

MIAMI NATION  NEWS

AATOTANKIKI MYAAMIAMI

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aatotankiki myaamiaki

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MYAAMIA PUBLICATIONS

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Lankford

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Facebook:

"MYAAMIKI Miami Tribe
of Oklahoma"

"Aatotankiki Myaamiaki"

Public Page, listed as "Miami Nation
Events"

MHMA Page, Listed as
"Myaamia Heritage Museum &
Archive"

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aacimwita akima

'The Chief's Report'

Akima Eecipoonkwia

Chief Douglas Lankford



State of the Nation

Aya, aya ceeki eeweemakiki! Greetings to all my relatives. It is wiikhooowia kiilhswa, the moon of the whippoorwill, and here in myaamionki nooŝonke siipionki, the long cool spring weather is starting to give way to the heat we know so well in Oklahoma. May is the month we are busy with final preparations for our annual National Gathering Week events and the annual General Council meeting. I hope you can make plans to load up your family to travel home for the many events of the week, which begin on Wednesday, June 25, and end with the meeting on Saturday morning, and the closing of our Pow Wow that night. As is our custom, the General Council meeting will be held in our Nation's Council House in Miami, OK, and will begin at 9 a.m. Be sure to check our website, Facebook Group, and this newspaper for event information.

I seem to report each year that our Tribe, our sovereign Nation, is ever growing, and this year is no exception. Our current enrollment stands at 7,219 citizens, and with this growth, we strive to provide as many services as our revenue inflow and budget can sustain. From scholarships, back-to-school funds, burial benefits, and health reimbursement cards for our elders and veterans, to grant-funded assistance services, our needs continue to grow.

The fiscal year of the Miami Tribe begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. Each year, our annual tribal budget is conservatively set based on the previous year's numbers, with consideration given to the projected growth for the new year. Since our last General Council meeting in June 2024, I am pleased to report that we concluded the fiscal year (FY24) under budget. June marks the end of the third quarter of this fiscal year, and thus far in FY25, we are projected to come in under budget again. The results of the audit for the previous fiscal year are reported at each annual General Council meeting. As of this writing, our CFO reports that no findings are expected on the audit for FY24. Our annual tribal budget is separate from the budgets of federally funded grants awarded to the Tribe, and both categories are fully audited each year.

Peace Medal

Turning to other important governmental work. As you are aware, a key focus of the Tribe is to reclaim knowledge of our history, and I am pleased to announce success in one significant effort – the return of the Miami Tribe Treaty of Greenville Peace Medal.

In 1795, the Miami Tribe signed the Treaty



of Greenville with the United States. The Treaty marked the end of a decade of war led by our War Chief, Mihšihkinaahkwa (Little Turtle), and was a turning point in the history of the Miami people. At the successful conclusion of the Treaty, General Anthony Wayne awarded Washington Peace Medals to each of the Tribes. The Miami medal was bestowed on Chief Little Turtle and became part of his official regalia. The medal was to be passed to successor war Chiefs in memory of the day the two sovereigns made peace.

When Little Turtle passed in 1812, the Medal was in his possession but was not buried with him as it belonged to the Tribe. In 1825, the Medal was lost from Tribal possession under uncertain circumstances. That was not an uncommon story during those times of dynamic change and stress on the Miami people.

Almost 200 years later, the Medal reappeared. Early last year, news came to Julie Olds that an auction gallery in California was planning to sell the Medal. The Tribe, as the rightful owners of the Peace Medal, requested that the auction house temporarily withdraw the Peace Medal from the auction, allowing the Tribe time to speak with the individual listing the Peace Medal for sale. The gallery and owner did not withdraw the medal. The Tribe sued the gallery, and eventually, the people who claimed ownership of the Medal in California state court obtained a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) prohibiting the sale of the medal at auction.

The defendants and the Tribe came together in February for an all-day mediation, and by the end of the day, they reached an agreement for the return of the Peace Medal to the Tribe. This was another example of the Miami people reclaiming their history and telling our own history better and more accurately than anyone else could. The effort was supported by a team of experts including our own Daryl Baldwin (a lineal descendant of Mihšihkinaahkwa), our Miami University friend and colleague Dr. Robert Wicks (an esteemed peace medal expert), and longtime expert consultant for the Tribe, Tim McKewon.

The return of the Peace Medal, which was first placed in the hands of Mihšihkinaahkwa in 1795,

and now, some 200 years later, restored to tribal possession to remain in our National Archives permanently is truly a momentous occasion for all Myaamia people.

Illinois Bill

The Tribe continues its efforts in Washington, D.C., to secure congressional approval of legislation that would permit the Tribe to bring a land claim for the loss of historic tribal lands in southeast Illinois. Senator Markwayne Mullin (Cherokee), a staunch advocate for the Tribe for the past eight years, reintroduced the bill this session - [H.R. 2827](#) - *To provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes.*

Oklahoma Congressman Tom Cole (Chickasaw) formally joined the bill again this winter as a sponsor. Congressman Cole is a longtime advocate for tribes and Indian Country and has been a good friend and staunch supporter of the Tribe for years. I traveled to D.C. again in the first week of May to meet with those supporting the bill and to discuss efforts to move the bill this session.

Once the bill is authorized by Congress, H.R. 2827, a bi-partisan supported bill will grant jurisdiction to the Court of Federal Claims to consider and decide the Tribe's land claim. The Tribe hopes to see movement on the bill this session. We are committed to continuing our important work on this bill to get our day in Court.

Federal Litigation

The Miami Tribe remains active in its efforts to obtain a federal court ruling to confirm its reservation lands constitute Indian Country. Post *McGirt*, the 2020 [landmark United States Supreme Court](#) case which held that the Muscogee Creek Nation reservation was never disestablished by Congress, the Miami Tribe, like other Oklahoma tribes actively assumed its governmental responsibilities policing and exercising jurisdiction over its reservation lands. The Department of Interior, post *McGirt*, without any federal directive, tied federal funding allocated for Oklahoma tribes for policing and court needs to tribes with formal court rulings upholding a tribe's reservation.



As a result, in December 2023, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Miami Tribe, Ottawa Tribe, and Seneca Cayuga Tribe filed federal lawsuits in Northern District Court in Tulsa, requesting that Court declare the reservation lands of the plaintiff tribes as intact, never having been disestablished.

The Court has moved at a plodding pace holding its decision in early requests by the tribes under advisement for over a year. The Court's delay has resulted in adverse funding impacts on the tribes and lack of funding may result in future court funding and public safety implications. The tribes have had positive discussions with Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond and hope to work towards a resolution of the parties' differences.

SAUSA

On a positive note, the Miami Tribe and other Northeast Oklahoma Tribal Consortium tribes (Consortium Tribes) recently contracted for a Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) to represent the interests of the Consortium Tribes regarding federal criminal charges for major crimes on the Tribes' reservation lands. The Consortium Tribes received funding through a Department of Justice CTAS Grant submitted by the Miami Tribe on behalf of the Consortium Tribes. The Miami Tribe is the lead tribe for this grant and is administering it on behalf of the Consortium Tribes.

Retaining the services of a SAUSA has been key for the Consortium Tribes to ensure that major crimes on Consortium Tribe reservation lands receive the appropriate federal attention for federal review and potential federal prosecution. The Consortium Tribes are proud to announce that this important SAUSA position will be filled by Tulsa attorney David Youll, who brings years of legal experience to the position, having served as a prosecutor, Judge, and SAUSA in the Eastern District. After two years of struggle to fill this position, we are so pleased to have David Youll working with us as our federal representative in the United States Attorney's Office.

Miami Tribe District Court

Post *McGirt*, since February 2022, the Miami

Tribe has experienced a steep increase in its criminal docket from 6 criminal cases a year to now 30-40 cases scheduled twice a month on its District Court criminal docket. These cases are heard by Chief Judge Scott Goode (Seneca-Cayuga). Other court personnel include Court Director, Robin Lash, Prosecutor Kyle Alderson, Public Defender the Hartly Law Firm, Court Clerk Michelle Lankford, Deputy Clerk Whitney Johnson (Shawnee), Community Corrections Officer Shane Barnes and Miami Police Department and Bailiff Chuck North (Miami) and Justin Keller who are both officers of the Miami Nation Police Department.

The Miami District Court, located at the Tribe's headquarters building, recently underwent a major transformation in the form of construction of a new, state of the art courtroom and associated court space funded through a Department of Justice Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) Court Remodel Grant. The Tribe began working with Tulsa Architect firm Green Light Native to design the new courtroom, jury deliberation room, Judge's Chamber and storage spaces. Joplin construction company MacCo Builders began construction of the new space in October 2024, with the project's completion slated for the end of May or mid-June of this year.

