

Suicide Prevention Month

## YOU ARE NOT ALONE!



There are many others who are experiencing the same difficulties. It's important to reach out for support. Talk to someone you trust. 988 is the number to call if you are in crisis. You can also reach out to a mental health professional. Taking care of your mental health is essential!

# **NATIVE FACT**

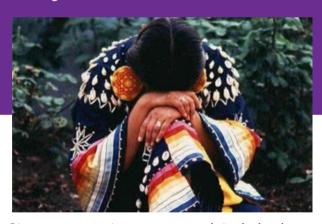
The first newspaper in a Native American language was published in 1828.

The newspaper was printed in both Cherokee and English. It was a successful venture and lasted for eight years until it was shut down due to government interference.

It was meant to provide news and information to the Cherokee people. It was an important milestone in Native American history.

# **KNOW THE SIGNS**

Suicide Prevention Month is essential to understand as Native Americans have the highest suicide rate of any ethnic group in the United States. It is important to recognize and address the mental health issues that are driving this high suicide rate.



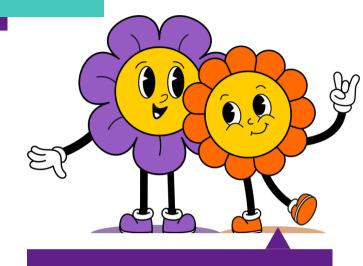
Signs to recognize among youth include changes in behavior, mood swings, isolation, and withdrawal from social gatherings. In addition, self-medicating with alcohol or marijuana daily, using fatalistic language and saying, "I won't be a problem for you much longer," taking risky and self-destructive actions, and giving away belongings with no logical explanation are also examples of this behavior.

It is important to be aware of these signs and take action if necessary. Professional help is available and should be sought out. Native youth should be supported and given the resources they need to thrive.

You are not a alone, you are not a bother, we are here for you!

"Never a Bother" is a campaign recently launched by the California Public Health's Office of Suicide Prevention in March 2024. Its primary aim is to raise awareness, provide knowledge, offer support, and strengthen communities regarding youth suicide. The campaign focuses on spreading awareness through advertisements, social media content, and community outreach, particularly targeting rural areas within California. It is designed to reach youth populations affected by suicide who face challenges in accessing resources and support.

This campaign is driven by over 400 young from diverse communities across California and is overseen by the California **Department of Public Health.** 



THE STATE OF CALIFRONIA TOOK INITATIVE TO PROMOTE THE NEVER A BOTHER CAMPIGN TO PREVENT YOUTH SUICIDE. THE STATE IS **CONTRIBUTING \$4.7 BILLON** DOLLARS FOR YOUTH 0 -25 TO **ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH AND** SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPPORT.



Pala Youth Suicide Prevention is focusing on community outreach and addressing the needs of our community. We aim to raise awareness and educate caregivers and the public through a cultural perspective to help break the stigma surrounding suicide. Our mission is to offer extensive support and curated resources for prevention.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Matt Morning Star at (760) 717-0448 or Paula Ellenwood at (760) 638-1676.

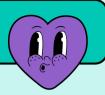


# BE ON THE LOOKOUT

This poster, created by Chamish Duro for the Pala Youth Suicide Prevention Program, aims to raise awareness about youth suicide prevention. The artwork includes a purple ribbon, a pink and purple bird skirt, and a gourd. Special thanks to Chamish for the generous contribution!

www.neverabother.org

#### Dear Partners,



Each September, National Suicide Prevention Week (September 8th - September 14th, 2024) and World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10th, 2024) are times when individuals and organizations around the world come together to raise awareness on suicide prevention and support those who have lost someone to suicide. This year's Suicide Prevention Day theme is "Change the Narrative" with a worldwide call to action to "Start the Conversation" to end silence about suicide.

