

# National Native American Heritage Month

**By Library of Congress et al**

November is National Native American Heritage Month. The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans.

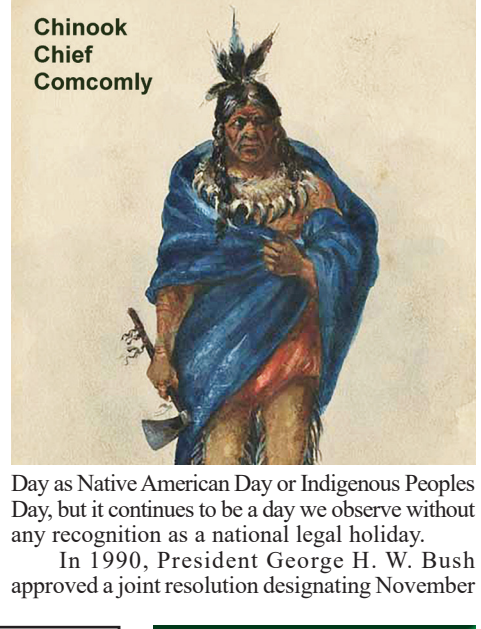
What started at the turn of the last century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States, has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

One of the first proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, New York. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans" and for three years they adopted such a day.

In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Reverend Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Reverend Coolidge issued a proclamation on September 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as United States citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of twenty-four state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus



Day as Native American Day or Indigenous Peoples Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November

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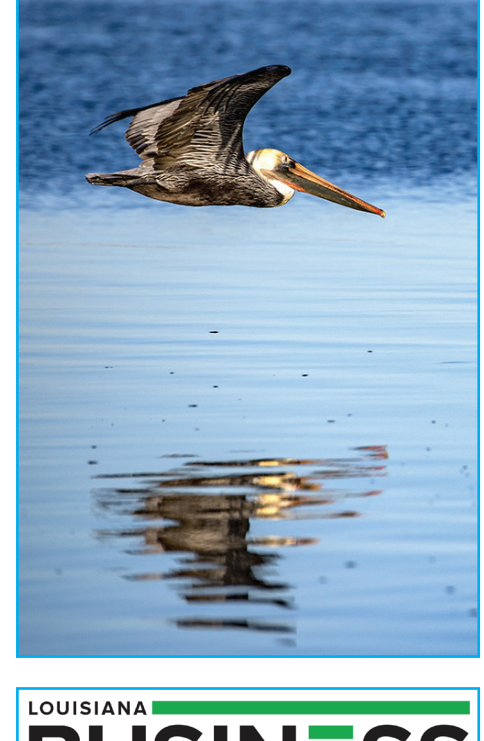
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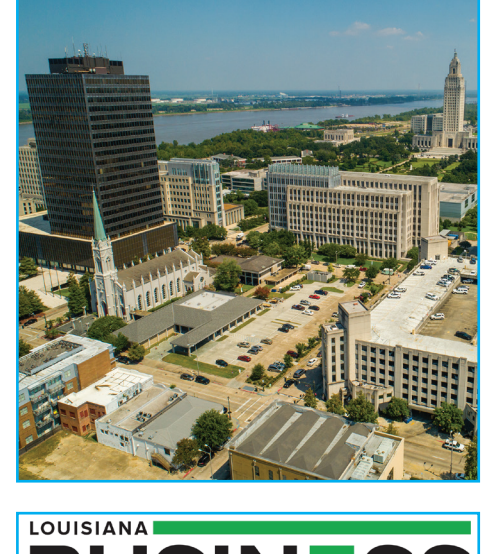
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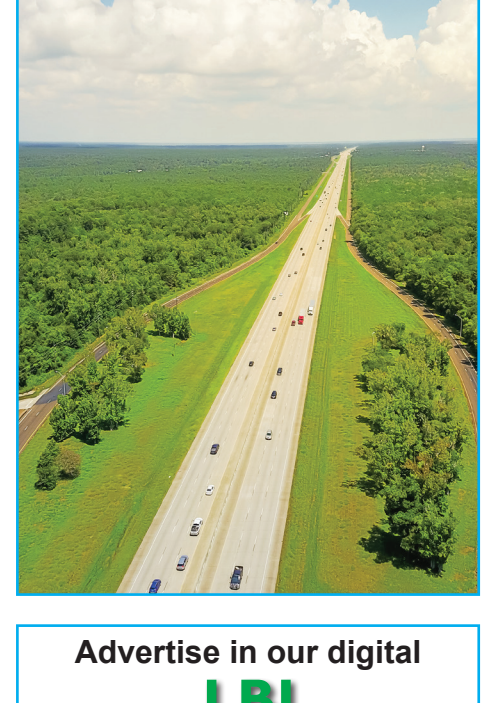
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**2023**

**8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar**  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 9:30 am–10:30 am CDT Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: [SBA Illinois District Office](mailto:SBA Illinois District Office), 312-353-4528, [illinois.do@sba.gov](mailto:illinois.do@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required  
Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

**Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Webinar**  
Thursday, November 16, 2023, 9:00 am–10:00 am CDT Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>  
Fee: Free; registration required  
Welcome to the WOSB webinar series! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions will include an overview of the self-certification process, as well as a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register for this free webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>

**Selling to the Federal Government Webinar**  
Thursday, January 25, 2024, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: [George Tapia](mailto:George Tapia), 610-382-3086, [george.tapia@sba.gov](mailto:george.tapia@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required  
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**CERTIFICATION**

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