

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR-TUUYON NATHANIEL S. PORTER

15A BAY POE, NAMBE PUEBLO, NM 87506

T: (505)455-4410 FAX: (505)455-2038

NAMBE PUEBLO.ORG

HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-5PM

CLOSED FOR LUNCH 12PM-1PM

NAMBÉ NEWSLETTER

APRIL – KAAWADE

P'OE 5, 2024

"SPREADING OF LEAVES
MONTH"

Transfer Station Hours:

Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday
10am-5pm. Lunch from 1pm-2pm.

Wellness Center Hours:

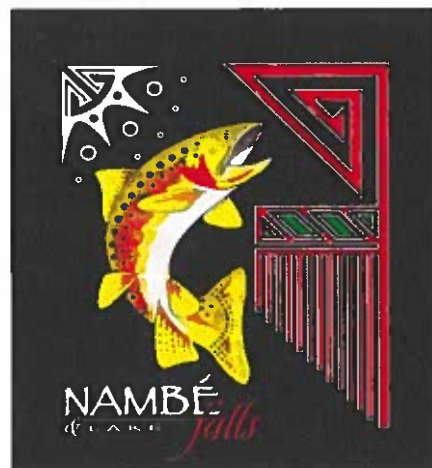
Monday-Thursday 11am-7pm
Friday-8am-5pm & Saturday 8am-12pm

Nambe Lake & Falls Hours:

Thursday-Sunday 7am-7pm

Nambe Pueblo Administration is open Monday-Friday from 8AM – 5PM, we close daily for lunch from 12PM – 1PM. Please call ahead and make an appointment with the department you need assistance from. Thank you for your cooperation, stay safe and take care.
For appointments call (505)455-4410.

Tribal Council meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month. If you want to be added to the agenda to address the Council, please call Onnie at least a week prior to the meeting at 505-455-4429. Thank you.



Fishing Permits

Fishing Permits are available for purchase at the Governor's Office. They are \$10 for the 2024 season. This year it is open for all Enrolled Tribal Members. First you will go to Kim in Accounting to pay her then bring your receipt to Taya and she will issue you a permit. Thank you!

April
IS BOTH

CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH

and

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

Mondays- Beading Class w/
Frank Loretto, 5-7pm @ TRS
Basecamp

Mondays, Wednesdays- Tai Chi
11:30-12 @ Wellness Center and
BOOT CAMP 6pm @ Wellness
Center

Tuesday's- Gentle Yoga 12-
12:45pm @ Yurts

Tuesdays, Thursdays- Yoga 6pm
@ Wellness Center

Thursday's- A.A 6pm @ The Yurts
4/8- Total Solar Eclipse 11-1pm @
Wellness Center/Park

