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21st Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration

RALEIGH, N.C. — Come to the **21st Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration** at the **N.C. Museum of History** for the state's signature event for recognizing National American Indian Heritage Month. This festive and educational event for all ages will take place **Saturday, Nov. 19**, from **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** in Raleigh. Members of all eight state-recognized tribes* will share their history and culture during this popular festival, named a "Top 20 Event" in 2016 by the Southeast Tourism Society. Admission is **free**.

Excitement builds throughout the day as drum groups, hundreds of dancers in regalia, craftspeople, storytellers and other presenters fill the museum and Bicentennial Plaza, in front of the building. There will be plenty of hands-on activities for children, such as a game with corncob darts and a scavenger hunt. Food vendors will be on-site, so enjoy lunch and stay awhile.

"Each year's celebration brings something familiar and something new," says Emily Grant, Youth Programs Coordinator. "From demonstrations of centuries-old crafts to discussions of current issues and what it means to be American Indian in 2016, the event will be part family reunion, part pageantry and performance, and part celebration of the resiliency and energy of community."

During the opening ceremony at 11 a.m., Sacred Cedar Productions will present traditional Haliwa-Saponi music and dance. Then the beats of intertribal drum groups will draw more attention to Bicentennial Plaza.

The Grand Entry at noon will be a sight to behold. Dressed in brilliantly colored regalia, each tribe will process onto the plaza for the roll call of tribes and organizations. Then watch traditional dances by the world-renowned Warriors of AniKituhwa of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, followed by the Iroquois Smoke Dance by Meherrin tribe members. At 2 p.m. Miss Indian North Carolina Samantha Simmons Alonso (Coharie tribe) will lead powwow dance demonstrations.

During the day, take advantage of firsthand opportunities to learn about the state's American Indians, past and present. Here's a sampling of what you can experience. For a **full schedule** of all **performances** and **presentations**, visit **NCMOH-programs.com** or call 919-807-7900.

- Watch craftspeople make pottery, beadwork, stone carvings, gourd rattles, hunting tools, jewelry and more. These individuals include Jamie Locklear (Waccamaw Siouan), who is known for his pine-needle baskets.
- Learn about weapon making from John Blackfeather Jeffries (Occaneechi-Saponi).
- Dive into hands-on activities such as imprinting a design onto pottery, writing words in Cherokee, shooting a bow and arrow, and sewing stitches with the Coharie Quilters.

- Hear Lumbee storytellers Gwen and Barbara Locklear and Cherokee storytellers Lloyd and Dawn Arneach share traditional and contemporary tales. Lloyd Arneach is a recipient of the Mountain Heritage Award from Western Carolina University.
- Listen to elders share stories about their experiences during segregation. Others will talk about moving to Greensboro in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s to seek employment and eventually form the Greensboro Native American Association.
- Attend the informative talk *Water in the Lumbee World: Natural Ecosystems, Human Communities, and Indigenous Knowledge*, presented by Dr. Ryan E. Emanuel (Lumbee), Associate Professor, Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at N.C. State University.
- Learn about traditional Southeastern clothing and lifestyle from Meherrin tribe members Patrick Suarez and O'Tika Jones.
- Watch Ila Hatter present a cooking demonstration on wild foods in western North Carolina, and hear Chef Lorrie Dial (Lumbee) highlight cuisine and lifeways of eastern North Carolina.

Take advantage of all the 21st Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration will offer, and bring the entire family to this exciting festival. The event is sponsored, in part, by the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, Raleigh Arts Commission, Food Lion, United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, Triangle Native American Society, IBM and the Museum of History Associates.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian-affiliated museum, call [919-807-7900](tel:9198077900) or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

* *The eight state-recognized tribes are Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Sappony and Waccamaw Siouan. For further information about the tribes, go to <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/CIA/>.*

IMAGES and Dropbox Link

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/dlx2bwlxj1101j6/American%20Indian%20Heritage%20Celebration.jpg?dl=0>

File American Indian Heritage Celebration: Come to the 21st Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration on Nov. 19 at the N.C. Museum of History. Image: N.C. Museum of History

File American Indian child dancer: There will be something for all ages at the 21st Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration on Nov. 19 at the N.C. Museum of History. Image: N.C. Museum of History

File Girls at American Indian Heritage Celebration: There will be much to see and do at the 21st Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration on Nov. 19 at the N.C. Museum of History. Image: N.C. Museum of History

About the N.C. Museum of History

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 300,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. Led by Secretary Susan Kluttz, NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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