



**PRESS RELEASE**

**VISIT SYRACUSE**

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## DEHONTSIGWA'EHS CREATOR'S GAME, LACROSSE WEEKEND

*Lacrosse Returns Home to Onondaga Nation Territory & the SU DOME  
CNY region -- the Birthplace of Lacrosse  
Sept. 28 – Oct. 1, 2017*

**Syracuse, NY (August 29, 2017)** -- Thousands of lacrosse fans are expected to make their way to Syracuse this fall for the first international [Dehontsigwa'ehs: Creator's Game, Lacrosse Weekend](#). Before the Greater Syracuse Area was established, the region was known as the birthplace of lacrosse. Next month, it will once again welcome elite teams from around the world to compete and play the Creators Game at the Onondaga Nation Fieldhouse and at SU's Carrier Dome. The Onondaga Nation last brought the game of lacrosse home in 2015, by hosting the World Indoor Lacrosse Championship.

Dehontsigwa'ehs (pronounced day-hone-CHEE-gwa ehs) "they bump hips" was given to the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) by the Creator.

"We live in the heartland of lacrosse - homeland to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Dehontsigwa'ehs was played over 1,000 years ago at Onondaga Lake, where Five warring Nations, came together in peace," said Philip Arnold, Syracuse University Department of Religion Chair/Associate Professor & Founding Director of Skā-noñh: Great Law of Peace Center. "Since time immemorial, the Haudenosaunee wooden stick game has been an integral part of a peacemaking process that fosters the proper, reciprocal relationships between human beings and the natural world."



Arnold and wife, Sandy Bigtree, are organizing this event through the Indigenous Values Initiative (501C3).

Arnold added, "CNY has benefitted from this rich legacy of the Haudenosaunee, and as a result, this area has become the hotbed for lacrosse. In gratitude, come show support for the game we have all come to love!"

The **Indigenous Values Initiative**, will bring together **Lacrosse All Stars North American Invitational (LASNAI)**; **Thompson Brothers Lacrosse**; and the **Haudenosaunee Wooden Stick Festival**; which is an educational outreach festival for players and the community at large, with speakers and demonstrations in areas of: Lacrosse; Native Foods; Arts; Traditional Dance, and Culture. Free screenings of "**The Spirit Game, Pride of a Nation**" video will be shown twice daily for the public to learn how the Creator's Game has impacted the world today.

General schedule of events for Lacrosse weekend:

**September 28 - 30, 2017:** Thursday-Saturday; 9 AM – midnight (approx 4500-6000 people)

**Location:** Tsha' Thoñ'nhes @ Onondaga Nation: Soft Fields & Field House

**Haudenosaunee Wooden Stick Festival**

**LASNAI tournament with 21 teams from 6 countries**

**Thompson's (give back) N7 Camp for Native Kids**





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Sunday culminates with Syracuse University and Coach John Desko hosting International Field Lacrosse Scrimmages in the Carrier Dome: scrimmages between SU, The Iroquois Nationals, and Team Israel.

**October 1, 2017:** Saturday; TBA (approx 3000-4000 people)

**Location:** Syracuse University, Carrier Dome

**International Field Scrimmage between: SU – Iroquois Nationals – Team Israel**

For more information, contact Philip Arnold, (315) 449-1650, or email [info@indigenousvalues.org](mailto:info@indigenousvalues.org)

**Website:** <https://indigenousvalues.org/lacrosse-weekend/>

**FB:** Indigenous Values Initiative

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### ABOUT VISIT SYRACUSE

*Visit Syracuse, Inc. is Onondaga County's official marketing organization for tourism related economic development; leading the production of over \$850 million in direct visitor spending annually. The organization aims to strengthen the positive awareness of the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County as a convention and visitor destination; to increase revenues and stimulate economic development and growth for the community. If you want to know how much there is to do in Syracuse, check out [visitsyracuse.com](http://visitsyracuse.com)*

