



Soboba Tribal Family Services

November Newsletter

Native American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month



"Our families made strong through balance and support."

Soboba Tribal Family Services Staff:

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Mon - Thurs 7am to 5:30 pm

(951) 487-0283

Native American Heritage Month

November is American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month. Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Heritage Month is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.

Soboba Candle Night

Candle Night also known as All Souls day is November 2, 2012. Tradition has been to light candles on the graves of our loved ones at the cemetery. Candle lighting begins at dusk. It has been said and practiced by many elders that once you light a candle you do not leave the cemetery until it has burned out completely.

Soboba History Presentation

On Thursday November 29, 2012 the Soboba Cultural Center will be presenting on Soboba history as well as Cahuilla and Luiseño material culture for students from Genius Home School located in the Hemet and San Jacinto Valley. Anyone interested in the presentation or outreach may contact the Soboba Cultural Center at (951) 487-2329.



NAMI Walks 2012

Thanks to all who participated in the NAMI Walk on Saturday, October 27, 2012. Soboba is proud to sponsor of NAMI Walks 2012 at Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet, California.

Pictured above left is Christine Masiel and below right are (from left to right) Sarah Forster, Alicia Golchuk, Christine Masiel, Sophie Sullivan, Joe Hurtado, and Kaylene Hurtado.

Every journey begins with that first step! NAMI Walks celebrates its 10th Anniversary in 2012, and is the largest and most successful mental illness awareness event in America! Through NAMI Walks' public, active display of support for people affected by mental illness, they are changing our American communities and ensuring that help and hope are available for those in need.

Alternatives to Domestic Violence 24-hour Hotline

Riverside City and out of County: (951) 683-0829

Remainder of Riverside County: (800) 799-SAFE (7233)

TDD Line - (800) 787-3224

If you are in immediate danger call 9-1-1



"A nation is not defeated until the hearts of its women are on the ground. Then it is done, no matter how brave its warriors or how strong its weapons."

-- Cheyenne proverb

**24 - Hour Child Abuse Hotline for Riverside County
(800) 442-4918 or (800) 442-4453**

Celebrating Soboba Culture

During the month of October, Carrie Garcia and Beyaja Notah, of the Soboba Cultural Center, created displays on the hallway walls and in the lobby of the Tribal Administration building. The archival pictures include some of the Soboba baseball teams of the past, elders engaging in traditional activities such as making wiiwish and weaving baskets, as well as scenes from the reservation, many of them from more than 75 years ago. Also incorporated into their display are pressed and framed plants with descriptions of their uses and the names of the plants in both Luiseño and Cahuilla. In the lobby you will find the display of Soboba's water history. Come by and see the terrific job the Cultural Center has done in bringing Soboba's history to our halls.

Courtesy of the Soboba Cultural Center

Sovovatum **The People of Soboba**

Courtesy of Carrie Garcia – Soboba Cultural Center

Since time immemorial the descendants of the Soboba people are those who have lived on and occupied the land that is presently known as the cities of San Jacinto, Hemet, Valle Vista and Winchester. Today the Soboba Indian Reservation lies in the lower reaches of the San Jacinto Mountains, across the San Jacinto River from the city of San Jacinto.

Soboba's Tribal members have a rich and diverse Tribal history as members come from both Cahuilla and Luiseño ancestry. Prior to both Mexican and American settlement in the valley the people of Soboba were virtually self-sufficient. The Soboba people farmed land that was irrigated with surface water from the San Jacinto River, two of its tributary streams, Poppet and Indian Creeks, and from more than forty perennial springs. These water sources sustained gardens, animals and orchards.

During the Spanish and Mexican rule in California, the Soboba Indians were recognized as an established Indian community. In approximately 1815, Mission San Luis Rey established Rancho San Jacinto as their furthestmost cattle ranch and Luiseño Indians were brought with them as laborers for the ranch. Some of the original Cahuilla inhabitants who were present in the valley during this time intermarried with the Luiseños.



Courtesy of Soboba Cultural Center



Courtesy of Soboba Cultural Center

After the missions were secularized the San Jacinto Rancho Viejo was granted to José Antonio Estudillo in 1842, with a stipulation that the new land owner "shall not in any manner prejudice the Indians who are established on said land." For as long as he lived Jose Antonio Estudillo and Jose Antonio Estudillo Jr. respected the rights and well-being of Soboba Indians. Starting in 1868 the heirs of the Estudillo family began selling various portions of the Rancho San Jacinto Viejo and by 1880 most of the rancho lands had been sold and the Soboba people were left with no legal claim to their land or water.

On June 19, 1883 President Chester Arthur by Executive Order established the Soboba Indian Reservation, a 3,172-acre tract which included the Soboba village and the adjacent hills. The reservation today encompasses nearly 7,000 acres, 400 of which are devoted to residential use.

The Soboba Band has a current enrollment of approximately 1200 tribal members who are governed by an elected tribal council that consists of 5 tribal members.

Courtesy of the Soboba Cultural Center

**To learn more, contact the
Soboba Cultural Center at (951) 487-2329.**

Violence Against Women is Not Our Tradition