



March 3, 2022

Aya eeweemilakakoki 'Hello my relatives,'

It's time to plan for our 2022 Eemamwiciki Summer Educational Experiences! These summer programs offer quality Myaamia language and cultural education for the Myaamia community. The summer programs are administered through the Miami Tribe's Cultural Resources Office with teaching staff and curricular support from the Myaamia Center at Miami University. Designed for participants aged six and older, the summer programs have proven to be a positive way to bring our community together to gain and share our cultural knowledge.

This year's theme is ***Weekihkaanki Meehkintiinki*** 'Games.' Throughout the program, we will explore Myaamia "ball games and games of chance," which include games like lacrosse, tossed ball, the moccasin game, the bowl game, and the straw game. Our goal is to help our participants construct their own understanding of the unique features of Myaamia games and the roles these games play in our community.

We are pleased to announce that we will be offering both in-person programs and online at your own pace programs this summer! Our Saakaciweeta (ages 6-9), Eewansaapita (ages 10-16), Maayaahkweeta (ages 17-18), and Neehsapita (ages 18 and older) programs will be held in-person in Miami, OK and Fort Wayne, IN. For those interested in our at your own pace programming, we will be offering Saakaciweeta for 6-9 year olds, Eewansaapita for 10-17 year olds, and Neehsapita for ages 18 and older. The age range for Eewansaapita has been expanded to include 17 year olds who would normally attend Maayaahkweeta. All interested 18 year olds are encouraged to participate in Neehsapita at Your Own Pace.

Application deadline for **all programs: May 27, 2022**

Noošonke Siipionki (Miami, Oklahoma) **Programs: June 13-17, 2022**

The five-day program will be held on Myaamia cultural grounds from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

Kiihkayonki (Fort Wayne, Indiana) **Programs: July 18-22, 2022**

The five-day program will be held at Metea Park from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

At Your Own Pace (Online) **Programs: June 20-July 15, 2022**

Program staff will regularly update and check the Edmodo learning system during this timeframe. At the conclusion of the program timeframe, materials will remain available with no guarantee of staff interaction.

Providing each participating child with a quality and safe learning experience is of utmost importance to us. All staff and counselors are pre-approved by the Cultural Resources Office and will have passed background checks as required for all tribal youth programs. All participants for in-person programs will be under continual supervision from the time they are dropped off each morning until they leave with a parent, guardian, or approved person each evening. In order to fully benefit from the experience and participate in the creation of healthy learning communities, we expect participants to be present for all five days of the program.

We are once again using an online application. A link to this application is available at <http://www.miamination.com/eewansaapita>. Each application will take approximately 40 minutes to complete. To speed up this process, we recommend you have:

- your child and their essay responses (see attached pages for essay prompts)
- your child's or your enrollment number
- your insurance information (in-person programs only)
- a scan or picture of your driver's license or other government issued photo ID (in-person programs only)
 - Any person that will be picking up your participant at the end of the day will need to be added as an approved individual on the application.

If you are unable to complete an online application, please call Joshua Sutterfield at 918-325-0107 to request an alternative application.

Selection of participants is based upon the quality of student responses to the required essay and completeness of all required forms. As applications are reviewed, you will receive information via email from eemamwiciki@gmail.com. In-person Saakaciweeta and Eewansaapita programs in both locations are limited to 25 participants. Maayaahkweeta programs in both locations are limited to 5 participants. Applying to programs in both locations does not guarantee a spot in both locations. These requirements do not apply to the at your own pace programs. Participants may apply to both in-person and online programs if they wish.

For more information and up to date announcements, we recommend joining our Myaamia Summer Programs (Eemamwiciki) Facebook Group. This is a "closed group" where families can connect outside of the summer programs. We share pictures from the programs and other gatherings featuring participants. We also post activities that families can do at home to continue learning throughout the year.

We look forward to receiving this year's applications and hope your child will consider applying.

kikwehsitoole (respectfully),



Joshua Sutterfield
Cultural Education Director
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Saakaciweeta Summer Youth Educational Experience

The term Saakaciweeta means “emerge” and is used to define this age group of six to nine year olds as they begin their journey in the Myaamia community. Saakaciweeta began in 2015 in order to engage younger children in learning about their language and heritage.

Our goal for the Saakaciweeta program is to create a safe space for participants to learn the Myaamia language, experience cultural activities related to the yearly themes, and to develop a strong sense of community between participants that will provide them with opportunities for interactions throughout the year. Myaamia language and culture is woven throughout all activities. Daily language use among staff is designed for age-appropriate comprehension and ease of learning for all participants. Because of the 3-year cycle for Saakaciweeta participants, there is a sub-theme included along with the main theme of **Weekihkaanki Meehkintiinki** ‘Games’. This year’s sub-theme is **Weecinaakiiyankwi Weecikaayankwi** ‘We Sing Together - We Dance Together’; this will allow for additional cultural connections to be made as we explore our families of the past and of the present.

Eligibility for Miami, Oklahoma:

Youth must be 6 years old and have completed pre-kindergarten before June 13, 2022.

Eligibility for Fort Wayne, Indiana:

Youth must be 6 years old and have completed pre-kindergarten before July 18, 2022.

Eligibility for Saakaciweeta at Your Own Pace (online):

Youth must be 6 years old and have completed pre-kindergarten before June 20, 2022.

Saakaciweeta Essays

For the participant:

Please choose one of the questions below. Parents may help as needed.

1) If you are new to Saakaciweeta, what are you hoping to learn during this Saakaciweeta experience?