The new space features a courtroom with a judge's bench large enough to accommodate three Appellate Justices for cases appealed to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Appellate Court, a witness stand, a clerk's desk, a jury box, and seating for those attending court. New courtroom furnishings are ordered for the space, and new audio-video recording equipment will be installed to record and maintain hearing records for the Tribe. The courtroom will be enhanced with traditional Myaamia design inlay custom woodwork made by tribal member Jody Gamble. New court signage, a portico, landscaping, and fencing are planned to enhance the space outside of the court entryway. The Tribe is hopeful that the space will be ready for court use by early to mid-summer.

The Tribe's District Court holds a criminal docket twice a month and family court and civil dockets once a month, or more frequently as needed. The



Tribe holds trial dockets twice a year in the fall and spring. The Tribe looks forward to using this new space in its work to exercise the Tribe's inherent authority on its reservation lands.

FERC

The Tribe continues work overseeing activities that impact the environment on its Indian lands and in the community. Over the years, I have reported on the Tribe's efforts to protect tribal lands and interests during the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the Pensacola Dam. The Pensacola Dam is operated by the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA), which has caused chronic flooding in and around Miami on both fee land and Tribal trust lands.

Last year, following a series of resounding victories by the City before FERC, GRDA appealed FERC's decisions in the City's favor to the D.C. Circuit. The City contends that GRDA has failed to acquire necessary flowage rights on land exceeding the limits of its existing flowage easements by 13,000 acres in or around Miami, which is flooded by the Pensacola Project.

Those affected by the flood have been asked to submit a list of measures to protect, mitigate, and enhance (PM&E) operations, which involves implementing measures to balance the dam's operations in a way that minimizes their impact on surrounding areas and the environment.

Well-developed PM&Es are vital to ensure that the next license for the Pensacola dam accounts for the interests of Tribes and others affected by Dam operations. Both the City and the Tribes are meeting to develop proposed PM&Es for inclusion in the new license for the Pensacola Project.

ARGOS

Mid-winter, the Tribe was made aware of a new proposed project by Argos Development Partners, LLC, a New Hampshire-based group hoping to construct a European-style poultry litter bioprocessing plant on lands within the Quapaw reservation. The bioprocessing plant would bring over 160 thousand tons of poultry litter from local farms yearly and, through a biological process, would convert carbon

and nitrogen into three products: renewable natural gas, liquid fertilizer, and solid fertilizer.

Our reservation borders the Quapaw Nation reservation, where the Argo project is proposed. The project site is near Miami Tribal member housing and less than six miles from the Miami Tribe's seat of government. Given that the Tribe's governmental offices are inundated with smells from the mushroom facility over four miles away, it is likely that the Tribe would be significantly affected by smells, air emissions, and safety hazards associated with this proposed bioprocessing plant.

I have met with Argos representatives at town hall meetings in Miami and submitted written comments to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (Oklahoma DEQ), the state licensing entity to which Argos has submitted an Air Permit Application. The Tribe's concerns relate to potential impacts from Argo's description of its venting and flaring practices that could cause hydrogen sulfide releases not currently accounted for in the draft construction permit.

In early April, I requested government-to-government consultation with the Oklahoma DEQ to discuss these concerns, and I will continue to follow up with this request. We've requested that the Oklahoma DEQ solicit additional information from Argos to inform the discussion on the issues raised in comments by our Tribe and other Tribes, as well as the City of Miami and its residents. We will continue to closely monitor this proposed project.

Trust Land

The Tribe continues the important work of moving fee land owned by the Tribe into trust status. A fee to trust land acquisition, or "land into trust" is the transfer of land title from the Tribe to the United States, to be held in trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

Federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply for trust land acquisitions for any land owned by the tribe in fee-simple status. Fee-simple means the landowner may sell or encumber the land. Once a land parcel is in trust status, state regulations do not apply, and the tribe is not required to pay state taxes associated with the land. The Secretary of the Interior evaluates fee-to-trust land acquisition



applications according to criteria published in the Code of Federal Regulations ([25 CFR 151](#)).

Since September 2017, the Tribe has successfully transitioned into trust status 11 parcels of land, including the Fritz Road property in Fort Wayne, Indiana. These 11 parcels, now in trust, represent approximately 370 acres. Currently, the Tribe has seven additional parcels in process for fee-to-trust applications. These in-process applications represent an additional nearly 450 acres to be moved into trust status.

Myaamia Center

Our unique relationship with Miami University remains strong. With the tremendous benefit of the University's Myaamia Heritage Award, student numbers are consistently between 45 and 50 annually, and we graduate approximately a dozen tribal students each year. Our Myaamia Center at the University continues to grow and expand in all facets of its work. Thanks to a significant grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation for 2.1 million, the center will develop a first-ever technological infrastructure over the next year to increase its capability to build and maintain a growing number of online educational products for the tribal community.

The growth experienced by the Myaamia Center has led Miami University to initiate a capital campaign for the center to renovate and expand the current Bonham House by more than doubling the square footage of the facility. This expansion is much needed to house the growing staff at the center. Miami University's advancement team is helping the center raise nearly 10 million over the next couple of years for this expansion. The center has become internationally recognized for its work in utilizing archives to support revitalization activities, and this recognition continues to expand over time. You can expect to see more development from the center for the Miami Tribe with these expansions.

Myaamia Center Director, Daryl Baldwin, will give a detailed report at the annual General Council meeting on June 28, 2025.

The revitalization and perpetuation of our culture, language, and traditions are of utmost importance to our Nation. Our Tribal Leaders have

embraced this work since we began our cultural revitalization in 1996. Beginning in the early 1990s, almost as soon as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was enacted, our late Chief Floyd Leonard, and other elected Tribal Leaders of that period began exercising our political and cultural sovereignty under the NAGPRA. For over thirty years, we have respectfully repatriated and returned ancestors and their funerary objects to the earth. I am grateful to all our Cultural Resources Office employees, as well as past and current leaders, for their support of our repatriation and revitalization efforts.

I am humbled and most grateful to serve our Nation as Chief. I am also thankful to be able to repeat each year our positive financial status and our strong business development efforts. It will again be my great honor to stand before the General Council of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to report the news and work of the year, and to join our leadership, and cultural revitalization team in stating that this great Nation continues its legacy as a progressive and sound tribal government founded in the unique cultural knowledge that makes us Myaamia. We must realize we are a leader among tribes through our efforts, not only in this community, but nationally. May we all, as Myaamiaki, continue to embrace our heritage for the benefit of our children and future generations.

Again, I hope to see all my Myaamia relatives able to attend the General Council meeting next month. Peehkihkanaweeko – safe travels.

Akima Eecipoonkwia – Chief Douglas Lankford

OFFICIAL NOTICE:
*The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
will host their Annual Meeting
on June 28th, 2025*



CRO Staff Visit Historical Myaamia Objects



Inside-out designs of the “Pecongga Bag.” Photo by Doug Peconge, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.



Right-side-out designs of the “Pecongga Bag.” Photo by Doug Peconge, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

Staff Article

National Museum of the American Indian

For more than five years, Jared Nally has looked at pictures of the “Pecongga Bag,” which has inspired his work as a piimhkaasikwa, or ‘Myaamia weaver.’ Yet, this bag has served as a symbol of community identity for much longer, likely even before it was collected from William Pecongga in 1910 by Mark Raymond Harrington. The bag is now part of the collections at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI).

In April, Jared, along with Doug Peconge and Morgan Lippert, traveled to NMAI to examine the bag and photograph a collection of Myaamia silverwork. This historic event reconnected Doug, a descendant of William Pecongga, to an ancestral object collected from his family. It was also the first time a Myaamia weaver was able to examine the bag.

The initial moments seeing the bag in person was underscored with excitement, but quickly grew into astonishment as it became apparent that the bag



Jared Nally and NMAI conservator Caitlin Mahony turn bag “right-side-out.” Photo by Doug Peconge, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.



had been stored inside out. With assistance from curatorial staff, the bag was turned right-side-out, and for the first time in likely 100 years, the Myaamia community saw the bag as the weaver intended.

This visit highlights the importance of reconnecting Myaamia People to ancestral objects as part of the revitalization and return of community knowledge. From Jared's perspective, the designs—now seen from the right side—reshape how he's connecting to the weaving and interpreting the pattern. The bag also offers additional insights as to how the bag was made which could not have been learned from photographs.

Luzerne County Historical Society

After their trip to NMAI, Jared, Doug, and Morgan traveled to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania to the Luzerne County Historical Society (LCHS). One of the oldest continually operated historical societies in the nation, LCHS has in its collections a few articles of clothing from Mahkoonsihkwa 'Frances Slocum' (1773-1847).

