

SAC & FOX NATION
Tribal Headquarters: Stroud, OK



A brief history

The Sac and Fox were originally two separate tribes, the Sauk or (Sac) and the Meskwaki or (Fox). They speak a similar Algonquian language. The tribes became affiliated in the 1720s after years of war with the French fur traders and their allies.

In the 1830s the Sac and Fox had two primary leaders. Keokuk sought to peacefully preserve what was left of the tribe's land, and Black Hawk who wanted to fight. The latter's warriors were massacred during an attempted surrender at the hands of General Edmund P. Gaines. This was later called the Black Hawk War. In 1869 the largest portion of the remaining tribal members moved to reservations in Oklahoma and formally became the political entity encompassing both tribes known as the Sac & Fox.

Today the Sac & Fox have a population of 3,500 with the largest portion of the tribe residing in Oklahoma.

About the flag

The seal featured on the flag of the largest of the three Sac & Fox Tribes in the U.S. acts as a tribute to two great members of their nation – the great warrior and leader Black Sparrow Hawk, and the great 20th Century athlete Jim Thorpe. The seal bears a black and white representation of a Black Sparrow Hawk bearing a shield on its chest. The black and white colors refer to the two social classes into which the tribe is divided – the Oskacla and the

Kiskoa. The shield contains emblems of the four nations with which the Sac & Fox had alliances: Spain, France, Britain and the U.S.

Above the hawk emblem are five Olympic rings recalling the great Sac athlete Jim Thorpe, considered one of the best athletes of the 20th Century. Above that is a black ribbon arcing overhead reaching to the tips of the hawk's wings with the inscription "Ma Kai Tai Me She Kiakiak" or "Black Sparrow Hawk."

Educational Activity

Compare and contrast the two tribes (Sauk & Meskwaki). How are they the same? How are they different?