2) If you have attended Saakaciweeta before (either online or in-person), what do you remember and what did you learn?

For the parent/guardian:

You play a major role in your child's involvement in Saakaciweeta. Your child will learn many new myaamia words and concepts to share at home. What do you hope your child will gain from this experience?

Eewansaapita Summer Youth Educational Experience

Eewansaapita means “sunrise” and is used here as a metaphoric expression for community rebirth, renewal, and empowerment. Eewansaapita began in 2005 as part of Myaamia Eemamwiciki ‘Miami awakening.’

The Vision of the Eewansaapita Summer Experience is to provide an educational experience that helps guide a new generation of tribal youth to be lifelong students of their heritage, who will create a place within their lives to continue to actively engage with Myaamia language and culture. From this experience will come a generation who will begin another “new day” and will advance the efforts of Myaamia revitalization for a future generation.

Eligibility for Miami, Oklahoma:

Youth must be 10 years old before June 13, 2022.

Youth must still be 16 years old on June 17, 2022.

Eligibility for Fort Wayne, Indiana:

Youth must be 10 years old before July 18, 2020.

Youth must still be 16 years old on July 22, 2022.

Eligibility for Eewansaapita at Your Own Pace (online):

Youth must be 10 years old before June 20, 2022.

Eewansaapita Essays

First year Eewansaapita participants:

You will learn a lot of Myaamia language and culture during the Eewansaapita at Home Summer Educational Experience. How do you feel about having the opportunity to learn these things and what do you hope to do with what you learn?

Returning Eewansaapita participants:

Tell us some of the things you have learned from other Eewansaapita experiences. How did you share that learning with others?

Maayaahkweeta Educational Experience

Maayaahkweeta means “mid-day,” a metaphoric reference to seventeen and eighteen year olds as they transition into more adult roles within the Myaamia community. Maayaahkweeta was launched in 2021, and is for graduates of the Eewansaapita program who are committed to advancing their use and knowledge of Myaamia language and culture as well as giving back to their community.

The vision of the Maayaahkweeta program is to support older participants as they work toward self-defined language and culture goals and in developing their understanding of the Myaamia community ethic: “knowledge is responsibility.” In these pursuits, participants will serve as role models for younger learners.

At Maayaahkweeta, participants will be able to engage in multiple objectives and goals. Participants will be able to connect with their relatives, contribute to the Myaamia community, have access to language and cultural learning activities. Most importantly, Maayaahkweeta participants will be able to have fun and learn how to cultivate a life-long involvement within the Myaamia community.

Maayaahkweeta participants are expected to set their own learning goals and will work with staff during the program to evaluate and revise as needed. As role models for the other participants, they are expected to speak and encourage others to speak the Myaamia language, model appropriate attitude and behavior, and assist Eeamwiciki staff when needed. Participants will also be completing an exit survey or interview at the conclusion of the program.

Eligibility for Miami, Oklahoma and Fort Wayne, Indiana:

In order to be a Maayaahkweeta participant, youth must:

- Have participated in Eemamwiciki programming previously
- Demonstrate the desire to grow as a Myaamia learner
- Demonstrate the desire to give back to the Myaamia community
- Demonstrate an ethic of care
- Demonstrate respect for the values of the program
- Attend a pre-camp training session on the Sunday before the program begins

Maayaahkweeta Essays

First year participants:

- 1) How has your experience as a participant in past Eewansaapita programs prepared you to be a Maayaahkweeta participant?
- 2) How do you see yourself giving back to the Myaamia community? Think about any ways that you currently give back and ways that you can give back after your involvement with the Maayaahkweeta program.
- 3) Create 2 learning goals to work on during the course of the program. At least 1 goal should be language related. It is important that your goals be focused so your progress is measurable during the program. Below are two examples of goals. Eemamwiciki staff will work with you on revising your goals via email before the start of your program.

Example goals

Broad goal: I want to learn how to drive.

Focused goal: I want to learn how to parallel park.

Returning participants:

- 1) How have you furthered your learning of Myaamia language and culture since last year?
- 2) How do you see yourself giving back to the Myaamia community? Think about any ways that you currently give back and ways that you can give back after your involvement with the Maayaahkweeta program.
- 3) Create 2 learning goals to work on during the course of the program. At least 1 goal should be language related. It is important that your goals be focused so your progress is measurable during the program. Below are two examples of goals. Eemamwiciki staff will work with you on revising your goals via email before the start of your program.

Example goals

Broad goal: I want to learn how to drive.

Focused goal: I want to learn how to parallel park.

Neehsapita Adult Educational Experience

The *Neehsapita* program is our Summer Adult Educational Experience. The program gets its name from our language and means afternoon. This represents the continued learning we do as adults. Neehsapita is still in its infancy and we look forward to expanding its curriculum. Our goal is to create an opportunity for adults to continue learning about their language and culture.

The vision of *Neehsapita* is to create a space where Myaamia adults can come together to share and learn as a community. Each year we will focus on the themes of the other summer programs, with the hope that we foster more interaction between learners of all ages.

Eligibility for Miami, Oklahoma:

Participants must be at least 18 years old before June 13, 2022.

Eligibility for Fort Wayne, Indiana:

Participants must be at least 18 years old before July 18, 2020.

Eligibility for Neehsapita at Your Own Pace (online):

Participants must be at least 18 years old before June 20, 2022.

Neehsapita Essay (Optional)

What are your goals for the program or what do you want to get out of participating?