Mahkoonsihkwa was born into a Quaker family and grew up in Luzerne County. At around five years old, she was taken by a Lenape (Delaware) group and raised within their community. The Lenape eventually settled near the Myaamia village of Kiihkayonki, present-day Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Portrait of Mahkoonsihkwa 'Frances Slocum' by George Winter. Photo courtesy Tippecanoe County Historical Association.



Shirt and sash belonging to Mahkoonsihkwa.

Photo by Doug Peconge, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

In 1810, Mahkoonsihkwa married Myaamia war leader Šiipaakana 'Deaf Man.' They had four children and established a village on the Nimacihsinwi Siipiiwi 'Mississinewa River.' Having lived for over twenty years as a myaamiihkwa 'Miami woman,' Mahkoonsihkwa was reunited in 1837 with her biological brothers Joseph and Isaac Slocum. Having long believed her to be dead, the brothers learned of her survival after Fort Wayne resident George Ewing wrote about Mahkoonsihkwa in a newspaper.

Joseph and Isaac tried to convince their sister to return with them to Pennsylvania, but she refused and chose to stay with her Myaamia family. According to LCHS, Mahkoonsihkwa gave her brothers some personal belongings to take back with them, which are now in the society's collections: a blouse, ball and cone earrings, a woven sash, and a pair of mahkisina 'moccasins.'

Looking at Mahkoonsihkwa's belongings, we



see hallmarks of 19th century myaamiihkwa attire. The blouse—made of calico fabric and featuring a cape adorned with German silver washer ring brooches and a large brooch in the center—closely resembles other historical Myaamia blouses held in museum collections, like the one displayed in MHMA's current exhibit neehaapiikasiciki: the Healing Threads of Myaamia Ribbonwork. Her ball and cone earrings are like those worn by many Native communities, both historically and today.

Her mahkisina 'moccasins' were interesting to study. They had an additional ribbonworked flap on the top of the shoe, and they lacked the white edge beading that is normally seen in Myaamia ribbonwork. However, the geometric diamond patterns, ribbon color selection, tight center seam, and mirrored flaps (matching patterns on the inside and outside flaps) together give these mahkisina a distinct Myaamia feel.



Earrings belonging to Mahkoonsihkwa. Photo by Doug Peconge, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

could date the sash much later into the 1830s. Neither story can be fully confirmed, and the truth might lie somewhere in between. Since the brothers' other donations were all connected to Mahkoonsihkwa, it's likely this sash was too, though it may not have been from her wedding. Unlike other clothing seen in portraits of Myaamia women, sashes were usually worn under blouses, so none are visible in her portraits.

Neewe 'thank you' to LCHS for providing CRO staff the opportunity to photograph these beautiful and historic pieces.



Moccasins belonging to Mahkoonsihkwa. Photo by Doug Peconge, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

Mahkoonsihkwa's sash is one of the few existing examples of fingerweaving attributed to Myaamia People. However, how it got to LCHS is uncertain, as there are two competing stories of how her brothers obtained the sash. The first story is that they brought back Mahkoonsihkwa's wedding sash, which would date the sash to the 1790's. The other story is that the brothers bought the sash while on their many journeys looking for their sister, which



Moccasins belonging to Mahkoonsihkwa. Photo by Doug Peconge, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.



This Year's National Gathering Workshops

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 9AM-3PM:

RIBBONWORK KEYCHAINS WORKSHOP

Miami Tribe Community Event - not open to Public

Title VI Center, 54535 E 65 Rd, Miami, OK

Led by Myaamia citizen Tina Fox.
Participants will craft a small, hand-sewn ribbon applique keychain.
All materials provided.

All ages. Must be able to hand-sew independently.



SEENSEEWINKI GAME-MAKING WORKSHOP

Miami Tribe Community Event - not open to Public

Ethel Miller Moore Cultural Education Center, 5944 S 520 Rd, Miami, OK

Led by Myaamia citizen Jody Gamble.
Participants will create a complete bowl game set to take home and learn to play seenseewinki 'plum stone game.'
All materials provided.

All ages. Youth 13 and under must be accompanied by adult.



RSVP: Carrie Harter at charter@miamination.com. **Questions:** Meghan Dorey at 918-541-7727.

Watch the Miami Tribe Facebook page and website for updates.

Lunch provided for attendees.



Framing Myaamia Nahi Meehtohseeniwinki 'Living Well'

Haley Shea

Director of Office of
Assessment and Evaluation

The Nipwaayoni Acquisition and Assessment Team (NAATeam) has spent the last year advancing work supported by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant. In the later phase of this three-year project, we are focused on sharing the process that our team used to develop an understanding of Myaamia well-being and how we intend to measure it within the Myaamia community.

This is being accomplished through conference presentations, with the most recent presentation held at the Algonquian Conference at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City, OK. Additionally, we are creating a workbook that describes our process and identifying some academic publications to broaden our reach so that others can learn and critique what we are producing.

We've come to realize, as we share with public audiences, that our work does not fit neatly into standard wellness topics and is a slight departure from the "norm" for the audiences we engage with. For this article, we wanted to explain some of the topics that influence how we think about and discuss myaamia nahi meehtohseeniwinki 'living well.'

Situating the Myaamia Person within Community and Global Contexts

In the creation of the nahi meehtohseeniwinki model, it was important for us to distinguish Myaamia practices or ways of knowing from other ways of being or thinking that have origins outside our Myaamia knowledge system.

In a future blog post, we will look more specifically and show examples of how we differentiate



Presenting on myaamia nahi meehtohseeniwinki at the Algonquian Conference in 2024. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

ways of knowing but for now, we want to simply introduce the idea that some behaviors and ways of thinking have direct connections to our Myaamia identities. This is important because Myaamia history is full of attempts at resisting and adapting to a wide array of colonial forces that brought us to a state of geographical diaspora resulting in a high level of diversity within our own tribal community. On one hand, this can be a beautiful thing as diversity and difference make our community stronger as we all contribute to our community in ways that are informed by our unique identities. But we can also lose our Myaamia ways of knowing in this diversification process. This is why revitalization and tribal educational efforts are so important in preserving our unique identity as Myaamiaki 'Myaamia people'. Both can and do exist alongside each other.

Applying this diversification to a concept like wellness produces individually tailored perspectives on what it means to live well, informed by each of our identities. No two people will have the exact same perspective on a concept like wellness and there can be considerable differences in how individuals understand what it means to be Myaamia.



When we lived as a village-centered people, sharing common ideas and beliefs was simply maintained and reinforced through daily activities. However, multiple forced removals of the Miami community caused population fragmentation, disconnecting us from each other and the knowledge



Myaamia people create a “community web” to exemplify connectedness within the Miami Tribe and how the actions of one can affect the entire community. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

systems that make our community healthy.

Community Web

Creating the wellness model is our attempt at identifying Myaamia-specific attributes that can inform our overall revitalization efforts and educational programs that provide an opportunity to embed layers of knowledge that strengthen our individual identities as Myaamia people. Collectively, this benefits the whole community by providing a source of shared knowledge and strengthening kinship ties that stabilize our tribal nation – hence *nahi meehtohseeniwinki*.

Today, Myaamia people interact with vast and interconnected global knowledge systems. How we position these influences within our own identities depends on many factors including our depth of Myaamia knowledge. When we have a strong foundation in Myaamia ways of knowing and being, we are better equipped to make choices in how external ideas and influences best serve us and ultimately our community.

For example, we may engage with “Western”

health systems for our general healthcare needs as well as Indigenous practices (Myaamia health practices), Eastern perspectives through yoga and acupuncture, and any other knowledge systems that one might engage with. It is not uncommon for all these influences to merge when we gather as Myaamia people in Myaamia spaces. As long as we all have a shared experience in our Myaamia knowledge system these other ways of knowing are less of a threat and only strengthen us and our community.

Aligning ways of knowing

That being said, it is common to label various knowledge systems – such as, “Eastern” “Western” and “Indigenous”, as I did above.

This leads to these knowledge systems being pitted against one another due to their differences and interpreted by some as opposing. Collectively, these knowledge systems can appear hierarchically arranged with those having broader global influence and resources considered “better” than others. This leads to the devaluation of others. The NAATeam intends to use a pluralistic approach, situating multiple knowledge systems around our own Myaamia ways of knowing to utilize that which is useful to us, as our ancestors have always done.

This collective recognition acknowledges the best of any knowledge source and does not reject other forms of knowledge due to their differences. Rather, we hope to position Myaamia practices and knowledge as central to our identity so that our collective engagement around our knowledge system strengthens the entire community by utilizing the best available to us.

Connecting Myaamia *nipwaayoni* ‘knowledge’ through time: past, present, and future

When revitalizing a construct, such as *myaamia nahi meehtohseeniwinki* ‘living well’, we must ask ourselves about its origin and who is being served. Any construct we develop must draw on available knowledge, respond to the needs of the present, and be constructed with an understanding that everything adapts and changes with time.

