gideon and FryBread.



Debra Hoag, APRN, WHNP-BC, FNP-C
Family Nurse Practitioner & Women's Health Nurse Practitioner
Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center | Omaha, NE

With over 31 years in healthcare, Deb Hoag brings extensive experience and heartfelt dedication to her patients. She spent 21 years as a bedside nurse in long-term care, medical-surgical, pediatrics, and labor delivery, followed by a year serving as a community visiting nurse.

Deb earned her Master's in Women's Health (2014) and later her Doctorate in Family Practice (2021) – both from the University of Cincinnati. She is board certified through the National Certification Corporation and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Her passion lies in preventive and holistic care, focusing on proactive wellness and collaboration with colleagues to deliver evidence-based, patient-centered care. She has a strong background in women's health, including gynecological care, hormone management, in-fertility, and obstetrics, and is enjoying expanding her practice to include family medicine.



Ronette Lammers, FNP-C
Family Nurse Practitioner | Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center | Omaha, NE

Ronette Lammers is a dedicated Family Nurse Practitioner with 25 years of comprehensive health care experience. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees of Nursing from Creighton University in Omaha. As a registered nurse, she gained six years of experience in hospital medicine across intensive care, emergency services, pediatric, medical surgical, and physical rehabilitation settings. For the last few years, she has been serving patients as a Family Nurse Practitioner in both Family Practice and Urgent Care, providing comprehensive care for acute and chronic conditions.

She has collaborated to develop clinical protocols and improve outcomes for patients with diabetes, and she previously spearheaded the development of a Hepatitis C treatment program within a Family Practice setting, expanding access to care for vulnerable populations. Ronette values forming meaningful connections with her patients and enjoys empowering them to live their best life. She is dedicated to practicing evidence based care with a strong emphasis on preventive services and lifestyle modifications to help patients achieve long term wellness.



Jackie Schantz, FNP-C
Family Nurse Practitioner | Ponca Hills Health & Wellness Center | Norfolk, NE

Jackie Schantz is a Family Nurse Practitioner that graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She also completed her bachelor's in nursing science through UNMC. She enjoys taking care of and getting to know families and building relationships with her patients. Her desire for patients is to be proactive in their health to prevent and limit chronic disease, allowing for maximum quality of life. Her practicum experience includes primary care, critical access medicine, pediatrics, and women's health. Prior to being a nurse practitioner, she was a registered nurse for 10 years working in critical care, ER, med-surg, pre-operative and recovery, family practice, and orthopedics. In her free time, she enjoys farming with her family, running, singing, and being active in her church.



Susanna Little Elk, FNP-C
Family Nurse Practitioner | Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center | Omaha, NE

Susanna is a Family Nurse Practitioner dedicated to providing excellent and compassionate care for every patient, in every encounter. With 15 years of nursing experience, she brings a diverse clinical background to our community. Her career has included work in orthopedic surgery, the emergency department, urgent care, and a family birthing center—experiences that have shaped her ability to provide comprehensive care across the lifespan. As a nurse practitioner, she has continued serving patients in urgent care and Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT), further strengthening her skills in diagnosing and managing a wide range of acute and chronic conditions. Outside of the clinic, she enjoys life with her husband, Mark, who serves as a pastor. Together they love partnering in ministry, traveling, entertaining friends and family, trying new restaurants, and spending quality time with their loved ones.



Dr. Paul Rozeboom, MD, FAAP
Pediatrician
Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center | Omaha, NE
Ponca Health Services – Lincoln | Lincoln, NE

Dr. Rozeboom has been a pediatrician for over 35 years. He received his B.A. in Biology from Drake University in Des Moines, went to medical school at The University of Iowa in Iowa City, and completed his Pediatric residency at Blank Children's Hospital (Iowa Methodist Medical Center) in Des Moines. Prior to joining PHS in 2020, he practiced as a general pediatrician in Wisconsin, Minnesota, & Iowa. He also worked as a locum tenens pediatrician in 2016 at Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital on the Crow Reservation in Montana; this experience led to his continued desire to work with the Native American population and his ultimate decision to join PHS. He is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.