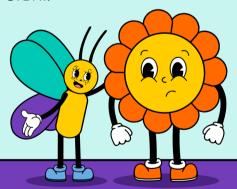
In acknowledgment, California's *Never a Bother* youth suicide prevention campaign is excited to launch resources for parents and caregivers with the goal of strengthening skills in recognizing suicide warning signs and the ability to effectively intervene with a child and young adult in their care. Resources to support starting the conversation launch this month, with the release of the *Never a Bother* Suicide Prevention Month Toolkit. This September, and year-round, please join us in taking these actions:

- Check in with the young people in your life. Remind them that they are never a bother and that you are here for them.
- If you are worried about someone, have an open and direct conversation about suicide.
- Download additional *Never a Bother* campaign resources such as posters, palm cards, social posts, and more, and remind young people in your community that they matter.
- Familiarize yourself and others with resources such as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, Soluna App, Teen Line, and other Tools to Support Children, Youth, and Families from the California Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI).

The <u>Never a Bother</u> youth suicide prevention media campaign is part of the state's ongoing efforts to increase awareness of suicide warning signs, share suicide prevention and mental health resources, build life-saving intervention skills, and promote help-seeking behavior for youth and young adults — before, during, and after a crisis. The campaign is funded by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), as part of CYBHI.

Please visit and share <u>neverabother.org</u>, follow, and engage with the social channels below, pass along this email, and take this opportunity to check in with the young people in your life.

#### Thank you.



#### *Never a Bother* Campaign Channels

Instagram: @neverabother

TikTok: @neverabother Twitter: @neverabother

Facebook: NeveraBotherCampaign

YouTube: @NeveraBotherCampaign

Twitch: @neverabother

Spotify: https://spoti.fi/3WSRXYq





# SKATEBOARDING AND MENTAL HEALTH



Life lessons learned through skateboarding are numerous. It begins with balance. You have to learn to balance yourself on the board. It starts by inching forward in a straight line. At first, it's the most unnatural feeling. It can be discouraging when you see other skaters glide by effortlessly and do tricks when you can barely ride a foot or two in a straight line. It's how everyone starts. The trick is to not give up. That's it. No big secret tip or hack.

The same applies to life. It can be discouraging to see other people at a point in their life when it seems like they have it together and are content when you're feeling stuck. You can't compare yourself to others. It's often said that 'comparison is the thief of joy." All it makes you do is say, "I should be there," "I should be doing that," or "I should be more," etc. instead of being grateful for how far you've come. It's a lot easier to appreciate yourself when you acknowledge the progress you've made, rather than focusing on making the mistakes you've made and not being perfect. You're often right where you're supposed to be, not behind.

There is no "perfect" in skating. Roughly 90% of skateboarding is failing, falling, or sometimes both. You can land a trick once after dozens of tries and struggle to land it again for another dozen tries. Consistency and effort is the key. Getting up, and trying again. Not giving up. As long as you're not the beauty of skateboarding. It's okay to mess up.



Life will be like that sometimes. Up and down. When you fall, sometimes you can tuck and roll and pop back up like nothing happened, fired up and ready to try again. Other times you'll really get banged up and need a minute to catch your breath. No matter what, you have to pick yourself up. It's good if there's someone close who can lend you a hand, but we can't rely on others or expect them to always be there. In life we go through different kinds of pain. It can be physical, as well as mental. It's unavoidable. It's not always a bad thing. It teaches us to pay attention to something that might be missing or something we need to work on to become better and stronger than before.



When it happens with life, it's important to listen to what your body needs. Just like you need balance to skateboard, you need it in your life, as well. Make sure you're eating right and well, getting enough sleep, getting enough exercise, keeping your mind active and challenged, staying connected to your culture and traditions, and investing in good friendships. It'll help you skate better, too.





Skateboarding can be a physically demanding sport, but I feel it is one of the best things you can do for your mental health. It gets you outside and active, and it demands 100% of your focus. It teaches you to embrace pain. It won't make you a tough person but it will make you tough and resilient, just like the people we're descended from. Resilience is how quickly you bounce back from set backs and hard times. Resilience is falling and getting back up. It's not quitting when you don't get something right away. Skateboarding requires an investment in yourself to be brave and to push yourself to things you've never done before. Life will make you do the same thing. You will learn about yourself and be surprised by what you can do.

