

Students wanted for second annual Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Summer Leadership Summit at the University of Arkansas

The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law was launched in 2013 to assist Indian Country in issues related to Tribal governance in food and agriculture, strategic business and community assessments, and youth education and professional development in food and agriculture.

In furtherance of our goals in service to Indian Country, we held the first Native Youth in Food and Agriculture: Summer Leadership Summit in July 2014. We welcomed 48 students from 22 Tribes to the inaugural summit for a week of classroom learning, field trips, culture sharing and leadership opportunities.

Students came from all across Indian Country to attend and the accomplishments and continued learning of those first summit students continue to astound us.

This year at the second annual summit, we are looking for first-time attendees, second-time attendees who will serve as "summit fellows" and student leaders who already are attending college or university.

We are looking for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students with a passion and interest in food and agriculture who are willing to be our next generation of food and agriculture leaders in Indian Country.

Selected students will travel to the university to participate in an exciting

week of discussion, leadership development, cultural experiences, field trips, learning and planning.

Because specialized business, law and policy issues surround Indian Country food and agriculture, we are focused on ensuring that our next generation has all the tools they need to succeed.

All selected students will have pre-arrival materials to complete before arrival on campus. Space is limited, so please apply as soon as possible. The deadline for all applicants is June 1.

All food, lodging, instructional materials and field trip costs will be provided. Depending on the number of students, some travel scholarships also will be available.

Dates: July 19-28 (this includes travel dates)

Location: University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, Arkansas

Hosts: Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law, Farm Credit Council, Intertribal Agriculture Council and National FFA Organization

For additional information, visit <http://law.uark.edu/ifai/summer-leadership-summit-native-youth-in-agriculture/>.

If you have any questions about the application process, contact Rebecca

Sims at ras017@uark.edu or call 479-575-4434.

You can submit your application by email to ras017@uark.edu or by mail to

University of Arkansas School of Law, Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, C/O Rebecca Sims, 1045 W Maple St., Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Enter Images of Native America writing contest

High school students responding to this year's writing contest should write an essay of no more than 1,200 words about one or more of the cultural images, symbols or art forms that have been historically utilized by your community (American Indian, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian) to serve a specific purpose or to communicate a particular message or value. The essay should:

- Describe the image(s), symbol(s) or art forms (hereinafter called "image")
- Explain how the image was historically used by the community. Involve an Elder or other knowledgeable person from the community to lend historical and cultural strength to your essay
- Reflect on your own experience (including your thoughts and feelings) with the image
- Suggest why or how the image is still relevant today to the reservation, Tribal town or Native community where the image originates.

Sources of information

In preparation for writing, students should draw from their own personal knowledge and research information from a variety of sources. Primary and secondary source material could include historical and reference material, interviews, images, symbols and artwork, personal experiences, oral testimonies,

official documents, diaries, letters, autobiographies, newspapers, academic journals, films and television movies, and Internet sources such as nmai.si.edu/searchcollections/home.aspx.

Eligibility

The 2015 Young Native Writers Essay Contest is open to American Indian high school students currently enrolled in grades 9-12.

All students participating in the Young Native Writers Essay Contest should have a significant and current relationship with an American Indian community (i.e., an American Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native community or a Native Hawaiian community).

Prizes

Five (5) first place winners will each receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the National Museum of the American Indian and other prominent sites as part of Scholar Week (July 20-24).

First place winners will receive a special award for display at home or school. In addition, each first place winner will receive a scholarship of \$2,500 to be paid directly to the college or university of his/her choice.

Entry deadline for the 2015 Young Native Writers Essay is April 15.

For more information, e-mail questions to nativewriters@hklaw.com.