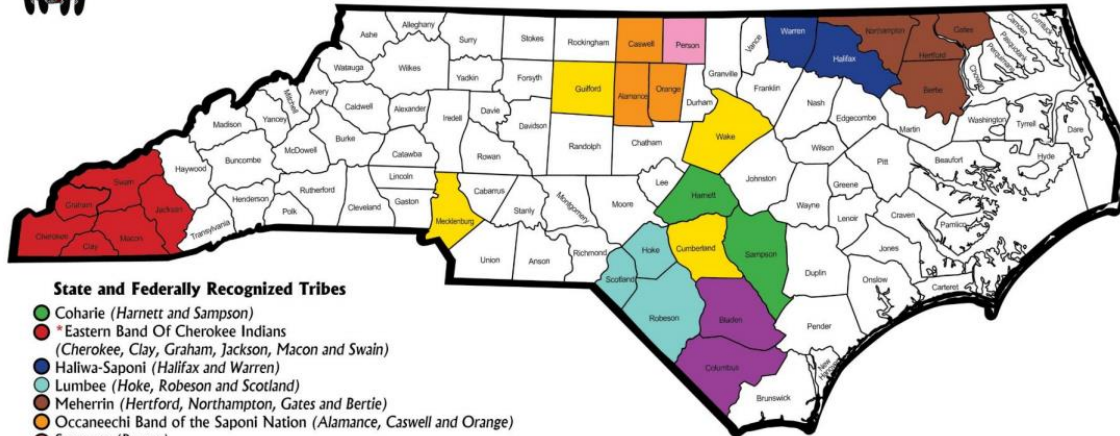


# 2020 American Indian Heritage Celebration Tribal Information Sheet



N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

## N.C. TRIBAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES



### State and Federally Recognized Tribes

- Coharie (Harnett and Sampson)
- \* Eastern Band Of Cherokee Indians (Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain)
- Haliwa-Saponi (Halifax and Warren)
- Lumbee (Hoke, Robeson and Scotland)
- Meherrin (Hertford, Northampton, Gates and Bertie)
- Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation (Alamance, Caswell and Orange)
- Sappony (Person)
- Waccamaw Siouan (Bladen and Columbus)
- \* Federally Recognized

### Urban Indian Organizations

(Holding membership on the NC Commission of Indian Affairs):  
Cumberland County Association for Indian People  
Guilford Native American Association  
Metrolina Native American Association  
Triangle Native American Society

Areas in Color indicate counties where the eight Recognized Tribes of North Carolina reside.

Counties in yellow (Mecklenburg, Guilford, Cumberland and Wake)  
Location of American Indian Associations

Map published by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs.

2020

The following descriptions contain information on the current eight state-recognized tribes in North Carolina.

## Coharie

**Counties:** Harnett and Sampson

**Population:** 3,000

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Address:**

Coharie Tribal Center

7531 N. US Hwy 421

Clinton, NC 28328

**Phone:** (910) 564-6909

**Website:** <http://www.coharietribe.org/>

Headquartered in Clinton, the Coharie descend from the Neusiok Indian Tribe on the Coharie River in Harnett and Sampson Counties. The community consists of four settlements: Holly Grove, New Bethel, Shiloh, and Antioch. The Coharie people have approximately 3,000 members, with 20 percent residing outside the tribal communities. The Coharie have long supported education for the children of their community.

## Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

**Counties:** Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain

**Population:** 14,000

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Address:**

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

P.O. Box 455

Cherokee, NC 28719

**Phone:** (828) 497-7000

**Website:** <https://ebci.com/contact/>

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians were once part of a large Cherokee nation which spanned across several southern states. The Trail of Tears—the forced removal of the Cherokee by the U.S. Government—meant that most Cherokee relocated to Oklahoma. The Eastern Band of Cherokee descended from the Cherokee who remained in the mountains of North Carolina during the time of the Trail of Tears. These thousand or so tribal members lived along the Oconaluftee River. The Cherokee are the only indigenous people in America to have their own written language, developed by Sequoyah. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is federally recognized, meaning it is a sovereign nation and is self-governed. Today, their home is the 57,000-acre Qualla Boundary, adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

## Haliwa-Saponi

**Counties:** Halifax and Warren

**Population:** 4,000

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 99

Hollister, NC 27844

**Phone:** (252) 586-4017

**Website:** <http://www.haliwa-saponi.org/>

The Haliwa-Saponi people are descendants of the Saponi, Tuscarora, Tutelo, and Nansmond Indians. The tribe resides primarily in the area traditionally known as “The Meadows,” which encompasses most of southwestern Halifax County and southeastern Warren County. It is these two counties give the Haliwa-Saponi part of their name, “Hali” from Halifax County, and “Wa” from Warren. “Saponi” refers to the “red earth people.” For more than 100 years, the tribe has worked with in various institutions to maintain their culture and identity.

