SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGE NORTHEAST

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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.

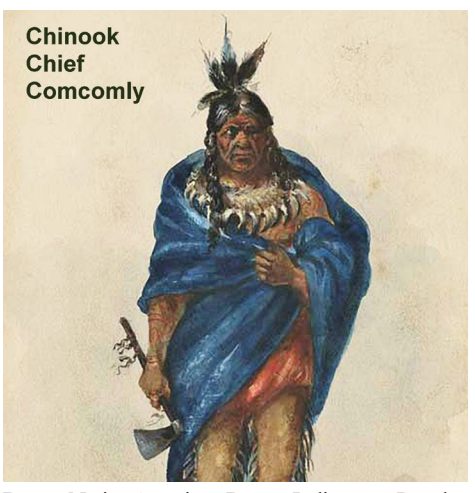
What started at the turn of the last century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States, has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

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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NYS MWBE
16TH ANNUAL FORUM
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2026
Albany Capital Center
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2026MWBEForum@esd.ny.gov



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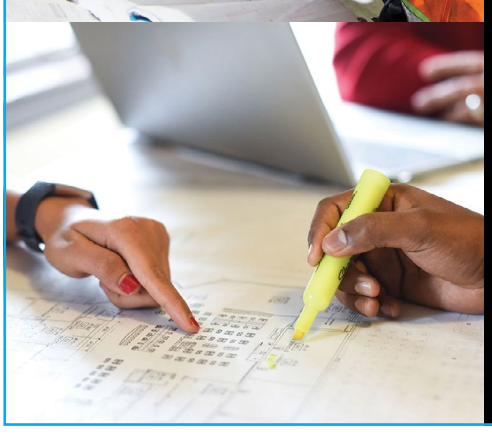
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VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS



2026

Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar
Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 12:00 pm–1:30 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Irene Gonzalez, 208-334-1673, irene.gonzalez@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Learn the essentials of federal contracting for small businesses. This event will cover the basics of navigating the federal contracting process, as well as the various certifications available to help your small business succeed in the government marketplace. Certifications include: 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone Certification, Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB/EDWOSB), and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB). Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help your small business. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-contracting-basics-and-certifications-for-small-businesses-tickets-1977729664666

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 11:00 am–12:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Arkansas District Office
Contact: Suzanne Terrazas, 501-324-7379, Arkansas_DO@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
This webinar will provide valuable insights into the Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Federal Contracting Program certification process, which is crucial for accessing a pool of billions of dollars worth of federal contracting opportunities that are set aside specifically for woman-owned businesses. Your woman-owned small business can obtain federal contracts with less competition if you qualify. To learn how accessing these resources can significantly impact a business's growth and sustainability, and to meet with resource partners who can provide you with free one-to-one consulting, register at https://legacy.sba.gov/event/77957

Understanding SBA Programs Webinar
Tuesday, November 17, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Houston District Office
Contact: Elizabeth Charles, 713-773-6505, elizabeth.charles@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Join us for an informative webinar designed to help entrepreneurs, startups, and existing small business owners navigate the wide range of resources and programs offered by the United States Small Business Administration (SBA), including an overview of SBA's core programs: capital, counseling, contracting, and disaster assistance. Whether you're looking to launch a business, expand operations, secure funding, or recover from a disaster, the SBA has tools to support your goals. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask their small business questions to mentors/advisors from SBA's Resource Partner Network! Register online for the free webinar at https://legacy.sba.gov/event/78036

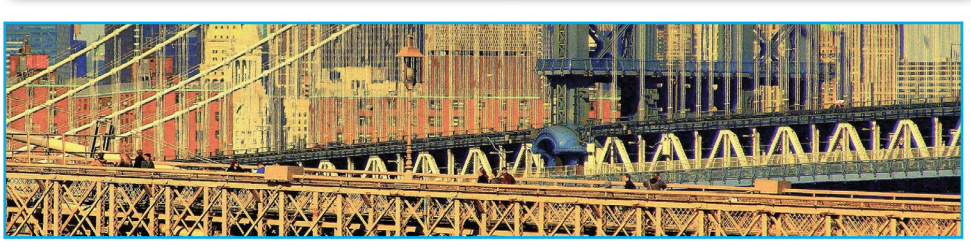


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