4/9- Tewa Circle Zoom 5:30-
6:30pm

4/9- Acudetox 12-3pm TRS
Basecamp

4/10- Family Literacy Night @
5:30-6:30pm

4/15- Book Club 11am @ Library

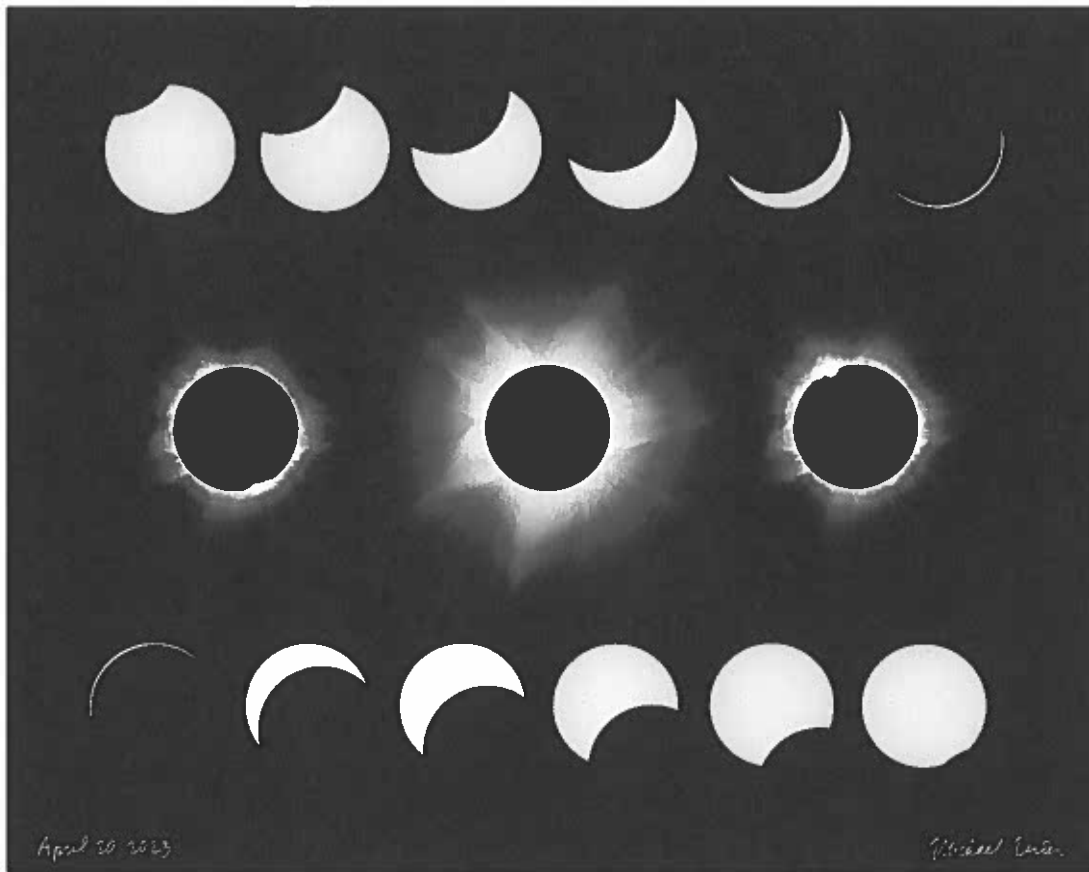
4/19- Cultural Film 12,1:30 & 3

4/23-Tewa Circle Zoom 5:30-
6:30pm

4/26- Movie Night 6:30 @
Wellness Center Kung Fu Panda 4

****IF YOU DID NOT MAKE IT TO THE IRRIGATION MEETING, IRRIGATION SCHEDULES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OR CALL AND ONE CAN BE EMAILED TO YOU.****

Total Solar Eclipse Event



Join us on April 8, 2024 to view the Total Solar Eclipse! There will be food, fun outdoor activities and an incentive for the first 50 people to fill out our questionnaire. We will also be giving out the Eclipse Sunglasses to those that attend.

Date: April 8, 2024

Time: 11:00am-1:00pm

Location: Wellness Center and Buffalo Range Park

Family Literacy Night

Wednesday April 10, 2024

From 5:30-6:30pm

ALL FAMILIES ARE WELCOME TO COME AND JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN. EVERYONE IS GIVEN A BOOK TO READ AND TAKE HOME. GET CREATIVE ON AN ART PROJECT AND ENJOY A HOMEMADE DINNER. (PLEASE REMEMBER CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.)



Book Club

Nambe Pueblo Library will be hosting Book Club on every other Monday at the Nambe Pueblo Library (located at Wellness Center, upstairs).

Next meeting: April 15, 2024

Time: 11 am

Location: Nambe Pueblo Library (Wellness Center)

If you are interested in joining please contact Victoria (vvigil@nambepueblo.org) or Stephanie (spena@nambepueblo.org) (505) 455-4424 at the Library for more information.



Tewa Language Program

April - Kaa Wade P'oe
Spreading of Leaves Month



Beading Classes with Frank

Loretto

Monday evenings, 5pm – 7pm

Tewa Roots Society Teen Center
Basecamp

Bi tsuu waweh heda we saawondit
hawi a pa e de.
(come & create something
beautiful!)

Sewing Session for April 2024

TBD: 4/20 & 4/27
= Dates May Change =

Multipurpose Room

Project: Nunu Aa (Ladies Under Skirts) &
Pu Yahweh' (Men's G-String)

Cultural Film Showing

4/19/2024

Show times; 12pm, 1:30pm, & 3pm

= Native America Season 2, Warrior Spirit =
Across Native America, warrior traditions support
incredible athletes and connect people to combat,
games and glory. Celebrate and honor the men and
women who live and breathe this legacy today.

Multipurpose Room



Tewa Circle via Zoom

4/09/24 & 4/23/24

5:30pm – 6:30pm

= Email or Call for Zoom



Starting in April

Tai Chi

Certified Instructors Linea Jagles &
Elias Rodriguez
Recertified Instructor Victoria Martinez

Mondays & Wednesdays

11:30 am – 12pm

Multipurpose Room

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS TO PREVENT FALLS



- Tai Chi is an easy and fun way to reduce arthritis pain and also prevent falls.
- It is a great way to improve health and fitness no matter how old or active you are.
- You will get stronger and have better balance when you participate in the program regularly.
- You can find a local/online Tai Chi for Arthritis class by contacting ORG X at website, phone, email.

