

SEMINOLE NATION
Tribal Headquarters: Wewoka, OK



A brief history

The Seminole and the Mikasukei were the southern most groups of Muskogean speaking people who lived in Florida at the time of Spanish colonization in the 16th century. Their populations were decimated by disease but they valiantly held up in the Everglades and swamps of Florida. In 1817-1818 Andrew Jackson led U.S. military campaigns against the Seminoles known as the First Seminole War. In an 1832 Treaty the Seminole agreed to exchange lands in Florida for land in Indian Territory. A small group of Seminoles refused to travel what was to become the "Trail of Tears" resulting in the Second Seminole War. These are the ancestors of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma has about 6,000 enrolled members divided into 14 bands. Two bands are called "Freedmen Bands" because they count their descent from escaped slaves. Band membership is matrilineal. An elected council - with two members from each band, rules the nation.

About the flag

Although the vast majority of Seminole are found in Oklahoma, they still have strong traditional ties to the lands of their ancestors and their symbols retain their links to Florida. The flag of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma bears their tribal seal in the center. The seal bears the tribal name in black letters surrounding a typical scene from their ancestral life in Florida.

A warrior is featured in a Seminole dugout canoe paddling to a village. Beyond the village are the green forests of the Everglades. All elements appear in natural colors.

Educational Activity

The Seminole tribe was brought to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears along with the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Muscogee (Creek) people. Research the journey in your encyclopedia. Read the firsthand account of the journey at <http://cherokeehistory.com/samuel.html>. How do these accounts differ? How are they the same?