## TRADITIONAL HEALING

#### **HEALING STARTS WITH TRADITION**



Fry bread is made from flour, salt, baking powder, and water fried in lard or oil. Fry bread is a symbol of Native Americans' ability to survive under the terrible conditions when forced to move from their homes to live in new areas where their usual sustenance practices were difficult to maintain. As a result, many Native Americans had to rely on government rations, known as commodities, which contained foods with low nutritional value. Nowadays, frybread is seen as a symbol of colonization and as a testament to the resiliency and ingenuity of Indigenous people.

Sweat lodges are structures with sacred power and meaning where ceremonies for rites of preparation, prayer, healing, and purification take place. Sweat is a spiritual ceremony and is only to be led by Indigenous practitioners who know the songs, traditions, and protocol and take seriously the significant activity they are practicing. Sweat lodges have the power to help with mental, spiritual, and physical healing. Mental Healing, frees the mind of distractions, offering clarity. Spiritual Healing allows for thoughtfulness and connection to the planet and the spirit world. Physical Healing can potentially provide antibacterial and wound-healing benefits.





Sacred Medicines (Tobacco, Sage & Elderberry) have a historical and continuing cultural value to the spiritual, physical & and emotional well-being of Native peoples. Nature has provided gifts and medicines that have been an important thread between Native people and their spirituality. Tobacco is shared as a gift, an offering to elders, healers, and creators. Sage is often used for smudging and as a preparation for ceremony. Elderberry flowers and bark have antioxidant, antibiotic, and anti-inflammatory properties and when used properly can alleviate aches and pains. Elderberry branches are used in ceremonial blessings, spiritual cleansings, and for protection.

Basket weaving teaches patience, taps into our creativity, and in many ways is therapeutic. Baskets have intricate designs and come in a variety of sizes and shapes. Each basket has a unique role to play in the community, and each basket also has a unique life that it leads. Basket weaving is a skill that incorporates both language and storytelling as part of its connection to ceremony and the environment. In addition to representing resilience and Native heritage, basket weaving is a craft that encompasses history and culture.









### YOUTH PARENT SHOUT OUT

#### **Celebrating Dedication and Lifelong Learning**

We are thrilled to highlight an inspiring story of dedication and lifelong learning in our community. Recently, one of our remarkable parents completed the MC-3 training program through CIMC. which provides young adults with comprehensive understanding of the trades fundamentals of union work. This achievement is impressive in itself, but what makes this story even more exceptional is the parent's commitment to passing on these valuable lessons to her daughter.

Her journey serves as a powerful reminder that it's never too late to pursue your dreams and expand your knowledge. By engaging in this training, she has not only gained new skills but also demonstrated to her daughter that learning and growth are lifelong endeavors. Her dedication is a testament to the belief that no matter your age, you can continue to achieve your dreams and inspire those around you.

We celebrate her achievements and the valuable example she sets for all of us. Her story is a beacon of inspiration, showing that with determination and passion, we can continue to grow and make a meaningful impact in our lives and the lives of others.

Keep shining and keep learning!

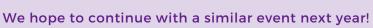


## SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT

On August 9th, the Pala Youth Center hosted a vibrant End of Summer Movie Night, drawing families and youth of all ages. The event featured a range of enjoyable amenities, including free shaved ice, food, educational booths, and exciting raffle prizes.



Special thanks were extended to Joseph Ravago and the IHC team for their generous donation of backpacks and school supplies for the youth. We also want to thank them for helping out through out the event and helping all Pala Youth Collaborator to make this a successful event.







# KARAOKE NIGHT





The night was young and the youth enjoyed themselves by singing along to variety of genres of music, to some singing in duos & individual. Most sang their hearts out and a couple sat back ate the scrumptious carne asada fries. It was success and looking forward to the next one!