The 3 Principles of Tai Chi:

Movement Control

Move slowly, keeping a mind-body connection



Body Structure

Build core strength, improve posture and balance



Internal Components

Loosen tense Joints



ORG
Logo

TaiChiForHealth.org

505-455-4417, vmartinez@nambepueblo.org



TEWA ROOTS SOCIETY

Recovery Through Mindful Connection
& Empowerment

STRENGTHS-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMMING

Basecamp - Teen Prevention Program

We are currently in our Spring Cohort!

Registration is limited to 12 teen participants per season:

- If you are a local native teen and are interested, please go to www.tewarootssociety.com/forms.html and submit a "Basecamp Waitlist" form

contact: jovita@tewarootssociety.com

Cultivating Resilient and Empowered Warriors (C.R.E.W.)

We are currently accepting program requests!

If you would like to request a therapeutic adventure program for your staff, youth group, or recovery group, please go to www.tewarootssociety.com/forms.html and submit an "Adventure Program Request" form

contact: marquel@tewarootssociety.com

Clinical Services

Tewa Roots Society clinicians are accepting new clients!

If you or a loved one need clinical care, please go to www.tewarootssociety.com/forms.html and submit a "Client Referral Form"

contact: sam@tewarootssociety.com

We offer

Therapeutic-Based Arts

- ART THERAPY
- STUDIO RECORDING
- LIVE SOUND PERFORMANCE
- FILM & PODCASTING
- DIGITAL STORYTELLING
- DIGITAL NARRATIVE THERAPY
- DIGITAL MEDIA TRAINING

Therapeutic Adventure

- BREATHWORK
- DISC GOLF
- FISHING
- HIKING
- KAYAKING
- CLIMBING
- SNOWSHOEING
- PAINTBALL

Clinical Services

- INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING
- FAMILY COUNSELING
- ADVENTURE THERAPY
- ECO-PSYCHOLOGY
- CLINICAL CASE MANAGEMENT
- MOBILE COUNSELING OFFICE
- TELEHEALTH

For general program inquiries, please email: contactus@tewarootssociety.com

FREE SELF-CARE EVENT IN NAMBÉ OWINGEH



Tewa
Roots
Society

Community Acudetox

Relax and Recharge

Tuesday, April 9

12:00 PM- 3:00 PM

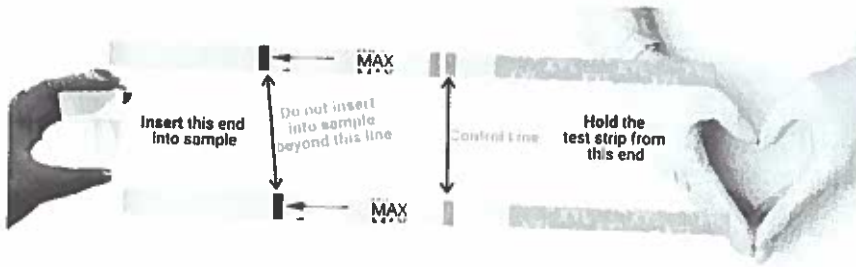
Tewa Roots Society Basecamp in Nambé

(LOCATED RIGHT NEXT TO NAMBÉ WELLNESS CENTER)

all rooted.

XYLAZINE DRUG TEST STRIPS

Two Red Lines:
Negative for xylazine



One Red Line:
Positive for xylazine
USE CAUTION

your home. We have a limited supply but more is being ordered based on need, call CHR -505-455-4415 to get your test strips.

WE HAVE TEST STRIPS FOR YOU.....

Xylazine Test Strips Xylazine, commonly known as “tranq,” is an animal tranquilizer that has been found in drugs. Xylazine can cause extreme sedation, which increases the risk of overdose, and severe skin wounds. Test strips can help you determine if drugs you plan to use contain xylazine or if you find drugs in

FREE Deterra Bags

The Deterra® Drug Deactivation and Disposal System is a safe medication disposal pouch or container that can be used at home or in a clinical setting. It is the safest, most effective choice used to destroy and properly dispose of unused, unwanted and expired medications with the simple addition of tap water. **We have a limited supply but more is being ordered based on need, call CHR -505-455-4415 to get your bag.**



Remember to EAT “5” A DAY
Fruits and Veggies and
EXERCISE 150 Minutes per WEEK



We have seen an increase of parents smoking in their house and vehicles, this where your pregnant partner and children breath in the second-hand smoke.