Maranda Hamilton, APRN, CPNP-PC
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center | Omaha, NE
Ponca Health Services – Lincoln | Lincoln, NE

Maranda is a dedicated Pediatric Nurse Practitioner who earned her Master's Degree in 2023 from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, specializing in Pediatric Primary Care. Maranda brings over 13 years of diverse nursing experience in skilled nursing, home health, and pediatric primary care. Her clinical interests include well-child exams, acute and chronic disease management, and preventive health education. She is especially passionate about child development, health promotion, and expanding pediatric outreach through patient and family centered education.



Dale Miller, PA-C
Physician Assistant, On-call

Early in his career, Dale spent five years practicing Family Medicine and Obstetrics/Gynecology at West Holt Memorial Hospital and Clinic in O'Neill and Atkinson, NE. He then dedicated more than 30 years to Emergency Medicine, providing care at Bryan East Medical Center, Lincoln General Hospital, and CHI Health St. Elizabeth. Throughout his emergency medicine career, Dale also served patients in a variety of clinical settings, including Memorial Clinic in Seward, Urban Indian Health Clinic, Autumn Ridge Internal Medicine, Celerion Research, and Bryan Urgent Care.

For the past three years, Dale has continued serving patients part-time with PHS. With decades of experience caring for individuals and families across Nebraska, Dale remains passionate about providing compassionate, high-quality healthcare.

Behavioral Health's Summer Fun Fest





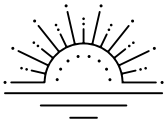




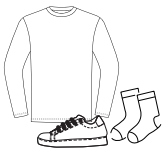
STOP THE BITE!



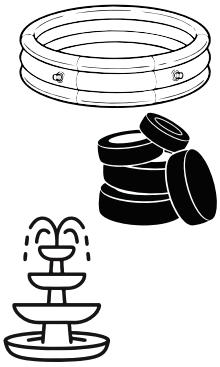
Use an EPA-registered insect repellent when spending time outside such as those with DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane diol, or 2-undecanone.



Limit time outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.



Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, shoes and socks when outside.



Reduce mosquito breeding areas around your home:

- Dump small wading pools daily and maintain swimming pools properly.
- Clear debris, weeds and litter from drainage ways.
- Change water in birdbaths weekly and pet bowls daily.
- Store tires, buckets and containers where they can't collect water.
- Fill in yard low spots.
- Maintain garden ponds and fountains and always keep water flowing.

Chief Standing Bear Remembrance Fun Run











Mobile Health Unit Coming to Sioux City

July 22 | 9 am – 2 pm
Sioux City Offices | 125 6th St | Sioux City, IA

Ponca Health Services will have the Mobile Health Unit at the Sioux City Office for services! Appointments will be available for the following services:

- Primary dental care services
- Primary care services
- Mental health screening assessments

For medical appointments, please call 402.733.3612.
For dental appointments, please call 402.733.1325.







Ponca Tribal Court: Helping domestic violence survivors during times of crisis

Carrie Gibbs
Domestic Violence Court Advocate

The summer months are upon us, and with them come the stress of warmer temperatures, kids being out of school for summer break, and financial worries about making a dollar stretch for summer activities, day care costs, groceries, meals, and snacks for the kids.

Domestic violence situations and cases escalate during the summer months. For those experiencing domestic violence, remember that there is always hope and help is available.

Ponca Tribal Court

Ponca Tribal Court is a federally recognized Court that is committed to providing fair, affordable, and open access to justice for an enrolled member of any federally recognized Indian Tribe residing within the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Service Delivery Area. Tribal members can navigate legal matters effectively while maintaining sovereignty.

Ponca Tribal Court consists of a Tribal Court Judge, Court Administrator, Clerk of Courts, and a Court Services Specialist. There is also a Ponca Appellate Court consisting of 3 Justices.

Regular court hearings are scheduled once per month. Other hearings, such as trials, are scheduled as needed. Tribal court hearings are held in person and on Zoom. Court hearings may be held anywhere in the PTN SDA, but alternate between Lincoln, Norfolk, and Omaha on a regular basis.

Court hearings can be scary, even when there is a security guard in the Courtroom. It may help to have an advocate to support you during the court process.

Domestic Violence Court Advocates

Domestic Violence Court Advocates can assist you with filing a protection, stalking, or harassment order through the Ponca Tribal Court. DV Court Advocates may attend court hearings with survivors to provide support.

Additionally, you may file documents on your own through the Ponca Tribal Court. You may also wish to contact Legal Aid of Nebraska's Native American Program to see if they are able to represent you in the Ponca Tribal Court.

