

The 39 Tribes and Nations in Oklahoma

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians	Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town	Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma	Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Kaw Nation	Quapaw Tribe of Indians	Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (<i>Wichita, Keechi, Waco and Tawakonie</i>)
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma	Kialegee Tribal Town	Sac & Fox Nation	Wyandotte Nation
Cherokee Nation	Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma	Seminole Nation of Oklahoma	
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes	Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma	Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma	
Citizen Potawatomi Nation	Miami Tribe of Oklahoma	Shawnee Tribe	
Comanche Nation	Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma	The Chickasaw Nation	
Delaware Nation	Muscogee (<i>Creek</i>) Nation	The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	
Delaware Tribe of Indians	Osage Tribe	Thlopthlocco Tribal Town	
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma		
	Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians		
	Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma		

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is a Native American?

As a general principle an Indian is a person who is of some degree Indian blood and is recognized as an Indian by a tribe/village and/or the United States. There exists no universally accepted rule for establishing a person's identity as an Indian. The criteria for tribal membership differ from one tribe to the next. To determine a particular tribe's criteria, one must contact that tribe directly. For its own purposes, the Bureau of the Census counts anyone an Indian who declares to be such. By recent counts, there are more than 2.4 million Native Americans, including Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians.

Why are Indians sometimes referred to as Native Americans?

When referring to American Indians or Alaska Natives, it is appropriate to use the terms American Indians and Alaska Natives. These terms denote the cultural distinction between the indigenous people of the continental United States and those of Alaska. While the term "Native Americans" came into usage in the 1960s out of respect to American Indians and Alaska Natives, usage of the term has expanded to include all Native people of the United States and its territories, including Native Hawaiians and American Samoans.

What is an Indian Tribe?

An Indian tribe was originally a body of people bound together by blood ties who were socially, politically, and religiously organized, who lived together in a defined territory and who spoke a common language or dialect. In the eyes of the U.S. government a body of people as described above must be officially recognized in order to be considered a tribe.

What does the term "federally recognized" mean?

Only tribes who maintain a legal relationship to the U.S. government through binding treaties, acts of Congress, executive orders, etc., are officially "recognized" by the federal government. Once "recognized" a tribe has a legal relationship with the United States. There are currently more than 550 federally recognized tribes in the United States, including some 200 village groups in Alaska. However, there are still hundreds of tribes undergoing the lengthy and tedious process of applying for federal recognition. There are currently 39 federally recognized tribes in the State of Oklahoma.

How many Churches and Fellowships are in The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference?

The Under the Indian Removal Act, commonly known as "The Trail of Tears" whole tribes were removed from the Eastern and South-eastern states to Indian Territory. Many among these tribes were converted to Christianity through the Methodist church. They were able to rebuild their communities and with the help of missionaries organize congregations and churches in what came to be known as Oklahoma.

In what was then the Indian Mission Conference, Methodists offered a Christian ministry sensitive to the languages and cultures of more than 30 tribes. The 1972 General Conference acknowledged the importance of the Indian Mission Conference and designated it the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC) with "the same rights and powers as an annual conference."

Today the OIMC continues to minister to the needs of Native American people. The present membership is over 6,500 with 85 churches and fellowships with several of these congregations being over 150 years old. Oklahoma is home to the majority of the congregations; however we have one church in Dallas, Texas; three churches in Kansas and one fellowship in Kansas City, Missouri. Presently there are two districts, Northern and Southern, with the conference headquartered in Oklahoma City.