In order to call something Myaamia, the identifiable forms of knowing and understanding must



draw on the time-tested experience of previous generations. Learning from our past is always a challenge because we do not live in the past and what makes sense then may not be applicable today.

Aside from the interpretive details of our past, there are identifiable threads of continuity exhibited by our ancestors that point to more stable sources of knowing that may be applicable in this generation. Much of what we attempt to revitalize from the past must have some relevance to our lives today if there is going to be value among a younger generation.

This is all challenged by the fact that our ancestors did not live in a time of information overload, with the levels of misinformation that come with it, as we do today. Helping our youth connect to Myaamia ways of knowing and being early in life is essential in establishing the foundation for future learning and practice.



Myaamia women with their small children at the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma's Council House in 2023.
Photo by Karen Baldwin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

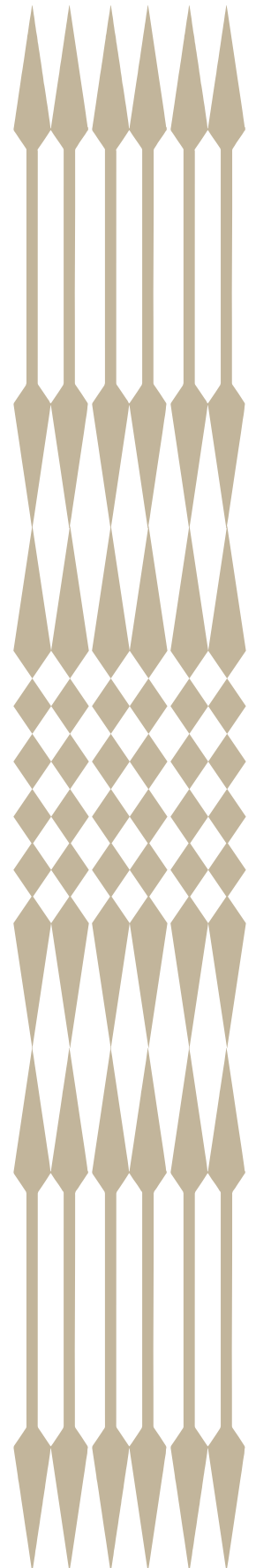
Myaamia women and babies

We all know that cultures change over time. We know that our community will continue adapting while our social and ecological environments continue

evolving. Therefore, it's our responsibility to create a system that is strong and relevant today, but also flexible enough to hold over for those inevitable shifts that our children, grandchildren, and future generations will face in their lifetimes.

Conclusion

The Myaamiaki Eemamwiciki – our revitalization efforts – have had profound impacts on our community and an upcoming generation. It has evolved to a point where we can begin looking at the positive impacts this work will have on future generations if we continue to invest in it. I find great beauty and encouragement in my role as a member of the NAATeam. I have the unique opportunity to work very closely with upcoming generations as they form their own identities in very similar ways as I did when I was just a child in our youth programs. I love the way this effort has matured to a point where we are again strengthening the bonds across the generations and to our homelands. To think about this practically, I love when I'm walking in our historic homelands – back at my parent's home in northern Indiana or on campus at Miami University – and I think about both the ancestors who once walked those same lands and all the knowledge and lessons they were able to take from the land. Simultaneously, I think about future generations who will someday walk on those lands. I think about the knowledge that comes from those lands, allowing us to take care of ourselves and our families, and to pass on what future generations can/should know to care for themselves.





TRIBAL CITIZEN IDENTIFICATION & ENROLLMENT CARDS

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Tribal Citizen/Member Identification and Enrollment Card card allows for the inclusion of a photograph of the Enrolled Citizen/Member and also allows the inclusion of a Myaamia name. Tribal citizens who wish to obtain the new card should contact Tera Hatley, Member Services Manager, at thatley@miamination.com or by phone at 918-541-1324.

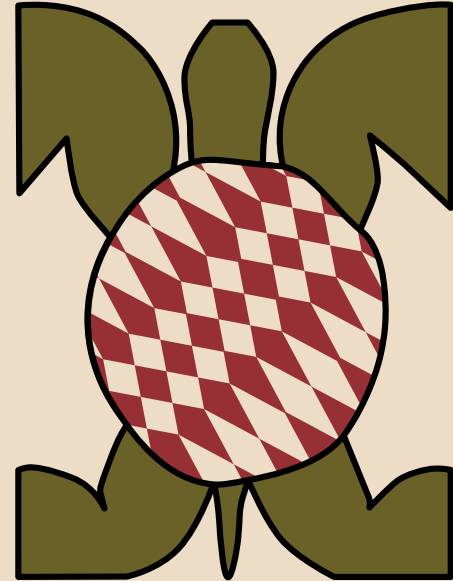
DID YOU MOVE?

We hope you enjoy your new place!

NOW IT'S TIME TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

Tribal members contact Tera Hatley at
thatley@miamination.com
or 918-541-1300

EUGENE V. BROWN MEMORIAL ART SHOW



JUN 23 - AUG 25, 2025

As we continue celebrating the Myaamia art of ribbonwork, the Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive announces the 4th Eugene V. Brown Memorial Art Show, scheduled for June 23-August 25, 2025. This year's theme will be "peepankišaapiikahkia eehk-waatamenki: Myaamia Ribbonwork."

Unlike previous years, the renovations at the MHMA provide space to keep entries on display for a more extended period, at the artist's discretion. This will allow many others from the Miami community to see the hard work of our tribal artists throughout the summer.

Check out our online resources at
aacimotaatiiyankwi.com



MIAMI TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GATHERING WEEK EVENTS 2025

The 2025 Miami Tribe of Oklahoma National Gathering Week events are scheduled for June 25-28, in Miami, OK. Changes to this schedule will be posted on the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Facebook page at [MYAAMIAMI Miami Tribe of Oklahoma \(private members only page\)](#), and website at www.miamination.com.

NOTICE: ONLY THE MIAMI NATION POW WOW IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. ALL OTHER EVENTS LISTED ARE FOR MIAMI TRIBE CITIZENS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25 RIBBONWORK KEY CHAINS WORKSHOP *(Miami Tribe Community Event - not open to Public)*

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Prairie Sun Event Center - 3411 P. Street NW, Miami, OK

Led by Myaamia citizen Tina Fox. Participants will craft a small, hand-sewn ribbon applique key chain. All materials provided. RSVP to Carrie Harter at charter@miamination.com. Questions, contact Meghan Dorey at 918-541-7727. Watch for updates on the website at miamination.com or by phone at 918-541-1300. All ages - must be able to hand-sew independently. Watch the Miami Tribe Facebook page and website for updates. Lunch provided for attendees.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25 SEENSEEWINKI 'BOWL GAME' MAKING WORKSHOP *(Miami Tribe Community Event - not open to Public)*

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Ethel Miller Moore Cultural Education Center - 5944 S 520 Rd. - Miami, OK

Led by Myaamia citizen Jody Gamble. Participants will create a complete bowl game set to take home and learn to play seenseewinki (plum stone game). All materials provided. RSVP to Carrie Harter at charter@miamination.com. Questions, contact Meghan Dorey at 918-541-7727. Watch for updates on the website at miamination.com or by phone at 918-541-1300. All ages. Youth 13 and under must be accompanied by adult. Watch the Miami Tribe Facebook page and website for updates. Lunch provided for attendees.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25 OPEN HOUSE - EUGENE V. BROWN MEMORIAL ART SHOW

5:00 p.m. - Myaamia Heritage Museum - 28 N. Main Street - Miami, OK

See Show Announcement in Tribal Newspaper, on Facebook at MYAAMIAMI Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and in the announcements on the website at miamination.com. Light refreshments provided. Contact Meghan Dorey at 918-541-7727. Watch for updates on the website at miamination.com and on Facebook.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 26 MYAAMIA FAMILY DAY** (Games & Dancing) *(Miami Tribe Community Event - not open to Public)*

All activities to be held on grounds surrounding Miami Nation Council House - 54515 East 65 Road, Miami, OK

Events begin at 10:30 a.m. and last all day and into the evening. There are events scheduled for adults and children. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Bring lawn chairs, hats, sunscreen, and bug spray. Games contact: Scott Willard 417-317-3465 swillard@miamination.com. General contact: Joshua Sutterfield 918-325-0107 jsutterfield@miamination.com.