For more information, you can contact the following:

Court Advocates
402-315-2760
531-248-3030
Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30pm

Ponca Tribal Court
531-371-1628
Monday – Friday
7:30 am – 6:00 pm

PTN Domestic Violence Program

Domestic Violence staff members can provide you with resources or help. To be eligible for DV services, you must have experienced a recent DV victimization, stalking, harassment, or abuse.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, help is available through the PTN Domestic Violence Program to access the support or resources needed.



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

LAW AND ORDER CODE REVISION
Discussion on August 17, 2026 beginning at 4:30 p.m.
During Tribal Council Meeting

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

The Ponca Tribal Council will be reviewing proposed revisions to Title 2 of the Law and Order Code. The revisions are being considered because the Law & Justice Committee wants to ensure that the numbering of the Code is uniform throughout the Code.

The revisions to Title 2 that are being considered include but are not limited to the following:

- Changing the format from Rules to Sections to conform to the Code
- Added a Section on Waiver of Service, Sealing and Unsealing Court Records, and Burdens of Proof; Standards of Review, Standard of Review, and Certifications of Question of Law
- Requires legal counsel to file a notice of appearance or file a pleading or motion
- Expanded the section on Motions and Stay or Injunction Pending Appeal

A complete copy of the proposed revisions is available at the tribal offices, or on the Ponca Website, www.poncatribe-ne.gov or one may be obtained by contacting Jan Colwell, Tribal Council Secretary at 402-857-3391.

There will be a discussion by Tribal Council that is open for public comment on August 17, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard.

Written comments will be accepted until August 10, 2026. The written comments may be emailed to janc@poncatribe-ne.gov or mailed to

