Native American Heritage Month

Honoring Our Nations: Weaving together our past, present, and future

Native American Heritage Month, also known as American Indian or Alaska Native Heritage Month, is observed to honor and celebrate the culture, traditions, and achievements of Native and Indigenous people and their descendants in the United States. Native American spirituality, both traditionally and today, emphasizes gratitude for creation, care for the environment, and recognition of the human need for communion with nature and others.

Currently, 574 independent sovereign nations have treaties with the U.S. It is important to note that these tribal nations are ethnically, culturally, and linguistically diverse.

USRowing encourages all members of the rowing community to learn more through the resource guide below and to celebrate within their boathouses during the month and beyond. By respecting and valuing individuals, you can strive to become a more inclusive and welcoming organization.

WAYS TO CELEBRATE

At USRowing, we encourage our community members and leaders across the country to:

1. **Learn about the Native Land and Indigenous Waters You Row On** to create a land acknowledgment, raising awareness within the rowing community, and creating conversation. Acknowledgment by itself is a small gesture, an optical act of allyship. It becomes meaningful when coupled with an authentic relationship and informed action.
2. **Create an action plan** outlining concrete steps you plan to take in supporting indigenous communities into the future. You can find additional information to go beyond land acknowledgments.
3. **Listen to** the Steady State Podcast to learn more about *Know Where You Row* in conjunction with Tacoma Rowing and how it connects people, land, and water.
4. **Learn about the Native American Connection to the Water.** One of the (many) reasons we love our sport is the deep connection to water and nature. Discover how Native Americans appreciated its vast opportunities. Learn more here.

RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

- Learn more about Native American tribes and cultures: First Americans Museum
- USRowing 2024: Meet Sebastiana Lopez; Meet Spencer Crum
- USRowing 2023: Meet Lakota Longhorn; Meet Nialisa Longhorn
- Rowing in Color Launches First Indigenous Boat at the Head of the Charles Regatta 2024
- 2025 Rowing in Color at Head of the Charles Regatta
- Bringing Our People Back to the Waters with our Indigenous Crew
- Celebrating Native American Heritage Month: BBC My World
- National Native American Heritage Month
- Sacred Waters: A UW Grad's Indigenous Walking Tour Enlightens Rowers
- Explore the intersectionality of Indigenous women through art: Ancestors Know Who We Are