A day of tie dying was held on Saturday, August 17th, 2024. A few youth came to create some cool tie dye items.











## YOUTH GATHERING

San Manuel hosted its annual Youth Gathering at their Community Center in Highland, Ca. on Aug. 24th, 2024. The day was filled with workshops, interacting with other tribal youth, embracing college preparedness and careers. The workshops included creating art with stamp pads, walking the red road- where youth participated in drawing their own path of success, to learning about NASA and being engineers creating their own rockets that were launched into the air. The day was starting to wrap up by getting great catering services of frybread, burgers, hibachi, and dessert. The anticipation of excitement was collecting tickets to enter for raffle prizes by partcipating in discussions and getting information from each of the booths. As most of the teens eagerly paced the floor waiting for their names to be called for either iPads and a ps5, to name couple of top prizes.

Thanks to the group that attended, they all took the initiative to participate and gain knowledge.
Thank you!















# Youth Support

#### For free 24/7 crisis support



Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Dial or Text: 988 www.988lifeline.org/chat/



Crisis Text Line Text: NATIVE to 741741 www.crisistextline.org/

#### Abuse & Sexual Assault



StrongHearts Native Helpline Call, text, or chat 24/7 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483) www.strongheartshelpline.org



National Sexual Assault Hotline Call (24/7): 1-800-656-HOPE www.rainn.org/



National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline Call (24/7): 1-866-331-9474 Text: LOVEIS to 22522 www.loveisrespect.org



Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline (24/7): 1-800-4-A-Child (422 - 4453)

#### **Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco**



National Institute on Drug Abuse for Call: 1-800-662-HELP www.nida.nih.gov/researchtopics/parents-educators



Truth: Smoking, Vaping, and Opioids Text: DITCHVAPE to 88709 www.thetruth.com/article/this-is-





Get the Facts About Drugs: **Just Think Twice** Call: 1-855-378-4373 Text: 55753

www.justthinktwice.gov/

National Drug Information Treatment & Referral Hotline

Call: 1-800-662-4357

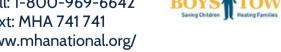
www.samhsa.gov/find-treatment

#### Mental Health

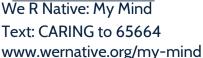


**CouthLine** 

Mental Health America Call: 1-800-969-6642 Text: MHA 741 741 www.mhanational.org/

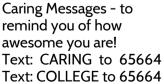


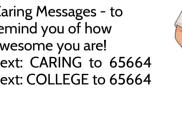
Teens Helping Teens Call: 1-800-852-8336 Text: YLNATIVE to 839 863 www.theyouthline.org We R Native: My Mind





National Hotline. Reach Out & Get Help Call: 1-800-448-3000 Text: VOICE to 20121 www.boystown.org/hotline







# Youth Support

#### **Bullying**

Stopbullying.gov www.stopbullying.gov/resources/teens



Cyberbulling www.cyberbullying.org/resources/ students

We R Native: Bullying



Prevention www.wernative.org/mylife/life- hacks/bullyingprevention

### Find Help Near You



SAMSHA - Find the treatment **SAMHSA** center closest to you www.samhsa.gov/findtreatment



Mental Health America -MHAZ Find the clinic closest to you www.mhanational.org/findaffiliate

#### **Text Message Campaigns**



Text: NATIVE to 94449 For health & wellness tips



Caring Messages - to remind you of how awesome you are! Text: CARING to 65664 (ages 13-24) Text: COLLEGE to 65664 (college youth)



Text: 2SLGBTQ to 94449 or ALLY to 94449 Native. Two-Spirit. LGBTQ. #BornSacred



Text: STEM to 94449 For inspiration and motivation on your journey in Health, Technology, Engineering or Math



Text: FITNESS to 94449 For inspiration and motivation to conquer your personal wellness goals, you could win fitness gear or a Fitbit!!!