How harmful is secondhand smoke while pregnant?

If you are exposed to second-hand smoke during pregnancy, both you and your baby are put at risk. Some of the health conditions associated with being exposed to second-hand smoke are a miscarriage, low birth weight, early birth, learning or behavioral deficiencies in your child, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

How does second hand smoke affect babies?

Children who are exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for acute respiratory such as pneumonia and bronchitis, middle ear disease, more frequent and severe asthma respiratory symptoms, and slowed lung growth.

Secondhand marijuana smoke contains many of the same toxic and cancer-causing chemicals found in tobacco smoke and contains some of those chemicals in higher amounts.

Please smoke outside!

COMING IN MAY

The Wellness Center will be doing weekly drawings every Monday (6,13,20,27). You will earn one drawing ticket for each day you come in and exercise up to 6 tickets per week. One winner will be picked and we will have it Live on Facebook.

RECOGNIZE YOUR 2024 GRADUATES!

If you have a loved one who is graduating this year (high school or college) and would like for them to be recognized in our community newsletter, please send your congratulatory note, along with a photo of your graduate, to educationcoordinator@nambepueblo.org by May 6, 2024!

CLASS OF
2024



Movie Night

Friday April 26, 2024

6:30pm @ Nambe Pueblo
Wellness Center

Snacks will be provided

ALL Children Age 13 and under
MUST BE accompanied by an
adult



NAMBE PUEBLO SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

THE HEALTH, WELLNESS & EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE OFFERING THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM FOR TRIBAL MEMBER CHILDREN AND ANY OTHER CHILDREN WHO RESIDE ON THE PUEBLO. REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN FOR STUDENTS K-5TH GRADE. (STUDENTS MUST BE 6YRS OLD DUE TO FIELD TRIP AGE LIMITS)



OUR PROGRAM WILL RUN TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 7:30AM-5:30PM [AT] THE NAMBE PUEBLO WELLNESS CENTER STARTING ON JUNE 4TH TO JULY 25TH

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN REGISTERING YOUR CHILD FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM ATTACHED AND TURN IN TO ANY STAFF AT THE NAMBE PUEBLO WELLNESS CENTER BY APRIL 29TH.





NAMBE PUEBLO SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM



Name: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____ Shirt Size: adult / youth XS S M L XL 2XL other _____

Parent/Guardian: _____
Cell Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____

Height _____
Weight _____

Parent/Guardian: _____
Cell Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____

Names of those authorized to pick up your child: _____

No one else will be allowed to pick up your child unless you have made prior arrangements WITH STAFF.

In case of an emergency or misconduct of your child please list names below for immediate contact:

- 1) Name: _____ Relation: _____ Contact # _____
- 2) Name: _____ Relation: _____ Contact # _____

In case of medical emergency please fill out the following:

Hospital: _____ Hospital # _____ Chart#: _____ Doctor: _____

Does your child have allergies or medical conditions that the Program should be aware of, please list:

List any medications needed for allergies and/or medical conditions:

Can the Nambe Pueblo Summer Youth Program administer the following medications to your child if necessary?

Ibuprofen Yes / No	Loratadine (Allergies/allergic reaction) Yes / No
Acetaminophen (cold symptoms) Yes / No	Cough Drops Yes/No
	Others _____
	Parent/Guardian needs to provide
* * * * *	* * * * *

Release of Liability & Permission

I give permission for my child _____ to attend all on site and off site activities with the Summer Youth Program sponsored by the Nambé Pueblo Tribal Programs. I understand that my child will be transported by staff, using vehicles issued to them by Nambé Pueblo. I shall not hold the Pueblo of Nambé or the Employees providing services and activities liable for any accidents, injuries, or loss of personal property that may occur during any activities, nor during travel to and from activities. It is my responsibility as a parent, to provide all information necessary just in case of an injury or accident that may occur; this is to insure that my child may receive assistance immediately.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Photo Permission

I give permission for my child _____ to be photographed/filmed by staff or an appointee. These videos/pictures will be used for our photo album, grant reports and other to promote the program.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Please read with your child and sign, Thank you!

Rules of Conduct:

1. Listen and follow directions that the staff gives you.
2. Clean up after yourself.
3. Participate in all activities.
4. Be respectful of one another, no swearing, or taking pictures or videos of others without their consent.
5. Use equipment in the proper manner, do not break it or misuse it.
6. No Fighting, bullying, name calling or anything that would constitute violent behavior towards others or yourself.
7. No stealing or taking of anyone else's property.
8. No vandalism.
9. No possession of alcohol, cigarettes and any drugs or under the influence of any substance.

