

APACHE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Tribal Headquarters: Anadarko, OK



A brief history

With the advances of the Spanish in the Southwest in the 17th and 18th centuries, the Apache, also known as Kataka, left the southwest mountains for the upper Missouri River in what is today Montana. They were accomplished horse traders and skilled hunters. For the next century and half these Apache people lived on the plains and became closely associated with the Kiowa, giving rise to being known as the “Kiowa Apache.” While they became part of the Kiowa camp circle, exchanging the protection of the Kiowa for performing various duties, they remained distinct and preserved their own language.

Their name for themselves was Na-ishañ-dina, or “our people”. In 1837, they made their first treaty with the U.S. along with the Kiowa and Comanche. They were party to all subsequent treaties and agreements signed by the Kiowa. The Tribe has established their own modern government as the “Apache Tribe of Oklahoma”, which is headquartered in Anadarko. Tribal membership today is 2,700.

About the flag

The flag of the Apache Tribe recalls their dual heritage—as Athapascan-speaking Apache from the mountains of the Southwest who have lived many generations on the Great Plains with the Kiowa. The background field of their flag is divided into two halves colored red and blue, reminiscent of trade blankets. Across the top of the flag written in white is “Apache

Tribe,” and across the bottom in white “Oklahoma.” This duality is underscored in the center of the flag where over a buff-colored outline of the State of Oklahoma are the heads of four warriors in a diagonal. The two heads in the foreground wear Apache hairstyles and a yellow neckerchief. The two behind face right and wear Kiowa head combs. All four wear a single eagle feather in their hair and have faces painted in red, white and blue. Two coup sticks, each with two sets of eagle feathers, frame the four heads. Behind them are two wooden lances.

Educational Activity

After studying Oklahoma’s other tribal flags, what makes the Apache flag unique? Create a picture representing a relationship or friendship you have had with another group or person.