TIP: SIGN UP FOR ONE CAMPAIGN AT A TIME. OTHERWISE YOUR MESSAGES WILL GET ALL MIXED UP AND THAT'S

#### We ALL need Help...

... at different points in time. Every single one of us! Trust your gut and...

**Share** - any concerns you have

**Talk** - with someone you can trust

**Report** - if you're worried about someone



# Native Youth Empowerment Workshop Saturday, September 28th

Workshop Description

Brought to you by Pala Social Services & the Pala Housing Resouces Center

Humility is one of our traditional values as Native Americans; it's important to know where you fit in. We should remember that we're all connected and part of the same community, so we should think and act in a way that respects and honors those around us. This workshop will teach youth how to take charge of their lives, find their voice, and share their gifts more freely.

Topics of Discussion:

·Four Agreements
·Examples of being powerless

·The power of positive thinking
·Example of empowered Native youth

·Case scenario exercise

·Cultural scavenger hunt

·The water protectors at Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
·Finding your voice

Location: Pala Housing Resouce Center Time: 11am -2pm Youth ages 12-24

\*Lunch will be provided

#### **Meet the Trainer**

Willie Wolf is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. He has been working with Native youth in a number of capacities including being on the board of a Native youth program called Iwasil in Seattle from 2008-2012. Also, Mr. Wolf was an Upward Bound Director for an urban Indian program at the University of Minnesota, Mr. Wolf has conducted training for youth on the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens, empowerment, and teambuilding to name a few. Mr. Wolf has a masters in educational psychology and another masters in public administration.





# SEPTEMBER EVENTS 2024





Tutoring services offered at the Pala Housing Resource Center Monday through Friday from 10:30 am to 7:00 pm





## **REGISTER NOW**

The Pala Housing Resource Center is Calling all youth 15 and up to join the waiting list for driving school. Let's work together on getting our youth safely on the road.

# SEPTEMBER EVENTS 2024





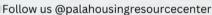






pads!

mmorningstar@palatribe.com 760-717-0448









# SEPTEMBER EVENTS 2024









# RESOURCES

2024



#### Charting Your Course? Consider a Job in Education!



Are you interested in being a teacher, teacher assistant, teacher aide, school librarian, school nurse, school counselor, speech pathologist, occupational therapist, or another career in the field of education?

The Pala Learning Center and the Pala Youth Center are working with U.S. Dept. of Education's Office of Indian Education on a Native American Teacher Retention Initiative (NATRI).

Through our Pala NATRI program, we aim to recruit and support Native American students who are interested in becoming teachers or who are already in the field of education and would like to advance their careers and/or

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#### Why Choose Teaching?

Native Student Success. Research shows that Native students tend to do better in classrooms where their educator shares a similar identity. Be the difference in our students' lives that we all need for success and identity formation.

Representation and Honoring Ancestors. Southern California American Indians come from a long tradition of teaching. Continue this tradition by teaching and honor our ancestors by representing them in education spaces. Be a bridge between our communities and those who seek to learn

about us with respect and reciprocity.

Community Centered. To teach means to facilitate knowledge and guide people along an experience. This leads to a community-centered career – one that aligns with many traditional values among our people. Build and foster community and well-being by getting into education.

Contact Doretta Musick or Rhiannon Johnson at the Pala Learning Center at 760-742-1997 if you are interested in learning more about the NATRI program and how YOU can become involved!



Monday - Friday

(760) 292-6271

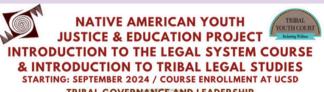
Tuchily@palatribe.com

8am-5pm



## RESOURCES

2024



#### TRIBAL GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

The Tribal Youth Court (TYC) is a diversion-based project that serves our San Diego County Tribes challenged with incidents of juvenile delinquency. The Intertribal Court of Southern California (ICSC) has developed a Native Youth Peer Diversion Court where Native Youth have the opportunity to assist in the adjudication process of the juvenile offenders. To accomplish this, American Indian Recruitment (AIR), along with ICSC, has developed the Native Youth Peer Decision Makers (Peer Decision Makers) training project that will engage our Youth Decision Makers and guide them in their decisions within the Youth Court.

