



RUNNING STRONG
for American Indian Youth®



LAND AWARENESS GUIDEBOOK



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'I AM ON NATIVE LAND'
SIGN



WHAT IS LAND AWARENESS?

Land Awareness is aimed at acknowledging, respecting, and affirming the connections between Indigenous Peoples and the land, serving emphasis in the importance of local tribal communities, the occupied or unceded status of native lands, and all surrounding history.

As tribal communities continue resolving the long-lasting and widespread impacts of cultural erasure, the practices of Land Awareness play a pivotal role in tribal communities being in spaces that have been historically exclusive.





WHY IS **LAND AWARENESS** SO IMPORTANT?

The primary purpose and intent behind Land Awareness is to honor local tribal communities by recognizing their sovereignty and historical contributions over the land. Everywhere in America is Native Land, journeying coast to coast, and should reflect the thriving presence of tribal communities, native peoples, and ongoing history being made.

Land Awareness centrally rests with tribal communities being respected in all capacities and should help foster transformative experiences by bringing to light the suppressed/oppressed experiences, perspectives, and histories that hold crucial significance in both contemporary and future narratives.

WAYS TO PRACTICE LAND AWARENESS:

Land Awareness can be practiced by anyone and is increasingly being seen through an acknowledgment, whether it is the universal inclusion of one within email signatures, stationery, and publications, or through the allotments of time within gatherings for one to be publicly presented. It is also continually imperative to initiate conversations, nurture enduring relationships with Native communities, and create space for native perspectives be consistently present and heard.




Awareness requires diligent research and reflection to gain an understanding of the relationships between Indigenous communities and their lands; the actions of support behind Land Awareness in practice are within the same light of supporting tribal communities in your area and can take many forms....



PRACTICES OF LAND AWARENESS:

Through personal efforts, individuals can:

- Educate themselves on tribal histories through resources, references, museums, seminars, workshops, meetings, or classes; if you're not sure where to start, contact the local tribe.
 - Buy Native Made, not Native Inspired; there are plenty of native entrepreneurs that create high quality, and often handmade, products that everyone can buy from!
 - Gather and/or relay resources to local tribal communities; native tribes are often the highest, or one of the highest, ranking demographic groups that may experience overall disparity or unmet needs.
 - Support Native Awareness by sharing community achievements, public events, petitions, etc.
 - Seek inclusion, guidance, or advisement of local tribes, especially for any open-public affairs.
 - Question matters or decisions that may adversely affect tribal communities, their history, culture, inclusion, or sovereignty; the fight against cultural erasure needs everyone.
 - Consider donating to the issues of tribal communities, many nonprofit organizations are formed by/for tribes and are centered in providing advocacy and direct aid to their community.
 - Provide services, materials, or presence that will be of assistance for tribal communities, even if it's for a discounted rate; many tribal communities always need help in their work and are mostly receptive to outside support when possible.
 - When creating a will, trust, or estate, consider native communities... many tribes would greatly appreciate the repatriation of their lands or an inheritance that can help address housing, food, healthcare, and other inadequacies.
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Through Collective means:

- Provide part of or create Fundraising efforts towards local native communities.
- Partake in or host conversations on Native and Indigenous Issues rather than avoiding topics; cultural humility is a practice that is highly beneficial for everyone.
- In all industries, businesses, trades & skills, and contracts, there is opportunity to support native entrepreneurship... Consider researching for native or tribal enterprises to use when possible.
- Demand policies and petition for environmental studies that should be required before any development occurs; tribes have lost many sites of historical and cultural significance due to lack of ancestral regard while creating metropolitan regions.
- Consider new ways to bring Native Perspectives and Voices into conversations, projects, or plans, and the creation of employment, internships, mentorships, educational opportunities, or other beneficial ways to ensure Indigenous People have true place.



REMEMBER:

- Good Land Awareness is not a performance or opportunity to showcase, it's a commitment to support tribal communities near you.
- Land Awareness is to honor ancestors and affirm descendants in current society, but it is the creation of environments and opportunities that can carry collective successes.

RESOURCES:

- **Native Land Digital** has an interactive map that shows Indigenous territories, treaties, and languages. They also have further reading materials and resources. www.native-la.ca/ or [@nativelandnet](https://twitter.com/nativelandnet)
- **Native Governance Center** is a Native-led non-profit that supports Native nations and promotes tribal sovereignty. Read their example of a Land Acknowledgement at www.nativegov.org/about/our-land-acknowledgement-statement/





I AM ON NATIVE LAND

#IAMONNATIVELAND

