



Dear Tribal Leaders,

The excitement is building for the historic 20th Anniversary Sovereignty Run, and NCAI is calling on all who believe in defending our sovereignty, getting out the Native Vote, continued awareness of Boarding School issues and celebrating our successful partnership with [Bright Path Strong](#) for the International Olympic Committee's reinstatement of Jim Thorpe's 1912 winning records for his Gold Medals. These issues will be highlighted along the route of the run which will begin in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, on October 3, 2022 and conclude at this year's 79th Annual NCAI Convention & Marketplace in Sacramento, California, on October 31.

As you can imagine, the planning and logistics for an event which spans five states and over 1,800 miles is an enormous task; however, we know **Indian Country is strongest when we work together**. We humbly ask for your partnership and hope you will join us in making this a truly memorable, celebrated, and successful event.

As such, we are asking Indian Country to help this cause with any financial sponsorship (preferred) or in-kind support (welcomed and appreciated) that your Tribal Nation may afford to give.

As this run moves through Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, there are many other ways to provide support for the event. Volunteers are needed to host a rally or cultural celebration at the planned stops along the route to help bring continued awareness to the run. Additionally, hotel rooms for runners and those supporting the efforts on the ground are also needed.

In its entirety, the Sovereignty Run requires us to raise \$300,000 to make it a success and give it the thoughtful attention it deserves. We understand these asks are not small, but we seek your generosity in helping us achieve this goal and to send a message to the world that Indian Country will do whatever it takes to defend our sovereignty.

If you would like to donate, please visit our [online donation portal](#) or learn more in the attached sponsorship packet.

We look forward to partnering in solidarity as we make our way to Sacramento!





## **NAI 20th Anniversary Sovereignty Run**

In 2002, Tribal Nations, leaders, and Indian Country advocates embarked upon a [cross-country run](#) from Washington state to Washington, DC to speak up against harmful Supreme Court precedents restricting tribal jurisdictions. Now, twenty years later, the National Congress of American Indians is reviving this powerful journey to meet the call of today’s pressing challenges to tribal sovereignty.

The first week of October will mark the beginning of a 1,787-mile relay from Oklahoma to California geared to unite Tribal Nations, partners, and allies in heightening awareness and support of tribal sovereignty on a national level. This Sovereignty Run will be led by Fawn Sharp, the National Congress of American Indians (NAI) President and Vice-President of the Quinault Indian Nation, and will include participants from Tribal Nations, Native organizations, and other partners.

## **Why Run for Tribal Sovereignty?**

Twenty years ago, the mission was to speak out against harmful precedents restricting tribal jurisdiction. This year, organizers were moved to action by another Supreme Court ruling negatively impacting tribal sovereignty—[Castro-Huerta v. Oklahoma](#).

In its ruling, the Court held that “the Federal Government and the State have concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute crimes committed by non-Indians against Indians in Indian country” which strikes against tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction to protect tribal citizens. The consequences of the decision—for Tribal Nations, the federal government, and states—will take time to unravel.

Inspired by the recent history-making [reinstatement](#) of athletic great Jim “Bright Path” Thorpe’s (Sac and Fox Nation and Potawatomi) 1912 Olympic Gold Medals winning records, Tribal Nations will once again run to raise awareness for sovereign rights. Oklahoma was chosen as the starting point this year in honor of Jim Thorpe who hailed from Oklahoma, and in response to the Supreme Court’s decision that had a significant impact on Tribal Nations there.

## **The Road to Sacramento** \*Dates/locations subject to change

October 3 - *Tahlequah, OK	October 10 - Albuquerque, NM	October 25 - Bakersfield, CA
October 4 - Tulsa, OK	October 13 - Gallup, NM	October 27 - Fresno, CA
October 5 - Stroud, OK	October 18 - Phoenix, AZ	October 28 - Modesto, CA
October 6 - Oklahoma City, OK	October 21 - Palm Springs, CA	October 31 - Sacramento, CA
October 7 - Amarillo, TX	October 23 - Los Angeles, CA	

**TOTAL MILES: 1,787**

## **Supporting Sovereignty**

We hope you will join us in making this a truly memorable and successful event. The event would benefit from any financial sponsorship (preferred) and in-kind support (appreciated) that your Tribal Nation may afford to give. We are also seeking logistical support, state organizers, volunteers, walkers, and runners!



**BRIGHT PATH  
STRONG**

[\*\*www.sovereigntyrun.org\*\*](http://www.sovereigntyrun.org)



\*Values are approximate and may be greater than listed below. Please use these values for reference only.

ITEM	OVERALL	OKLAHOMA	TEXAS	NEW MEXICO	ARIZONA	CALIFORNIA	GALA BANQUET
Lodging	×	\$5,400.00	\$3,600.00	\$11,480.00	\$10,728.00	×	×
Food	×	\$3,840.00	\$3,840.00	\$5,280.00	\$5,280.00	×	×
Gas	×	\$2,560.00	\$2,560.00	\$3,360.00	\$3,360.00	×	×
Airfare	\$5,400.00	×	×	×	×	×	×
Parking	\$1,500.00	×	×	×	×	×	×
Printing	\$1,200.00	×	×	×	×	×	×
Banners	\$800.00	×	×	×	×	×	×
Road Managers	×	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$6,600.00	×
Honorarium	×	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00	×
Blankets	×	\$800.00	\$400.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	×
Ribbons	\$1,000.00	×	×	×	×	×	×
T-Shirts	\$3,650.00	×	×	×	×	×	×
Bandanas	\$3,000.00	×	×	×	×	×	×
Sweatshirts	\$7,400.00	×	×	×	×	×	×
Miscellaneous	\$4,850.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,500.00	×
<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>\$21,900</b>	<b>\$7,700</b>	<b>\$5,300</b>	<b>\$8,700</b>	<b>\$8,700</b>	<b>\$18,900</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>



**BRIGHT PATH STRONG**

**DONATE NOW!**



## **Making Donations**

If you would like to financially support the 20th Anniversary Sovereignty Run, please consider the following donation options:

### **Online Donation Portal**

#### **Check**

Please make checks payable to:

National Congress of American Indians  
Re: Sovereignty Run  
1516 P Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

#### **Wire Transfer**

Please contact NCAI Grants Coordinator Meghan Kearney at [mkearney@ncai.org](mailto:mkearney@ncai.org) for information on electronic transfers.

## **Other Ways to Support**

### ***In-Kind Support***

All in-kind contributions are welcomed and appreciated. Examples of items needed include (but are not limited to):

- Lodging
- Food and/or snacks
- Water
- Safety Vehicles, SUVs
- Van Transport
- Shuttles
- Parking

### ***Logistical Support, Volunteers, Participants***

Other needed contributions to the Sovereignty Run include more logistical support, state organizers, volunteers, walkers, and runners!

If you would like to provide in-kind, logistical, or participant support, please contact Yawna Allen at [yallen@ncai.org](mailto:yallen@ncai.org).