Responsibility of the Parent:

1. It is your responsibility to have your child picked up at 5:30pm.
2. If you allow your child to stay until the wellness center closes; your child needs to be picked up at 6:45pm and understand that the staff is no longer responsible for them after 5:30pm.
3. If you are late in picking up your child and have not made prior arrangements with staff after three offenses your child will be suspended from program for a week.
5. You are to notify staff of any changes to this form, especially contact phone numbers.

Policy for Not following Rules of Conduct: Please refer to Code of Conduct Numbers

1. First Offense Verbal Warning (unless it is #6,7,8,9 of Rules of Conduct)
2. Second and Third Offense will be a time out.
3. Four Offense will be sent home early.
4. Rules of Conduct #6 and #7, parent will be called, child will be picked up immediately, and a plan of action will be done.
5. Rules of Conduct #8 and #9, police and parent will be called, child will be picked up immediately, and a plan of action will be done.

CHILD

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Please understand that we want all children to feel safe, have a fun time, and learn. We want to teach your child that it is important to be respectful of each other, community property, and to follow rules.

**We are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged electronics.
Please keep at home.**

**This program is to incorporate the importance of
physical fitness, healthy eating and education.**



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Pueblo of Nambe is seeking to fill one (1) temporary position for the
Summer Youth Enrichment Program.

PUEBLO OF NAMBE

POSITION CLASSIFICATION & DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:	Summer Enrichment Nutrition Cook
CLASSIFICATION:	Non-Exempt-Temporary (nine weeks)
DEPARTMENT:	Health, Wellness and Education
SUPERVISOR:	Health, Wellness, and Education Coordinator
PAY:	\$17 per hour

Position Summary:

The Nutrition Leader is a temporary 3-5 days a week/nine-week position, up to 40 hours per week. They will work with the Youth Program under the Health, Wellness, and Education Department. They will follow their scope of work that involves working with youth and food preparation. This position requires a person that possesses patience and someone who is dynamic enough to respond to a wide variety of challenges in dealing with youth from the ages of 6 years through 13 years of age. This individual is required to attend all youth contact days.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Carryout scope of work for summer youth activities during the entire nine weeks of operation.
- Will serve as a positive role model throughout the Summer Enrichment Program.
- Purchase, prepare, and serve food.
- Discipline as necessary and with tact.
- Participate in activities in a positive manner.
- Other duties assigned.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must pass a background and drug test.
- **Must have a valid New Mexico driver's license and be insurable through the Pueblo of Nambe.**
- Must possess a high school or GED Equivalent, or be in high school.
- Must be First Aid/CPR Certified or willing to obtain certification.
- Must have Food Handler's Card or be willing to obtain.
- Be willing to work a flexible schedule.
- Must have some experience working with children from the ages of 6-13.
- Must be professional, friendly, courteous, and a positive attitude at all times.

Position Open Until Filled

15A Bay Poe, Nambe Pueblo, NM 87506

505-455-4410/Fax 505-455-2038

*Indian Preference: Preference will be given to qualified individuals of Native American descent.
Equal Opportunity Employer & Drug-Free Workplace*



Pueblo of Nambe
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION TITLE: Youth Program Leader
CLASSIFICATION: Non-Exempt-Part Time Regular Employee 20-30 hours per week
DEPARTMENT: Health, Wellness and Education
SUPERVISOR: Health, Wellness, and Education Coordinator
PAY: \$15 per hour

Position Summary:

The Youth Program Leader will work 20 hours a week from August to May (Monday -Friday) and 30 hours per week for June and July (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). They will work under the Health, Wellness, and Education Department and with other Tribal Departments. They will follow their scope of work that involves working with youth in their participation throughout the After-School Program and Summer Youth Program. This position requires a person that possesses patience and someone who is dynamic enough to respond to a wide variety of challenges in dealing with youth from the ages of 5 years through 12 years of age. Follow Guidelines including applicable laws, rules and regulations, Nambé Pueblo policies and procedures, and supervisor and administrative instructions and directives.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Will serve as a chaperone, positive role model, and actively engage with children.
- Transport youth to scheduled events.
- Discipline as necessary and with tact.
- Participate in activities in a positive manner.
- Other duties assigned.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must pass a background and drug test.
- **Must have a valid New Mexico driver's license and be insurable through the Pueblo of Nambe.**
- Must possess a high school or GED Equivalent, or be in high school.
- Must be First Aid/CPR Certified or willing to obtain certification.
- Be willing to work a flexible schedule.
- Must have some experience working with children from the ages of 5-12.
- Must be professional, friendly, courteous, and a positive attitude at all times.
- Must maintain confidentiality.