- 10:30 a.m. Beginner Archery Training:** Conducted by certified instructors. Open to beginners and novice shooters. Youth Fun Shoot: Open to children. Non-competitive shoot for fun and to instill proper form and safety skills.
- Noon Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. ARCHERY COMPETITIONS BEGIN**
- Novice Challenge:** Open to inexperienced shooters. Participants will use equipment provided by the Cultural Resources Office to participate on an even playing field with other shooters. Awards will be given. One practice round followed by scoring round with shoot offs for ties.
- Recurve Challenge:** Experienced archers challenge each other's skills with personally owned recurve bows from a greater distance. **ONLY RECURVE BOWS** welcome for this event. Awards will be given. One practice round followed by a scoring round with shoot off for ties. (Shooters without bows can participate but will use equipment provided by the Cultural Resources Office).
- Maamišaahkwaheetaawi - Lacrosse Shootout:** Occurs after Archery Challenge is completed. Awards given for best score out of five shots at goal in two categories: contemporary stick and traditional myaamia pakitahaakani.
- Tomahawk Throw:** Non-competition - test your throwing skills. Instruction will be provided. Open to 18 and over for safety reasons. Throwing open all afternoon in a safe area but only when supervising personnel are present.
- 6 p.m. Dinner - Stomp Dance begins at sunset inside dance arena**

FRIDAY, JUNE 27 CULTURAL EDUCATION DAY *(Miami Tribe Community Event - not open to Public)*

- 8:30 a.m. Community Breakfast:**
Myaamia Community Center/Dining Hall - 54535 East 65 Road, Miami, OK.
Breakfast followed by the community lacrosse game on the game field behind the Cultural Resources Center. If you have your own pakitahaakani/Myaamia lacrosse stick please bring it, if not we will have sticks on hand *(only traditional sticks will be used for the game.)*
- 10:30 a.m. Community Lacrosse Game**
Myaamia game field - 54505 East 65 Road, Miami, OK.
Pakitahaakani/traditional lacrosse sticks provided, or bring your own.
- Noon Lunch** at Prairie Sun Event Center - 3411 P. Street NW, Miami, OK.
Lunch will be served after the game in the cool of the new Prairie Sun Event Center located across from Tribal Headquarters at 3411 P. Street. After lunch we will have cultural presentations, and hand out t-shirts to those present.
- 1:30 p.m. Cultural Presentation** followed by t-shirt distribution.



FRIDAY EVE, JUNE 27 24th ANNUAL MIAMI NATION POW WOW - June 27th & 28th

Location: Miami Nation Dance Grounds - 54515 East 65 Road, Miami, OK.
(Located behind the Myaamia Council House)

Contacts:

Julie Olds 918-541-3131, jolds@miamination.com and Tera Hatley 918-919-1444, thatley@miamination.com
(Public Event - SEE POW WOW FLIER ON FACEBOOK AT MIAMI NATION EVENTS or Pg 10A)

SATURDAY, JUNE 28 ANNUAL MIAMI NATION GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

(Miami Tribe Citizens and their Families - not open to the Public)

Location: Myaamia Council House - 54515 East 65 Road, Miami, OK

7:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served at the Myaamia Community Center/Dining Hall

9:00 a.m. Annual Meeting of the General Council begins promptly at 9 a.m. in the Council House.
Miami citizens enter through the doors on the east side of the building for registration.

Lunch: Prairie Sun Event Center following close of the meeting - 3411 P. Street NW, Miami, OK.

***Annual Meeting Contacts:**

Donya Williams 918-541-7274, dwilliams@miamination.com
and Tera Hatley 918-919-1444, thatley@miamination.com

SATURDAY EVE, JUNE 28 24th ANNUAL MIAMI NATION POW WOW

(Public Event - SEE POW WOW FLIER ON FACEBOOK AT MIAMI NATION EVENTS or Pg 10A)

IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT/THREATENING WEATHER THE CONTACT FOR TRIBAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IS MIKE BROWN - Cell: 918-919-1979 Email: mbrown@mn-e.com
NOTE: PLEASE FOLLOW MIAMI NATION EVENTS ON FACEBOOK, AND THE HOMEPAGE AT WWW.MIAMINATION.COM

LODGING INFORMATION FOR MIAMI, OK

BUFFALO RUN HOTEL:

8414 S. 580 Road, Miami, OK
918-542-2900

DAYS INN

2120 East Steve Owens Blvd.,
Miami, OK, 888-942-6215

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS:

509 Hendley Avenue, Miami, OK
918-542-7424

HAMPTON INN:

115 S. Deacon Turner Road, Miami,
OK, 918-541-1500

MICRO-TEL: 2015 E. Steve Owens
Blvd., Miami, OK, 918-540-3333

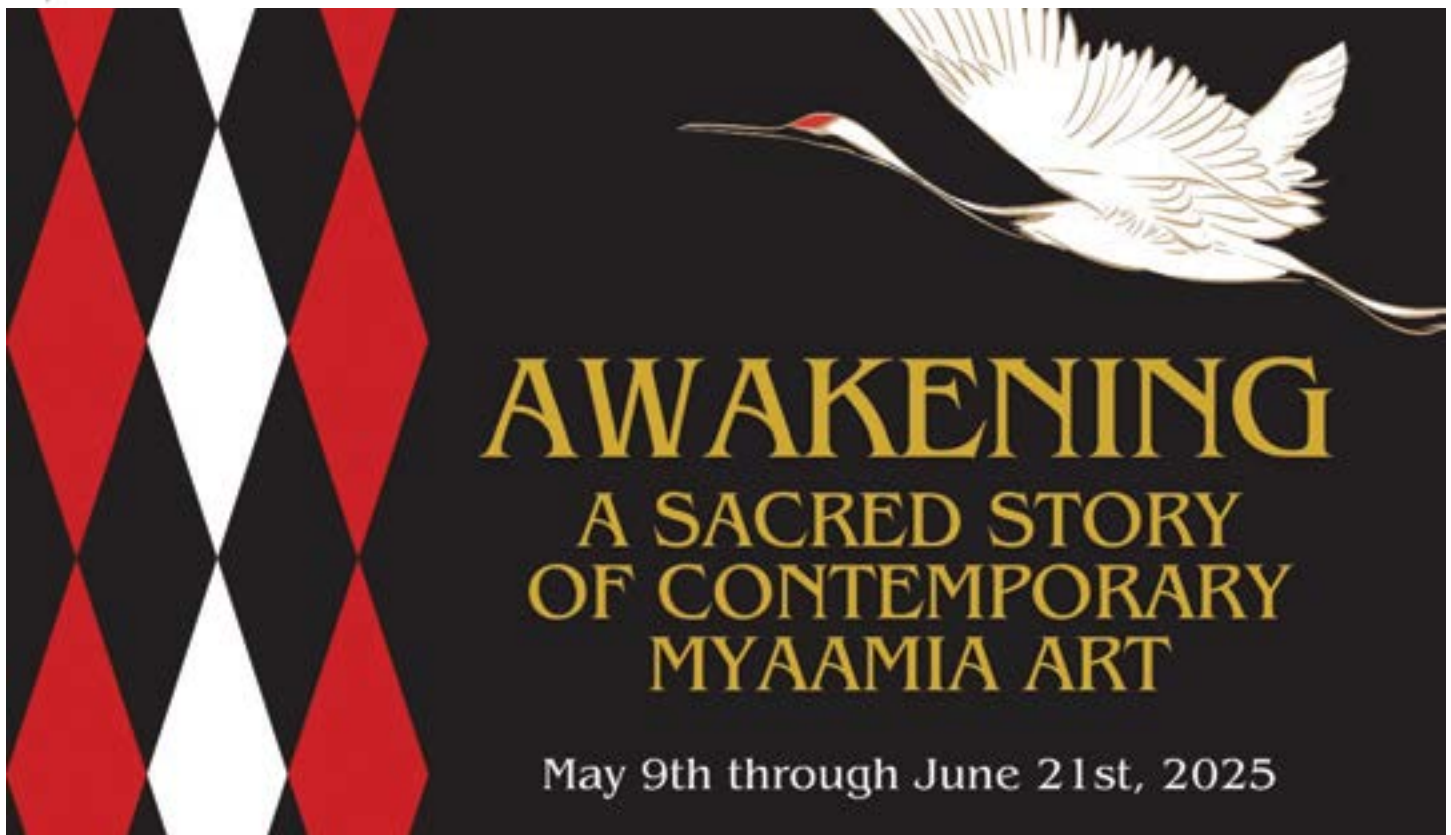
stomp ribbon skirt guide

Learn to sew your very own ribbon skirt with the step-by-step guide on Šaapohkayoni, the Myaamia education portal.

Visit myaamiportal.com to create an account and access the course.

eemaditwici

šaapohkaayoni



Crete Creative Hosts “Awakening: A Sacred Story of Contemporary Myaamia Art,” An Exhibit Honoring the Revitalization of Native Miami Language and Culture

Community Submission

Crete Creative Gallery and School is honored to present “Awakening: A Sacred Story of Contemporary Myaamia Art.” The exhibition will only be on display from May 9th to June 21st, 2025 in the Crete Public Library’s 2nd Floor Gallery at 1177 Main St, Crete, IL, 60417.