## Lumbee

**Counties:** Hoke, Robeson, and Scotland

**Population:** 56,000

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Address:**

6984 NC Hwy 711 West

PO Box 2709

Pembroke, NC 28372

**Phone:** (910) 521-7861

**Website:** <http://www.lumbeetribe.com/>

The Lumbee tribe is the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River. The tribe's name is derived from the Lumber River, originally known as the Lumbee, that winds through Robeson County. More than 55,000 Lumbee people, descendants of many tribal nations, reside in Robeson, Hoke, and Scotland Counties. Lumbee tribal headquarters are located in Pembroke, NC, with tribal services located in "The Turtle," the tribal housing complex.

## Meherrin

**Counties:** Bertie, Gates, Hertford, and Northampton

**Population:** 900

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 274

Ahoskie, NC 27910

**Phone:**

**Website:** <http://www.meherrinnation.org/>

The Meherrin refer to themselves as *Kauwets'a:ka*, or "People of the Water," and reside in small communities in Hertford, Bertie, Gates, and Northampton Counties. The Meherrin are the only non-reservation Indians in North Carolina who still live on their original reservation lands. The Meherrin are of the Iroquois, sharing language as well as aspects of their culture and traditions with the Six Nations. Their name comes from an Algonquin language word meaning Iroquoian-speaking people.

## Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation

**Counties:** Alamance and Orange

**Population:** 1,100

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Address:**

OBSN, INC.

P.O. Box 356

Mebane, NC 27302

**Phone:** 336-421-1317

**Website:** <http://obsn.org/>

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation is located in Alamance and Orange Counties. The Occaneechi are descendants of the Saponi, who have long lived in the Piedmont region of what became North Carolina. The Occaneechi own some of their ancestral lands in a part of Alamance County known as “Little Texas.” Here they have ceremonial grounds with plans for many purposes.

## Sappony

**County:** Person

**Population:** 850

**State Recognition:** 1911

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Address:**

4218 Virgilina Road,

Virgilina, VA 24598

**Phone:** (434) 585-3352

**Website:** <https://www.sappony.org/>

The Sappony Tribe’s 850 members comprise seven core clans who live along the North Carolina-Virginia border (High Plains). During the time of European exploration and settlement the Sappony assisted in exploring the border between the two states. When Fort Christanna was built by the British in 1708, the Sappony resided nearby. Eventually many Sappony became farmers, although today they work in diversified industries. Their tribal insignia includes tobacco—a longtime subsistence crop—as well as corn, wheat, and seven feathers which represent the seven clans.

## **Waccamaw Siouan**

Counties: Bladen and Columbus

Population: 2,000

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Information:**

7239 Old Lake Rd

Bolton, NC 28423

**Phone:** (910) 655-8778

**Website:** <https://waccamaw-siouan.org/>

Historically known as the Waccon and the “People of the Falling Star,” the Waccamaw Siouan are descendants of a Siouan language tribe who lived in southeastern North Carolina. Early explorers to this area noted their expertise in navigating and living on high ground within swamps. Waccamaw surnames are found in the 1790 census. Today, many members of the tribe still live near Lake Waccamaw, in Bladen and Columbus counties. Governmental offices and ceremonial events take place on tribal lands in Buckhead.

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In addition to the eight state-recognized tribes, there are also four Urban Indian Organizations that hold membership on the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs.

### **Cumberland County Association for Indian People**

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Information:**

Cumberland County Association for Indian People (CCAIP)  
2173 Downing Rd.  
Fayetteville, NC 28312

**Phone:** 910-483-8442

**Website:** <http://ccaip.orgspring.org/about-us/>

CCAIP was incorporated in 1972 to enhance the socioeconomic, legal, political, and cultural well-being of the Indian people of Cumberland County.

### **Guilford Native American Association**

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Information:**

Guilford Native American Association, Inc.  
PO Box 5623  
Greensboro, North Carolina 27435

**Phone:** (336) 273-8686

GNAA was incorporated in 1975 to assist Native Americans living in Guilford and surrounding counties in achieving social and economic self-sufficiency.

### **Metrolina Native American Association**

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Information:**

6161 McDaniel Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28213

**Phone:** (980)224-3862

**Website:** <https://www.metrolinanatives.com>

MNAA was incorporated in 1976 to promote cultural awareness, economic development, employment training, and work experience for Native Americans living in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties.

### **Triangle Native American Society**

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Information:**

Triangle Native American Society  
P.O. Box 26841  
Raleigh, NC 27611

**Website:** <https://trianglenative.org>

TNAS was founded in 1984 to promote and protect the identity of Native Americans living in Wake and surrounding counties by providing educational, social, and cultural programs.