



# TRIBAL NATIONS MEDIA GUIDE

No two tribal nations are the same, and reporting on them effectively requires understanding their respective government, people, history, art, and environment. The NAJA Tribal Nations Media Guide encourages reporters and editors to learn about the complexities of Indigenous nations and their varied communities.

## GOVERNMENT

1. How is the tribal nation governed (for instance, is it by council, chief or both)?
2. Who serves as head of state?
3. What is the capital?
4. Where is the capitol?
5. How is the tribe's legislature or governing body structured? How does the tribe create and enact laws?
6. What governmental services outside of administration does the tribe provide (police, firefighters, EMS, healthcare facilities, housing, schools, etc.)?
7. Who is eligible to vote? Age restriction? Geographic restriction (i.e. must return to the return to the reservation to vote ala United Keetoowah Band)?

## ECONOMY

1. What are the tribe's major industries or sources of revenue?
2. Annual economic impact (for instance, the Cherokee Nation boasts that it interjects more than \$2 billion every year into Oklahoma's economy)?
3. Major job providers in the region?

## GEOGRAPHY

1. Where are the tribal lands located, and what major cities or physical attractions are there?
2. Does the tribe have a reservation, a tribal district, or neither?
3. Is the tribe still located on its traditional homelands? If not, where are their homelands and how/when was the tribe removed?
4. What natural resources does the tribal nation have access to?

NAJA.COM

facebook.com/nativejournalists

@najournalists





# TRIBAL NATIONS MEDIA GUIDE

## TREATIES

1. How many treaties has the tribe signed with the federal government or other countries?
2. What were the terms of those treaties?
3. Have they been adhered to?
4. How do they continue to impact the tribe?

## PEOPLE

1. Number of tribally enrolled citizens?
2. How is tribal citizenship determined?
3. What are the demographic breakdowns of the area (ethnicity, religion, language, economic status, etc.)?
4. What is the urban v rural ratio?
5. How many tribal citizens live on tribal lands?

## CULTURE

1. Tribal media structure?
2. What holidays does the tribe celebrate (for instance, does the tribe have an annual feast day or holiday)?
3. Notable tribal members, both alive and dead?
4. Does the tribe operate a cultural museum?
5. How do tribal members refer to themselves (Some Navajos prefer to be called Diné, some Cherokees prefer Tsalagi, for example)?

