



Siletz News  
Confederated Tribes of  
Siletz Indians  
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Siletz Youth shine at UNITY  
Conference 2025



By Tony Blomstrom  
Fifteen youth from the Siletz community recently attended the 2025 UNITY (United National Indian Tribal Youth) Conference, joining thousands of Native youth from across the country for a week of leadership, cultural celebration and empowerment. This year's event was a powerful opportunity for our youth to connect with others, build confidence and represent their tribe on a national level.  
Our Siletz youth delegates included Makai Anderson, Mindy Blomstrom, Tia Butler, Victoria Butler, Tenaya Cordova, Kiowa Garcia, Adrian Gutierrez, Ava Johnson, Isabelle Keene, James Pearson, Chloe Regalado, Dean Smith, Leilani Smith, Olive Two Two and Samantha Werth. Each participant took part in workshops, leadership sessions, cultural sharing events and evening celebrations - coming away with new knowledge, friendships and inspiration to bring home to their community.  
One of the proudest moments of the conference was when Tia Butler was selected to serve as the North-

west Regional Representative on the National UNITY Council. In this leadership role, she will help represent and advocate for Native youth across the region, using her voice to create positive change.  
Another standout moment came when Victoria Butler was chosen to participate in the UNITY Fashion Show. She took the stage in beautiful regalia, proudly representing her heritage and culture and inspired youth from across the country with her poise and presence.  
This memorable trip would not have been possible without the dedication and care of our adult chaperones: Tony Blomstrom, Roni Crawford, Katy Holland and Sonya Moody-Jurado. Their guidance and support ensured the youth had a safe, empowering and unforgettable experience.  
We are incredibly proud of the way our youth represented the Siletz community at UNITY 2025. They returned home with new leadership skills, cultural pride and the motivation to keep growing as future leaders of their people.

Dee-ni language reclamation through  
Indigenous resilience

By Savannah Worman  
Nick Viles, a Siletz Tribal Member and CTSI employee, began his own language journey in the late 1990's. Nick traces his passion for language revitalization to several formative experiences. These include participating in a language program offered at the University of Oregon, connecting with influential mentors like Bud Lane and other respected educators.  
Nick also engaged in collaborative efforts with the Smith River and Tolowa communities.  
Each of these great opportunities played a meaningful role in inspiring and shaping his personal commit-

ment to preserving and learning his ancestral language.  
Nick spearheads the current Nuw-wee-ya' (Our Words) language classes and reflects generations of tribal efforts to bring a traditional language back to life.  
The Athabaskan language has been spoken in many dialects over the generations, distinct from region to region and village to village, following the forced relocation of tribal communities to the Siletz reservation.  
Athabaskan is actually just one of five major language families spoken

Language, on page 5

Celebrate culture and community at  
the 2025 Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow

Gather your family and friends for the annual Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow, hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. In Siletz, Ore., you can attend this free, family-friendly event. The public is welcome to attend and experience the tradition of the Siletz people and other American Indians.  
Sponsored by Chinook Winds Casino Resort and Pepsi Bottling Company, the pow-wow is held at the Pauline Ricks Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds on Government Hill in Siletz, with the exception of the parade on Saturday morning that moves through town.  
"This is an open environment for all to come and witness our American Indian culture through our singers and dancers," said AJ Warren, cultural education manager and pow-wow coordinator. "And maybe get themselves an Indian taco."



The celebration begins on Friday, August 8, with the crowning of the 2025-2026 Siletz Royalty at 6 p.m., followed by the first Grand Entry at 7 p.m., where dancers in full regalia fill the arena. Preliminary round of youth and teen dance competitions will follow.

NIPW, on page 3

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

All Are Welcome to Attend our  
**Annual**  
**NESIKA ILLAHEE**  
**POW WOW**

All Dancers & Drummers Welcome  
Drummers - Please bring your own chairs

Vendor Registration is Required  
Application due May 23\*

**2025**  
**AUGUST**  
8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, & 10<sup>th</sup>

**Thursday**  
August 7<sup>th</sup>  
Royalty Pageant 6PM

**Friday**  
August 8<sup>th</sup>  
Memorial/Giveaways 12-5PM  
Presentation of Crowns 6PM  
Grand Entry 7PM

**Saturday**  
August 9<sup>th</sup>  
Parade 10AM  
Grand Entry 1PM & 7PM

**Sunday**  
August 10<sup>th</sup>  
Grand Entry 12 PM  
Salmon Dinner to Follow

**Pauline Ricks Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds**  
Government Hill, Siletz OR.  
Drug & Alcohol Free Event

Camping Fee \$25. \$5 fee/per pet (camping area). Camp Grounds Open Thursday at 8 AM

| Categories                                                                                                                     |                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Golden Age/Adult</b><br>\$600, \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200                                                                   | <b>Teen</b><br>\$300, \$250, \$200, \$150, \$100 |
| <b>Youth</b><br>\$150, \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25<br>Teen & Youth Preliminaries Occur Friday Night                                |                                                  |
| <b>Specials</b><br>Team Dance Women's Basket Cap Special (Open) Round Bustle (Open)                                            |                                                  |
| <b>Women's Fancy Dance Special - All Ages</b><br>\$1,000, \$500, \$250<br>Sponsored by: Outgoing Miss Siletz Halli Lane-Skauge |                                                  |

For more information, call the  
Pow-Wow Info Line at 541-444-8398 or visit [www.ctsi.nsn.us/heritage/pow-wow](http://www.ctsi.nsn.us/heritage/pow-wow)

Sponsored by Chinook Winds Casino Resort & Pepsi Bottling Co.