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

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 7/1/2026

Adams, Elijah James
Adams, Zachary Thomas
Anthony, Jr., Steven Scott
Arellano, Carlos Montana
Armstrong, Tricia Lea
Ashrun, Oriana Mae
Aungie,
Mariah Keeley
Shaye Madison
Bachmeier, Tristan Chad
Bagent, Wayne Orval
Bair, Wesley David
Baker, Cayden Nathaniel
Baker-Ferguson,
Jared Riley
Bear, Cashlyn Rae
Bear, Joshua Gilbert
Beaver, Jason Chaska
Becker, Jr.,
Anthony Arnold
Becker, Sr.,
Anthony Arnold
Becker, Tyller Randell
Bell, Darian Patrick
Bell, Shaunè Kay
Bennett, Erica Paige
Birdhead,
William Randolph
Blair, Hunter Wo Day Leon
Bligh, Timothy Lee
Blowe, Dominick Adams
Blowe, Isaiah Fredrick
Blowe, Tyrone Richard
Boettger,
Dakota Birdhead
Bogacz, Brenda Kay
Bonge, Stevie Lorene
Bonge, Todd Joseph
Boyd, Myron Ralph
Boyer, Berlin N.
Bridgeman,
Aiden Nathaniel
Brown, J. Wesley
Brownrigg, Steven Francis
Buffalo Chief,
Uriah Jordan
Burston, Sandra Lee
Carlson, Emma Rose
Carter, Amber Lynn
Chwalowski,
Kaitlin Martika
Cournoyer, Ellis Emery
Courtright, Michael Todd
Cox, Nickolas Duane
Crouse, David Lee
Cutshall, Katline James
Da Moude, Deborah Kay
Danielson, Daniel James
Dedicos, Heather Maria
Drapeaux, Juston Lee
Droescher,
Savannah Jo Anne
Eckley, Lane Emory
Eckley, Leigha Irene
Eilers, Richard James
Evans, Kareem Antwon
Fierro, Brandon Michael
Fink, Alissa Rose
Flagg, I I I., George Albert
Flowers, Joseph
Foley, Michael Joseph
Fossum, Tanner Allen
Freeman, Xavier Lee
Glenn, Brittany Leeann
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
Haahr, Anneliese Teresa
Hendren, Adavia Gabrielle
Hennek, Gail Howe
Hocking-Gosnell, Zalla C.
Honeycutt,
Andrew James
Hope, Dorothea Jo Ann
Horine, Ashley Danielle
Horse, Alexander Bruce
Howe, Richard H.
Humphreys, Belinda Kay
Jeppesen, Zachary Lee
Kellogg,
Mardale Eddie Wayne
Kelso, James Alan
King, Gavin Michael
Knudsen, Crystal Mae
Knudsen, Karen Faye
Knudsen, Miles Henry
Koenig, Jody Alan Jo
Krueger, Annette Marie
Kyles, Jarred Joseph
LaPointe,
Alejandro Jauquine
LaPointe, Robert James
Laravie, Jr., Steve Alan
Laravie, Justin Matthew
Laravie, Latoya Faith
Lea, Tychicus James
Leach, Cora Mae
Leach, Isaiah Marcus
Leet, Ayden Alexander
Leet, Elijah Antonio
Lerew Jr, Zachariah Ray
LeRoy, Sophia Storm
Lieb, Sylas Vittorio
Lindenberg,
David Charles
Little, Jeromy Todd
Loftis, Timothy James
Lopez, Jr., Juan Francisco
Maben, Jessica Paige
Mann II, Steven Michael
Mann, Desireè Leann
Mann, Sydney Desireè
Mategko, Janet Louise
Mategko, Lisa Louise
Mategko, Michael Steven
Matthews, Jett Haden
McGrath, Bryan Thomas
McGrath, Daniel Patrick
McGraw, Justin Leviticus
McKeen, Juanita Rose
Mercier, Jade Sharice
Meyer, Earl Levine
Moniz, Cherish Toshia
Mullen, Deven Miles
Muscutt, Elias Gordon
Myers, Doron Helmut
Olmer, Dakota Michael
O'Meara #807584,
Joseph Christopher
O'Meara, David Joseph
O'Rear, Makenna Shay
Peck, Brandalynn
Peck, Tyler Duane
Phillips, Julianne Esauna
Phongsavat,
Tia Arianna
Picotte - Felde,
Diamond Rose
Pierce, Raychel Marie
Pilcher,
Francisco Nico Lee
Polly, Rachael Anne
Prichard, Joseph John
Prunty, Austin Joe
Quintana Jr, Arthur Jose
Raymond, Joseph Allen
Rich, Mitch Andrew
Rivera, Dani Lyn
Roberts, Marquitta Ruby
Rowe, Crystle Anette
Rulo, Byron
Russell, Kristina Anne
Rybicki, David Robert
Sarton, Gwendolyn Lee
Schmidt,
John Thomas Carl
Scuderi, Jana Marie
Sherman,
Brandon Eugene
Sherman, Cody Lee
Sherman, David Alan
Sherman,
Harold Dewayne
Sherman, John Glenn
Sherman, Michael Ray
Sherman, Mitchell Everett
Sherman, Robert Le Roy
Sherman, Savannah
Sherman, Tristan Ray
Smith VII, William Thomas
Smith, Donald Eugene
Smith, Stephanie Rae
Smith, VI, William Thomas
Snoozy, Ben Michael
Solano, Michael Ray
Spencer, Peyton Thunder
Standsblack, Marko Tulio
Stastny, Evan Matthew
Stastny, Rachel Colleen
Steadman, Jennifer Renae
Stegman,
Mi'a Miwasa Nevaeh
Stuczynski, Drake Keegan
Suverkrubbe,
Nathan Fernando
Suverkrubbe, Saje Moon
Teboe, Temperance Tayen
Thomas, II,
Scott Richard Herbert
Thomas, Jenny Anne
Thomas, Natana Lynn
Thomas, Robin Diane
Torrez, Jr.,
Lawrence DeWayne
Treichler, Jasmine Dawn
Tubbs #69942,
Steven Kyle
Upton, Parker Allan
Vanderlinden,
Desiree Lynn
VanDervoort, Lucius Kain
Vaughan, Linda Lou
Veals, Clifford James
Velder Jr., Jason Lee
Voss, Joshua Le Roy
Voss, Michael Roy
Warner, Stormy Renee
Waters, Deon Koleen
Williams, Andrea Michelle
Wolff, Toby Timber
Wood, Sara Ethel
Wright, Alina Lee
Wright, Asheena Lee
Wright, Cherita Alberta
Wright,
Cruz Montgomery
Wright, Howard Floyd

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

(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.

CLASS OF 2026

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska would like to honor all of our 2026 graduates. Congratulations on all of your hard work and accomplishments!