#### UC San Diego

#### ntroduction to the Legal System Course 1 Semester Unit Sept. 9, 2024-Sept. 30, 2024

This course provides an introduction to the American Legal System, including the sources of law and the systems by which the law is administered and d. This course will also review the origins of law and how it oped into the current legal system. This class will also cover the U.S. Constitutional, Civil Procedure, Criminal Law, Legal

#### Introduction to the Tribal Legal Studies 3 Semester Units

Starting: Oct. 7, 2024-Dec. 14, 2024 This course provides an overview of triba egal studies, including tribal government the history of tribal court systems, legal structure of tribal courts, tribal court criminal and civil jurisdiction, roles in tribal court systems, due process, appellate courts, the Indian Civil Rights Act, Public Law 280 and the Indian Child Welfare Act Students learn basic concepts of legal studies, tribal common law and traditional dispute resolution methods, including the examination of the incorporation of custom









Hosted by the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency SAN JOSE CA & ONLINE | OCTOBER 22-24, 2024

#### 2024 TRIBAL EPA & U.S. EPA REGION 9 CONFERENCE YOUTH ART CONTEST

HTTPS://TRIBALEPA.COM/CONTESTS/

The work we do as Tribal environmental professionals is directly related to our commitment to ensuring a safe and healthy future for our children. In that spirit, we invite the Tribal youth of Region 9 to participate in this year's art contest. We are featuring three age/grade categories: K-5th grade,  $6th - 8^{\circ}$  grade, and 9th - 12th grade.

Winners in each age/grade category will win a cash gift card of \$100, and ALL entrants will receive gifts for participating. All entries will be featured during the Tribal EPA & U.S. EPA Region 9 Conference on the website, and during the closing ceremonies. Winners will get special acknowledgement during the

If you are ready to submit your entry, go to the website above or scan the QR code and please fill out the online entry form. The deadline for entries is October 11, 2024.

#### THEMES

Participants should develop their entries around one or more of these questions

- What is a story or myth told in your tribe/community?
- What does this story mean to you?
- Why is this story important to your community?

If you can, include words in your Native language that are relevant to the story or myth – for example, plants and animanames, and locations.







Scan the QR code to help Pala Housing Resource Center to collect data for Healthy Living habits. In partnership with Calfresh



# Relax

Take a break!
Did you know that coloring can help reduce stress and can be used as a form of relaxation?
Give it a try! Grab some colors and color on.

## Tip of the Month: Box Breathing

1.**Inhale.** Breathe in slowly through your nose

for 4 seconds.

2.**Pause**. Hold the air in your lungs for 4

seconds.

3.**Exhale.** Breathe out slowly through your mouth for 4 seconds.

4.**Repeat.** Practice for about 2 minutes.

Deep breathing is a popular relaxation technique that helps to control the symptoms of stress, anxiety, and anger. The skill is easy to learn, and provides near immediate relief from uncomfortable symptoms.





# PALA YOUTH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

"For Youth, by Youth"





Location: 35990 Pala Temecula Road Pala, CA 92059 www.PalaHRC.com

Youth Contact: Maria Villegas (760) 315-0104 mvillegas@palatribe.com

Paula Ellenwood (760) 638-1676 pellenwood@palatribe.com

Matthew Morning Star (760) 717-0448 mmorningstar@palatribe.com The Pala Youth Empowerment Initative is based on a "for youth by youth" approach. We encourage youth to actively be involved with the newsletter, content, trainings, podcasts and activities.

To empower Native youth, ages 3-25, to be resilient, positive, and productive members of the community. Youth Suicide Prevention engages youth with a culturally sensitive, trauma-informed approach through social group events, and peer mentoring.