Curated by Kathy Carter Young, Crete Creative President and Myaamia citizen, this groundbreaking exhibit features the work of over twenty Myaamia (Miami Tribe) artists who have reconnected to their heritage and stories through beadwork, ribbonwork, painting, sewing, basketry, and more.

Before colonialist occupation, the influential

Myaamionki (Miami Lands) extended across Northeast Illinois, Southern Wisconsin, Central Indiana, Southern Michigan, and Western Ohio - including what is now Crete, Illinois. In the 19th century, the U.S. government forcibly removed the Myaamiaki (Miami People) from their homelands and marched them Southwest, to Oklahoma. Divorced of their language, separated from their families, and removed from their important cultural sites - the energy of the tribe fell dormant.

180 years later, after decades of rebuilding their tribe, reclaiming their language, and reconnecting with their heritage, Myaamia artists from across the country are reuniting to lift up their voices for the “Awakening.” Through the dedication and passion



of contemporary artists and historians, their once lost art and language combine with their creative skills to showcase together in the lands they once called home.

The exhibit's Opening Reception & Art Market offers a rare opportunity to engage directly with Myaamia artists and tribal representatives from across the country. Visitors can browse the Myaamia Art Market, learn about ribbonwork by creating their own, read each artist's "Awakening" nonfiction story, and enjoy a selection of locally catered foods. Special guests from the Myaamia Center at Miami, University, Ohio, will give a presentation and singing performance at 1:30 PM, sharing insights into their language and cultural revitalization.

For more information about the Myaamia Center's work in education and cultural preservation, visit Myaamia Center at [Miami University](https://myaamiacenter.org/).

Join us in celebrating the past, the present, and future of the Myaamia people through the lens of contemporary art.





MYAAMIA EDUCATION OFFICE BACK-TO-SCHOOL FUND & SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

NOTICE! ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED AND IN OFFICE BY THE DEADLINE!

Back-to-School Funds

Spring and Fall Semester Back-to-School applications will be mailed to all enrolled Miami Tribe of Oklahoma children from Pre-School through High School (ages 4-19 years). Spring applications will be mailed out in September of each year and Fall applications will be mailed in June of each year.

Eligible tribal members may apply for the following funds:

- ♦ **Pre-School** (min. age of 4 years): **\$50.00**
- ♦ **Kindergarten through 6th grade**: **\$75.00**
- ♦ **7th & 8th grade**: **\$100.00**
- ♦ **9th through 12th grade** (max. age 19): **\$150.00**

Fall Semester Applications must be **received** by **JUL 1** or postmarked by **JUN 17**.

Spring Semester Applications must be **received** by **NOV 15**, or postmarked by **NOV 5**.

We will not process late applications.

Applications must be filled out completely. Read

instructions on the application carefully and make sure it is signed at the bottom before returning to the Myaamia Education office by the application deadline. If you do not receive an application, it can be downloaded from the miamination.com under Services, Myaamia Education Office, Back-to-School Funds or call for a new application to be mailed. Please ensure your address is up-to-date with the Member Services Department. If you have questions, contact the Education Office at **918-541-2176**.

To receive Back-to-School Funds an application must be completed for each semester. Checks will be mailed within 3 weeks after the Fall semester application deadline, and after Christmas for the Spring semester.

**The Tribe may require, at any time, the recipient of back-to-school-funds to produce receipts for items purchased with said funds as a requirement for receiving future funding. *The policy of the Miami Tribe related to any matter involving a minor tribal member is to communicate with the biological parent or legal guardian.*

You can now submit your application online using the new education portal! myaamiaportal.com

Scholarships

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is committed to supporting the education of Myaamia people of all ages through the funding of scholarships and continuing education programs. The Myaamia Scholarship Selection Committee is made up of 3 tribal members appointed by the Business Committee and given the responsibility of

awarding scholarships through a blind application process on behalf of the General Council. **All scholarship applications must be fully completed upon submission or the application will not be considered.** *Note: All scholarships offered by The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma are for enrolled members/citizens of the tribe only. Scholarships are available only for Spring and Fall semesters.*



If selected to receive a scholarship, only one scholarship will be awarded. When applying, check any of the boxes for which the student qualifies. If changing colleges after award checks are mailed, it is the responsibility of the awardee to recover the scholarship amount and have it sent back to the Myaamia Education Office to be redistributed. It is also the awardee's responsibility to notify that the school selection has changed

Scholarship Applications

If you have any questions please contact the Myaamia Education Office. Donya Williams: dwilliams@miamination.com, 918-541-2176.

**All awards are subject to change per the Business Committee.*

Fall Scholarship Application

DEADLINE OCTOBER 1ST.

Spring Scholarship Application

DEADLINE APRIL 1ST.

SCHOLARSHIP ON THE SPRING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:

***CASINO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AWARD**

DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.

Application Eligibility:

- ◇ Full-time undergraduate status (enrolled in 12 credit hours).
- ◇ Must have 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Award:

- ◇ **\$2,000 per academic year.**
 - ◇ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester, or split between Fall and Spring.
- ◇ Pays up to eight consecutive Fall/Spring semesters (4 years).
- ◇ Renewable annually with Spring Scholarship Application.

Renewal Requirements:

- ◇ Maintain full-time status (minimum 12 credit hours each semester).
- ◇ Maintain 2.5 cumulative GPA.

and send the new information to the Myaamia Education Office.

PLEASE NOTE THAT LATE, INCOMPLETE OR UNSIGNED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED. THE MYAAMIA EDUCATION OFFICE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR RETURNING INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS TO BE SIGNED OR COMPLETED.

JOSEPHINE GOODBOO WATSON MEMORIAL BOOK SCHOLARSHIP **DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.**

(Established by the surviving descendants of tribal member Josephine Goodboo Watson).

Application Eligibility:

- ◇ Full-time graduate or undergraduate status.
- ◇ Must have 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Award:

- ◇ **\$500 per academic year.**
- ◇ Renewable annually with Spring Scholarship Application.

Renewal Requirements:

- ◇ Maintain full-time status (minimum 12 credit hours/undergraduate; 6 credit hours/graduate, each semester).
- ◇ Maintain 2.5 cumulative GPA.

TAX COMMISSION CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP **DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.**

Application Eligibility:

- ◇ Full-time undergraduate status.
- ◇ Must have 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Award:

- ◇ **Award amount changes; awarded each academic year.**
 - ◇ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester or split between Fall and Spring.
- ◇ Renewable annually with Spring Scholarship Application.

Renewal Requirements:



- ◇ Maintain full-time status (minimum 12 credit hours) or part-time status (minimum 6 credit hours).
- ◇ Maintain 2.5 cumulative GPA.

NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.*****Application Eligibility:***

- ◇ Full-time undergraduate status (minimum 12 credit hours).
- ◇ Must have 2.5 cumulative GPA (high school or college, whichever is most recent).
- ◇ Must be 5 years since completion of last semester in high school or college.

Award:

- ◇ **\$2,000 per academic year.**
 - ◇ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester or should be split between Fall and Spring.
- ◇ Non-renewable.

FRESH START SCHOLARSHIP**DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.*****Application Eligibility:***

- ◇ Freshman (apply senior year of high school).
- ◇ Must have 2.0-2.4 cumulative GPA.
 - ◇ This scholarship is for a student who does not carry a 2.5 GPA, which is a requirement for all other Miami Tribe of Oklahoma scholarships on the Spring application.

Award:

- ◇ **\$400 one-time award for Fall Semester.**
 - ◇ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester or should be split between Fall and Spring.

- ◇ Non-renewable.

CRANE AWARD**DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.*****Application Eligibility:***

- ◇ Graduate or post-graduate student.

Award:

- ◇ **\$2,000 per academic year.**
 - ◇ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester or should be split between Fall and Spring.
- ◇ Renewable annually with Spring Scholarship Application.

SCHOLARSHIP ON THE FALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:**VOCATIONAL OR TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP****DUE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR.*****Application Eligibility:***

- ◇ Must be enrolled full-time in a state-accredited vocational or trade school.
- ◇ Full-time undergraduate status (minimum 12 credit hours).
- ◇ Must have 2.0 cumulative GPA.

Award:

- ◇ **\$2,000 per academic year.**
 - ◇ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester or should be split between Fall and Spring.
- ◇ Renewable annually with Fall Scholarship Application.

Renewal Requirements:

- ◇ Maintain full-time status (minimum 12 credit hours each semester).
- ◇ Maintain 2.0 cumulative GPA.

NOTICE! ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED AND IN OFFICE BY THE DEADLINE!