Dakota Anderson

Utah Tech University
Bachelor's Degree in Marketing

Future Plans: Looking for a position in Marketing or Product Photography

Family: Travis Anderson & Cassandra Johns (Parents)



DaShawn Malik Barfield

Northwest High School

Future Plans: Attend Iowa Western to further my education by receiving a degree in Business Management

DaShawn, words can't express how proud we are of you. There were times when the road wasn't easy and moments when graduating seemed out of reach, but you didn't give up. You kept pushing forward, worked hard, and showed incredible determination. This diploma represents more than completing school—it represents your perseverance, growth, and strength. We are proud of the obstacles you overcame and the person you've become. Keep believing in yourself, because this is just the beginning. Congratulations, DaShawn—we love you and celebrate all you've accomplished.



Ava Crapo

West Salem High School

Future Plans: Attend the University of Oregon i and pursue a degree in business law

Family: Micah & Melissa Crapo (Parents), Arlynn Knudsen (Grandparent), Sandra Knudsen (Grandparent), Micah Jr., Skyler & Joya Crapo (Siblings), Aubrey Knudsen (Aunt), Amanda Knudsen (Aunt), Arlo Knudsen (Uncle), Roman Knudsen (Uncle),

Ava, we are so proud of the woman you've become. You've overcome more than most at such a young age, and you've done it with strength, grace, and heart. Seeing you step into your future, with so many possibilities ahead, fills us with hope and excitement. The world is truly yours. No matter where life takes you, know that we are always here if you need us — cheering you on, every step of the way. And always remember how deeply loved you are by so many. Love you forever our honeybun



Malakai Everhart

Pineview High School

Future Plans: To graduate from an University and be a phenomenal drummer for a rock band

Family: Bonnie & Kiley Everhart (Parents), James Christiansen (Grandfather), Beverly & Gideon Everhart (Siblings)

Malakai - Congrats from your family, from Uncles, Aunts, and cousins. You have a beautiful spirit and surely Jesus has gifted you with many talents to serve the common good of mankind and to share around the world His love.
– James Christiansen



Lovely J. Rodriguiez

San Marcos High School

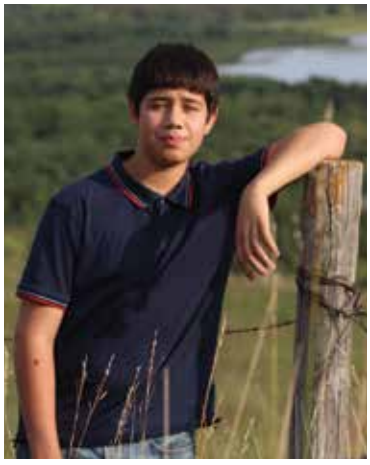
Family: Channing Walker & Jesse Rodriguez (Parents), Calvin & Derrina Jackson (Grandparents), Debra Walker (Great-Grandmother)



Madison Sprenger

Grand Canyon University
Bachelor of Science in Marketing & Advertising

Congratulations to my daughter, Madi on graduating college. Watching your hard work, dedication, and perseverance has led to this accomplishment. I have always known you were destined for great things, not because life is easy, but because of your strength, determination, and heart to overcome any challenge. This is just the beginning of all the wonderful things ahead. I have confidence that you will continue to succeed. I love you!
– Mom



Edgar Swinarski

Omaha North High

Future Plans: Joining the Army this June

Family: Bertha Knudsen (Grandmother), Mark & Kate Swinarski (Parents), Alicia, Alexa, and Lillian (Siblings)

We are so proud of you. The Army is a big commitment but we know that you will enjoy the challenges and adventure.

MEMBERS NEEDED

PONCA GAMING ENTERPRISE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tribal Council is accepting letter of interest and resumes for a term that will be expiring on April 2, 2026. All Directors of the Enterprise must meet the following requirements:

- Be at least twenty-five (25) years of age
- Either (1) possess a Bachelor's Degree in business or a related field or possess a high school diploma (or a General Equivalency Diploma) and have at least 5 years of business, financial, legal, government contracting, tribal government or industry experience
- Not have been convicted of, or plead guilty or no contest to, any felony in any jurisdiction
- Not have been convicted of, or plead guilty or no contest to, or otherwise found or admitted to committing any crime or civil violation in any jurisdiction involving tax evasion, tax fraud, theft, or embezzlement, of moral turpitude, or against the Tribe
- Be willing and able to perform the Director's duties in compliance with the Business Entities Code and all other laws of the Tribe
- Not be an employee of the Enterprise, provided that an employee may be selected as a Director on the condition the employee shall resign as an employee of the Enterprise upon commencement of service as a Director
- Obtain or be able to obtain any and all required licenses and authorizations from all gaming regulatory bodies with jurisdiction over the activities of the Enterprise
- Any other qualifications of Directors set forth in the Business Entities Code.