Position Open Until Filled

505-455-2036/Fax 505-455-2038

*Indian Preference: Preference will be given to qualified individuals of Native American descent.
Equal Opportunity Employer & Drug-Free Workplace*

Native American Scholarship Program



New Mexico Gas Company's annual **Native American Scholarship Program (NASP)** provides financial assistance to support post-secondary education for Native American students in New Mexico who demonstrate a desire to engage in their future through continuing education.

What sets this program apart is that NASP assists students in pursuit of certification from a trade school or specialized technical training associated with a license or certificate, in addition to an associate, bachelor's, or master's degree. Funds are awarded directly to the recipient and can be used for any education-related expenses.

There are 20 initial or renewal scholarships of \$3,000 each available. Applications for this year's scholarships will be accepted **April 1 to May 3, 2024.**



Use the camera on your phone to open the NASP application with this QR code.

For more information, visit www.nmgco.com/en/native_american_scholarship_program or e-mail questions to nasp@nmgco.com.



A Natural Choice.

Native Education Forum

DATE: Monday June 3 - Friday June 7, 2024

LOCATION: Colorado State University - Fort Collins, CO



The Native Education Forum is a five-day intensive summer program, occurring on campus, for students completing their junior year of high school. In this program, students will gain valuable knowledge in the university application process and research issues critical to Native American/Indigenous communities. Students who participate in the Native Education Forum earn one free CSU credit hour and may be eligible to receive the Partnership Award to attend Colorado State University.

If you would like to apply to participate in NEF, scan the QR code below:



If you have questions, please contact NACC's director at: tyrone.smith@colostate.edu



**NATIVE AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



The Native American Legacy Award Program

Through the Native American Legacy Award (NALA) program, Native American students who live outside of Colorado may be eligible for various tuition adjustments and financial aid based on tribal affiliation.

NALA – IN-STATE TUITION

Enrolled citizens of state or federally recognized tribes or biological children of tribally enrolled citizens can receive in-state tuition if you meet certain eligible requirements.

Eligibility:

- Enrolled citizens of a state or federally recognized tribe or provide proof that a biological parent is an enrolled member of a state or federally recognized tribe.
- Non-residents of Colorado.
- Seeking a degree on CSU's main campus (CSU Online students are not eligible).
- Able to attend the Community for Excellence (C4E) Fall Academic Summit.

*Students who are not enrolled in a tribe, and who do not have a parent enrolled in a tribe, may qualify if they demonstrate a blood quantum of one-half Native American ancestry. This quantum does not necessarily need to be of one tribe, but of all tribes combined, from recognized tribes under this policy.

NALA – RESIDENCY STATUS

Enrolled citizens of tribes with historical ties to Colorado (see list of 48 tribes) are eligible for Colorado residency status based on Colorado state law. Qualified students are eligible for 1) in-state tuition rates and 2) additional financial aid (state and institutional funds).

Eligibility:

- Enrolled citizen of a federally recognized tribe with historical ties to Colorado according to the Colorado American Indian Tribes In-State Tuition Act. (see list of 48 tribes)
- Non-residents of Colorado.
- Seeking a degree on CSU's main campus (CSU Online students are not eligible).
- Able to attend the Community for Excellence (C4E) Fall Academic Summit.

Program Limitations:

Please contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information as other limitations may apply.

Note: The Native American Legacy Award cannot be combined with the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) award, Yellow Ribbon Award, GI Promise, or HB 15-1294 GI Benefits. If you receive more than one of these awards, the one that benefits you the most will remain and the others will be canceled.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

CONTACT: Office of Admissions
admissions@colostate.edu | (970) 491-6909

A equal access and equal opportunity university.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Loan Guaranty/NADL
3333 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

April 01, 2024

Pueblo of Nambe, New Mexico
 Attn: NATHANIEL PORTER
 15-A NP 102 WEST
 SANTA FE, NM 87506

Thank you for Your Participation in the Program

Dear NATHANIEL PORTER:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) would like to thank you for your participation in our **Native American Direct Loan (NADL) Program**.

Our records indicate that Veterans within your tribe have not used loans from the NADL Program. VA would like to promote awareness of the NADL Program so all interested Veterans can participate.