2025 Myaamia Student Graduates from Miami University



Myaamia Heritage senior students after receiving special t-shirts and lacrosse sticks. Photo by Karen Baldwin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

On Saturday, May 17th, 2025, the Myaamia Center celebrated 10 Myaamia students as they graduated from Miami University. The graduates were gifted a Myaamia lacrosse stick, a special t-shirt only available to Myaamia graduates of Miami University, and a wool graduation stole, featuring Myaamia language, ribbonwork, and silver buttons, to mark this accomplishment.

Graduates: Avree Armes, Cole Bewick, Lucy Schulte, Miami Hankenson, Michael Sekulich, Addison Lenhart, Zach McCoy, Ingrid Spenn, Kaleb McMullen, and Elliot Baldwin.

Myaamia Center Staff Continues to Grow in 2025

Staff Article

We're excited to welcome two new staff members to the Myaamia Center! This year, Kayla Becker and Gloria Lapp, both alumni of the Myaamia Heritage program, joined our team.

Kayla was hired in January 2025 as the Quality Assurance Analyst at the Myaamia Center. This position was created to ensure digital resources developed by the Miami Tribe, including the Indigenous Language Digital Archive (ILDA) and the Šaapohkaayoni online education portal, meet the

needs of community members at the highest possible standard. Kayla graduated from Miami University in 2024 with a degree in computer science and engineering.

Gloria is serving as the Myaamia Education Content Specialist at the Myaamia Center. This position was created to support the development of the Miami Tribe's online educational resources and digital learning materials for remote learners. Gloria graduated from Miami University in 2019 with a degree in English Language Arts Education. Welcome, Kayla and Gloria!



Kayla Becker, Quality Assurance Analyst at the Myaamia Center. Photo by Scott Kissell, Miami University.



Gloria Lapp, Myaamia Education Content Specialist at the Myaamia Center. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.



Myaamia Heritage Program: 2024/25 School Year Wrap Up



Myaamia graduates from Miami University, spring 2025. Front row L to R: Mia Hankenson, Lucy Schulte, Ingrid Spenn, Avree Armes. Middle: Addison Lenhart, Michael Sekulich, Zach McCoy. Back: Elliot Baldwin, Kaleb McMullen, Cole Bewick. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

Stella Beerman

Communications Specialist, Myaamia Center

It's hard to believe another school year has come to an end for the Myaamia Heritage students at Miami University! Before Myaamia Center staff turn our attention toward the Eemamwiciki Summer Programs, we wanted to share some highlights from the 2024/25 school year.

On Saturday, May 17th, we gathered with our 10 Myaamia Heritage Program graduates and their families in the miloniteheekaani 'Myaamia classroom.' We celebrated our students' completion of the Myaamia Heritage Program and graduation from Miami University with a series of gifts. Each graduate received a special t-shirt designed by Julie Olds, a wooden lacrosse stick made by Doug Peconge, and

a Myaamia stole with hand-sewn ribbonwork created by Karen Baldwin to wear during graduation ceremonies.

During their senior year, the Myaamia students work on a senior project that combines what they have learned in the Myaamia Heritage course and their area of study at Miami University. The goal of the project is to give back to the Myaamia community, in whatever way the students want to define it. In April, we held a senior night event where students presented their projects to their peers and Myaamia Center staff. This year's projects covered a range of topics, including film, genealogy, jewelry-making, and more. If you see one of our recent graduates, be sure to ask them about this experience.

In the Myaamia Heritage course, students spent the year exploring Ecological Perspectives and His-



tory. This course series uses geography to connect history and ecology from a Myaamia perspective. Students spend the majority of their classes outside exploring Miami's campus while taking part in a variety of activities like eating Myaamia food, hiking, and playing games.

In addition to the required coursework, the Myaamia Center hosted several workshops and cultural discussions for our students focused on fingerweaving, ribbonwork, jewelry-making, and more. Scott Shoemaker and Jared Nally, two Myaamia textile artists, taught a group of students to make mahkisina 'moccasins.' They led the students through the entire process from measuring and cutting the hides to sewing the final pieces together. Mihši neewe 'a big thank you' to these artists for visiting campus to share knowledge with our students.

Throughout the summer, several of our students will serve as counselors for the Eemamwiciki Summer Youth Programs in both Miami, Oklahoma, and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Additionally, the Myaamia Center is hosting its first-ever summer internship experience for Myaamia students. The Akimaansa internship will offer students immersive learning experiences that bridge academic study with real-world application. The intern-



Jared Nally and Scott Shoemaker, Myaamia textile artists, teach students how to make moccasins. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.



Right: The 2024/25 Myaamia Heritage student cohort. Photo by Karen Baldwin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.



Myaamia Heritage senior students after presenting their senior projects. Photo by Karen Baldwin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

ship will focus on training participants to share Myaamia language, culture, and history at events throughout the summer, including the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.

As the end of another busy school year winds down, we're sad to see our students leave Oxford but are looking forward to welcoming them back in the fall, along with our new cohort of Myaamia Heritage students!



Myaamia Center Employee Positions

Digital Archivist

The Myaamia Center at Miami University is looking for a Digital Archivist to join our team!

Are you passionate about preserving Indigenous languages and cultures? Want to work in a tribally directed environment where your skills and creativity support community-led efforts?

This position works primarily with digital materials generated and obtained by the Myaamia Center and in support of the National Breath of Life Archival Institute for Indigenous Languages. Help us digitally repatriate, preserve, and share Indigenous language, culture, and history.

If this sounds like you—or someone you know—check out the full job posting and apply here:

https://miamioh.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/miamioh-staff/job/Bonham-House/Digital-Archivist_JR102249

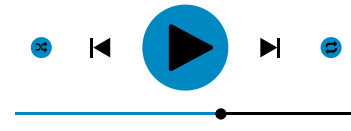
Miami University, an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, encourages applications from protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. Miami University prohibits harassment, discrimination and retaliation on the basis of age (40 years or older), color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, military status, national origin (ancestry), pregnancy, race, religion, sex/gender, status as a parent or foster parent, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status in its application and admission processes, educational programs and activities, facilities, programs or employment practices. Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities related to employment should be directed to ADAFacultyStaff@miamioh.edu or 513-529-3560.

myaamiaataweenki 101

Learn basic greetings, introductions, and parting phrases in Myaamiaataweenki 'the Miami language' on Šaapohkayoni, the Myaamia education portal.



Visit myaamiportal.com to create an account and access the course.



**Neepwaantiinki: Stories
from Myaamia
Revitalization Podcast**

Scan with your phone camera
to learn more.





Myaamia Center Celebrates New Technology Extension Office at Miami University

Staff Article

On May 1, 2025, the Myaamia Center celebrated an exciting milestone, welcoming visitors from across Miami University to the grand opening of its new Technology Extension Office, located on the first floor of Laws Hall. The event brought together faculty, students, and community members to celebrate the new space and a new chapter in the Center's growth.

Since 2013, the Myaamia Center, the official research center of the Miami Tribe, has been located in the historic Bonham House. Over the years, the Center has grown in scope, staff, and mission, bringing with it the need for more space. While the majority of daily operations will remain at Bonham House, the new office in Laws Hall is being used to expand the Center's technological initiatives.

The open house offered guests a chance to view the workspace, connect with the team, and learn more about the wide range of projects being developed in support of the Myaamia community.

Currently, the Laws Hall office is home to the Center's software development team, including Dr. Doug Troy and his team of graduate student software developers. This tech-forward team focuses on creating digital resources that support language revitalization, cultural preservation, and educational outreach. Among their ongoing projects are the Indigenous Language Digital Archive (ILDA) and the Myaamia Education Portal.

The Technology Extension Office is an important physical reminder of the growth the Center has experienced, from its roots in language and cultural reclamation to a dynamic hub of innovation and research. It also represents the strong partnership between the Myaamia Center and Miami University, which continues to support this unique and important work. As the Myaamia Center continues to grow, so does its ability to serve the Myaamia people and engage with the broader academic and Indigenous communities.



Miami University guests mingle with Myaamia Center staff in the new Technology Extension Office. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.





JOIN THE MYAAMIA CENTER AT THE

SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL: JULY 2-7, 2025 | WASHINGTON, D.C

The Myaamia community, through the Myaamia Center, was invited to participate in this year's Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which takes place on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. July 2-7. This year, the theme is Youth and the Future of Culture, and the festival will explore creativity, vitality, resilience, and intergenerational learning through the contributions and experiences of youth. The festival will underscore how young people influence and engage with culture, and how they create, innovate, and sustain cultural practices and traditions.