If you are interested in serving, please forward your letter of interest and resume to the Ponca Tribal Council, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, Nebraska 68760 or via e-mail to crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov .You may request a copy of the Charter of the Ponca Gaming Enterprise from your local Tribal Office. It is also accessible via the web at www.poncatribe-ne.org. **Deadline to apply is July 13, 2026.**

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.

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 their term, they 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, resume, and application 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 17, 2026.

MEMBERS NEEDED

ELDER'S COMMITTEE

Tribal Council will be accepting applications for the Elders Committee to fill the unexpired term ending on 1/13/29. The vacant position is for District 3.

The mission of this Committee is to advocate for improved comprehensive services and provide the leadership needed to meet the needs of our elders (55 and older) by planning and advocating for an aging population in a manner designated to protect and improve their quality of life while maintaining individual dignity.

Currently a stipend in the amount of $250 is paid per meeting plus mileage reimbursement (not to exceed 410 miles at the govt. rate). The Elders Committee Charter is posted on the website (poncatribe-ne.org) and in the office sites or you can request a copy be mailed to you. Background checks will be conducted.

Applicants must submit letter of interest, resume, and required application form to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov. A background check is required. **Deadline for applications is July 20, 2026.**

PEDCO BOARD

There will be three positions open due to terms expiring. Applications are now being accepted. The general mission of the Corporation is:

- To assist the members of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to become more employable, including through technical assistance, training, and development of skills
- To increase members marketable employment and business skills and proficiency in order for them to achieve better employment and economic opportunities
- 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
- 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.org 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:

- Need not be a resident living on Tribal lands or within the territory of the Tribe
- Must meet all requirements set forth in the Business Entities Code and any other law of the Tribe applicable to the Corporation
- 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, resume, and required application form 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 4, 2026.

OSNI PONCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tribal Council is accepting applications for the Osni Ponca Board of Directors due to three 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:

- Be at least twenty-five (25) years of age
- 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
- Have no felony convictions
- 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.

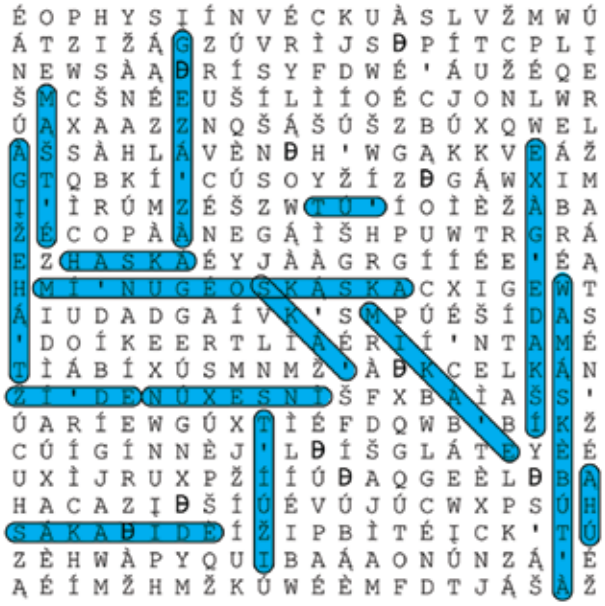
Applicants must submit a letter of interest, resume, and required application form to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail to crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov. A background check is required. **Deadline for application is August 4, 2026.**

POWWOW COMMITTEE

Tribal Council will be accepting applications for the Powwow Committee due to two terms expiring.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Powwow Committee is in place to plan, organize, prepare for, facilitate, and host the Annual Ponca Powwow and Restoration Powwow. Committee members are paid a $250 stipend per meeting plus mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles round trip.

Applicants must submit letter of interest, resume, and required application form to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov. A background check is required. **Deadline for applications is September 1, 2026.**





Word search answers from page 4

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 8th of each month. In the event the 8th falls on a weekend, submissions are due the Friday before.
All submissions of a political nature are subject to Tribal Council approval. Send to Shea VanCleave, sthompson@poncatribe-ne.gov.
See or print the newsletter archives in full color on the web site at: www.poncatribe-ne.gov