NADL helps eligible Native American Veterans obtain home loan financing to **purchase, construct, or improve homes on Federal Trust Land** or to refinance an existing Native American Direct Loan to reduce the interest rate.

Below are some of the benefits of a Native American Direct Loan:



VA is the lender



Minimal closing costs



No private mortgage insurance



VA offers a low interest rate of 2.5% with loan terms up to 30 years



Up to 100% loan to value



This re-usable benefit gives Native American Veterans the opportunity of home ownership and frees up tribal funding to be used in other areas

Veterans who are interested in applying for a VA direct home loan can contact our NADL team. A member of our team will be assigned to assist the interested Veteran to provide a comprehensive overview of the loan process and be available to assist throughout the Veteran's homeownership journey. Our team is dedicated to making homeownership on Trust Land a reality for Native Veterans and to make the process as smooth and simple as possible.

We appreciate your partnership and efforts in delivering NADL benefits to Veterans and their families. Our continued collaboration will help make the dream of homeownership a reality.

If you need assistance or have additional questions, please call 1-888-349-7541 or email NADL@va.gov.

Sincerely,

Native American Direct Loan Team

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**News Release**Office of Public Affairs
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov**EMBARGOED UNTIL RELEASED BY VA AT ON MARCH 29****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 29, 2024

400,000+ Veterans have enrolled in VA health care over past 365 days, a 30% increase over last year

This historic enrollment has been driven by the bipartisan PACT Act, which President Biden signed into law as a part of his Unity Agenda for the nation. New enrollees increased in all 50 states year-over-year.

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it has enrolled 401,006 Veterans in VA health care over the past 365 days – 30% more than the 307,831 it enrolled the previous year. This is the most yearly enrollees in at least the past five years at VA, and nearly a 50% increase over pandemic-level enrollment in 2020.

The number of new enrollees increased in all 50 states year-over-year. The states with the most new enrollees over the past year include Texas (41,287 Veterans), California (33,468), Florida (32,712), Virginia (20,537), North Carolina (17,562), Pennsylvania (16,167), Georgia (15,747), Ohio (12,717), Washington (11,873), Illinois (10,167), Colorado (10,028), Arizona (9,789), Tennessee (9,584), and Michigan (9,294).

This historic enrollment has been made possible by the bipartisan PACT Act – signed into law by President Biden as a part of his Unity Agenda for the nation – which has allowed VA to [expand VA health care](#) and [benefits](#) to millions of Veterans. VA is also conducting the most aggressive outreach campaign in its history, including hosting over 2,600 events since the passage of the PACT Act, launching a \$16+ million [advertising campaign](#), using [public service announcements](#), and – for the first time ever – sending text messages to Veterans encouraging them to enroll in VA health care. VA is continuing these aggressive outreach efforts throughout 2024, with more than 550 in-person events already scheduled for this year.

Enrolling Veterans in health care is a top priority for VA and the entire Biden-Harris Administration because VA has proven to be the best care in America for Veterans. Veterans who receive VA health care have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in [overall quality ratings](#) and [patient satisfaction ratings](#). Additionally, VA health care is often [more affordable](#) than non-VA health care for Veterans. Today, VA is delivering more care and more benefits to more Veterans than ever before in our nation's history, setting [an all-time record for health care appointments provided in 2023](#).

“We want every eligible Veteran to enroll in VA health care for one simple reason: Veterans who come to VA are proven to have better health outcomes – and pay less – than Veterans who don’t,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “That’s why we’ve spent the past year meeting Veterans where they are – hosting thousands of events, sending millions of texts, advertising on every corner, and much more – to get them to come to VA. This aggressive outreach campaign

has led more Veterans to enroll in VA care than during any year in at least a decade, and we're not slowing down now."

"VA is the best, most affordable care in America for Veterans, so we want all eligible Veterans to enroll today," said **VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, M.D.** "Our clinicians know Veterans – they often are Veterans – and they know exactly how to help. Even if you don't need this care today, you might need it tomorrow, or the next day, or 30 years from now. It's quick and easy to apply, and once you're in, you have access for life."

Under the PACT Act, VA has also upgraded the health care [priority groups](#) for 693,962 Veterans over the past year – meaning that many of those Veterans are now paying lower copays. Since the PACT Act was passed into law, VA has upgraded the priority groups of more than 746,500 Veterans.

VA recently [expanded health care eligibility](#) for millions of Veterans nationwide, years earlier than called for by the PACT Act. As of March 5th, all Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military and meet certain requirements became eligible to enroll directly in VA health care. This means that all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States will also be eligible to enroll. VA also [recently expanded health care to all World War II Veterans](#).