It will feature youth-centered—and often youth-led—projects and organizations that generate new ideas, transform their communities, and confront contemporary challenges. Several of our Myaamia students from the Myaamia Heritage Program along with Myaamia Center staff will be at the festival to share Myaamia language, culture, and the program's impact on our Tribal nation.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
[FESTIVAL.SI.EDU/2025/YOUTH-FUTURE-CULTURE](https://festival.si.edu/2025/youth-future-culture)

*Remember
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aatotankiki myaamiaki | Miami Nation News

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Join Us for 2025 Online Eemamwiciki Summer Programs

Staff Article

Each summer, the Miami Tribe offers in-person youth and adult summer programming in both Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Miami, Oklahoma. The Eemamwiciki Summer Programs offer quality language and cultural education for the Myaamia community. Designed for participants aged six and older, these summer programs have proven to be a positive way to bring our community together to gain and share our cultural knowledge. Each program is administered by the Miami Tribe's Cultural Resources Office with teaching staff and curricular support from the Myaamia Center at Miami University.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, staff were faced with the challenge of bringing these programs to an online format. As a community spread across the United States, the online format proved to be a useful and meaningful experience for those who cannot travel to Indiana or Oklahoma for the in-person programs. Eewaansaapita, for ages 10-17, and Neehsaapita, for adults 18+, are administered online through Šaapohkaayoni, the Myaamia education portal, each summer.

To sign up, visit myaamiportal.com and log in or create an account. Under "Manage Courses," you will see the option to request access to the 2025 "Living on the Land" courses. Adult participants can request access to the "2025 Neehsaapita: Living on the Land" course.

Parents or legal guardians of youth participants will need to create a minor account on Šaapohkaayoni. **To do this:**

1. Log in to your Šaapohkaayoni account

sign up for:

šaapohkaayoni

a myaamia portal



Easily search Myaamia resources in one convenient location

Create an account to access educational and cultural courses anywhere with internet access

Visit myaamiportal.com to sign up!

2. Under profile, add a minor child
3. If the child has already been added, you can edit the profile by clicking the blue button with the pencil on it.
4. Click the checkbox to create a profile
5. Create a username or use an email address that is different from the one connected to your account
6. Create a password
7. Agree to the permission statement
8. Click create

The youth participant can then log in and request access to the "2025 Eewaansaapita: Living on the Land" course.

Questions? Don't hesitate to contact Kristina Fox, Myaamia Education Coordinator at markskm@miamioh.edu.



eemamwiciki 2025



meehtohseeniwinki

ašiihkionki

This year's theme is
meehtohseeniwinki ašiihkionki
'Living on the Land.'

Learn about Myaamia culture and connect with community while having fun in one of our youth (ages 6-17) or adult (ages 18+) programs.

Miami, OK:

June 16-20, 2025

Fort Wayne, IN:

July 14-18, 2025

Living on the Land: *Three Myaamia Phrases for Summer Programs*

Ciinkwia 'Jarrid Baldwin' and Hunter Thompson Lockwood

Aya ceeki! As we get ready for summer, the best time of year is approaching: Eemamwiciki Summer Programs! This year's theme is Meehtohseeniwinki Ašiihkionki 'Living on the Land', and we have some useful phrases to help you get ready.

Here are three phrases you can practice:

tipeewe neeyolaani 'it's good to see you' – Use this for all the friends and relatives you made from past years but haven't seen in a while. And if you're new, this is a good greeting to get used to!

šaaye-nko kiilwa? 'Are you all ready?' – This is a common question you're going to hear when getting ready for the next activity.

keetwi ooniini? 'What is this?' – This is a very useful phrase as we go on hikes and spend a lot of time learning about our environment, the different plants and trees, and everything around us, and how we use them as myaamiaki.

We hope you'll practice these phrases before summer programs begin! Which phrase do you think you'll use the most? We look forward to seeing you all soon and hearing these words spoken throughout our time together on the land.

kapootwe kati neeyolakakoki 'see you all after a while'!



Saakaciweeta participants hike with counselors at the Summer Programs in 2022. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.



myaamia kiilhsaakani ‘*myaamia lunar calendar*’



wiihkoowia kiilhsa – May 1st - May 29th, 2025

This month is named for the eastern whippoorwill.

Wiihkoowiaki ‘whippoorwills’ return from their winter in the Gulf of Mexico during this time.

The unique call of wiihkoowia marks the beginning of the planting season.



paaphsaahka niipinwiki – May 30th - June 28th, 2025

This month falls in the middle of the summer season.

Pahsaahkaahkanka neepinwiki ‘summer solstice,’ or the longest day of the year, is always in this month.

Planting finishes, and people take a break to enjoy games and dances before harvest begins.



kiišiinkwia kiilhsa – June 29th - July 27th, 2025

This month is named for the young corn that can be eaten raw off the cob during this time of year.

Many other fruits and vegetables ripen during this time as well.

This is a time for celebration, play, and feasts.



mihšiwiia kiilhsa – July 28th - August 26th, 2025

This month is named for the eastern elk.

Male mihšiwiaki ‘elk’ would bugle loudly to attract females and scare away other males.

The eastern elk was driven to extinction by both habitat loss and overhunting by early settlers.



June 27 & 28, 2025
Miami Nation Arena

54505 East 65 Road, Miami, OK

Contest Info:

George Alexander - 580-401-1481

Vendor Info:

Tera Hatley - 918-919-1444

Tonya Blackfox - 918-533-4886

Miami Tribe Contact:

Julie Olds - 918-541-3131

HQ - 918-541-1300



HEAD STAFF

Master of Ceremonies: Marty Thurman - Shawnee, OK

Head Singer: Rylon George Brady - Pawnee, OK

Head Man Dancer: A.J. LeadingFox - Wyandotte, OK

Head Lady Dancer: Tara Renee Goodfox - Shawnee, OK

Head Gourd Dancer: Cap Ulrey - Quapaw, OK

Arena Directors: JR Lonelodge - El Reno, OK

Gavin Alexander, Ponca City, OK

Host Northern Drum: Young Buffalo Horse - Stillwater, OK

Incoming 2025 Pow Wow Princess: Lena Tsosie - Chelsea, OK

Outgoing 2024 Pow Wow Princess: Miley Attocknie, Quapaw, OK

PRIZES ALL ADULT CATEGORIES:

1st Place \$700 2nd \$500 3rd \$300

CONTESTANTS MUST MAKE ONE GRAND ENTRY

CONTEST SCHEDULE WILL BE POSTED AT REGISTRATION TABLE

For more information visit [Miami Nation Events](#) on Facebook.



Washington Workshop



Hoci Myaamiaki in Washington & surrounding areas.

We will be returning to learn language & cultural activities, bowl game, moccasin game, & lacrosse!

Location still TBD.

Kennewick, WA
August 15 & 16

Please RSVP to Doug Peconge at
DPeconge@miamination.com or call or text
918-919-1484

MIAMI TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA | CULTURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

SummerFest

All tribal members are welcome!
(Students will receive a backpack with school supplies)

3600 S 505 Rd
Miami, OK 74354

August 9th, 2025
10 am - 4 pm

CARNIVAL RIDES | GAMES | PRIZES
BACKPACKS | SCHOOL SUPPLIES
FACE PAINTING | MAGICIAN | BALLOON ARTIST
WATER SLIDE | BOUNCE HOUSE
LUNCH & SNACKS

Please RSVP by August 1st to Joshua Sutterfield at
jsutterfield@miamination.com or 918-325-0107

EEMAMWICKI 2025 EVENTS

Jan

24-25: Myaamia
Winter Gathering -
nooŋonke siipionki

Feb

15: Myaamia New Year
- nooŋonke siipionki

22: Myaamia New
Year - kiihkayonki

Mar

Apr

12: Picnic and Play! -
nooŋonke siipionki

19: Sprout About -
kiihkayonki

May

31: Lacrosse into
Spring - kiihkayonki

Jun

16-20: Eemamwiciki
Summer Programs
- nooŋonke siipionki

26-28: National
Gathering & Annual
Meeting - nooŋonke
siipionki

Jul

14-18: Eemamwiciki
Summer Programs
- kiihkayonki

18: kiiŋinkwia kiihswa
- kiihkayonki

Aug

9: SummerFest -
nooŋonke siipionki

15-16: Washington
Workshop -
Kennewick, WA

Sep

18: Fall Gathering -
kiihkayonki

Oct

18: Sasquash Seed
Swap - kiihkayonki

Nov

Dec



For nooŋonke siipionki 'Oklahoma' events, RSVP
to Joshua Sutterfield at (918) 325-0107 or
jsutterfield@miamination.com.

For kiihkayonki 'Indiana' events, RSVP to Claudia
Hedeen at (918) 325-8810 or
chedeen@miamination.com.

OFFICIAL NOTICE:

*The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma will host their Annual Meeting
on June 28th, 2025*