VA is able to serve these new enrollees, in part, due to last year's record hiring in VA's Veterans Health Administration. Last year, we exceeded our hiring goals in the Veterans Health Administration – growing at the fastest rate in 15 years and bringing in more than 61,000 new hires – to prepare for an increase in VA health care enrollment among Veterans under the PACT Act. In total, VHA now has more employees than ever before in our history, and VA's retention efforts also led to a 20% decrease in turnover rate among VHA employees from 2022 to 2023.

Moving forward, VA will continue to aggressively reach out to Veterans to encourage them to come to VA. VA encourages all Veterans, family members, caregivers, and survivors to [learn more about VA](#) and apply for their world-class [health care](#) and [earned benefits](#) today.

For more information about VA care, visit [VA's health care website](#). For more information about the impact of the PACT Act, visit [VA's PACT Act dashboard](#).

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State/Territory	New Enrollees (past 365 days 3/25/23-3/24/24)	New Enrollees (previous 365 days - 3/25/22-3/24/23)	Percent Change	Total Enrollees
Alabama	7,830	6,057	29.27%	172,347
Alaska	1,899	1,453	30.70%	33,275
Arizona	9,789	7,530	30.00%	233,731
Arkansas	3,457	2,431	42.20%	101,209
California	33,468	26,686	25.41%	665,273
Colorado	10,028	7,553	32.77%	172,431
Connecticut	2,866	2,277	25.87%	62,362
Delaware	1,267	966	31.16%	27,124
District Of Columbia	589	377	56.23%	11,103
Florida	32,712	26,479	23.54%	732,009
Georgia	15,747	12,470	26.28%	329,494
Hawaii	3,244	2,496	29.97%	47,527
Idaho	2,601	1,976	31.63%	62,731
Illinois	10,167	7,134	42.51%	224,027
Indiana	7,141	5,187	37.67%	165,208
Iowa	3,209	2,466	30.13%	83,651
Kansas	3,848	2,762	39.32%	78,572
Kentucky	4,598	3,601	27.69%	125,522
Louisiana	5,435	4,105	32.40%	118,063
Maine	1,840	1,431	28.58%	50,568
Maryland	8,202	5,931	38.29%	149,330
Massachusetts	5,466	4,010	36.31%	113,293
Michigan	9,294	7,135	30.26%	206,408
Minnesota	5,738	4,731	21.29%	145,684
Mississippi	3,478	2,719	27.91%	88,622
Missouri	7,740	6,054	27.85%	182,634
Montana	1,943	1,614	20.38%	47,456
Nebraska	2,557	2,059	24.19%	61,941
Nevada	4,895	3,859	26.85%	110,339
New Hampshire	1,904	1,489	27.87%	42,068
New Jersey	5,259	4,227	24.41%	111,016

New Mexico	2,885	2,446	17.95%	69,919
New York	10,184	7,304	39.43%	280,701
North Carolina	17,562	13,885	26.48%	347,750
North Dakota	1,077	785	37.20%	24,380
Ohio	12,717	9,875	28.78%	299,392
Oklahoma	6,259	5,077	23.28%	136,710
Oregon	4,123	3,220	28.04%	125,904
Pennsylvania	16,167	10,493	54.07%	293,219
Puerto Rico	2,043	1,795	13.82%	55,641
Rhode Island	1,092	790	38.23%	23,222
South Carolina	9,011	6,841	31.72%	197,311
South Dakota	1,372	1,115	23.05%	36,274
Tennessee	9,584	7,643	25.40%	214,559
Texas	41,287	33,339	23.84%	798,420
Utah	3,040	2,254	34.87%	58,483
Vermont	580	530	9.43%	17,137
Virginia	20,537	14,063	46.04%	301,452
Washington	11,873	8,290	43.22%	218,781
West Virginia	2,051	1,662	23.41%	65,085
Wisconsin	5,762	4,516	27.59%	149,762
Wyoming	1,009	745	35.44%	24,556
Philippines	128	142	-9.86%	7,931
American Samoa	44	43	2.33%	1,007
Federated States of Micronesia	2	-	0.00%	50
Guam	437	357	22.41%	5,858
Marshall Islands	2	-	0.00%	9
Northern Mariana Islands	27	32	-15.63%	541
Palau	3	1	200.00%	56
Virgin Islands	79	45	75.56%	2,202
Foreign	1,811	1,159	56.26%	23,506
Unknown	47	95	-50.53%	6,869
Totals	401,006	307,807		8,541,705