

SHAWNEE TRIBE

Tribal Headquarters: Miami, OK and Shawnee, KS



A brief history

The Shawnee were the southern most branch of the Algonquian who had a loose confederacy consisting of four divisions spanning portions of Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and as far south as Georgia. They fiercely opposed early European encroachments aligning with other tribes and even Europeans, but were pushed west and south by the Americans.

One of the groups received a Spanish land grant at Cape Girardeau, MO in 1793. They became known as today's Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Subsequent treaties between 1817 and the 1830's saw two additional groups of Shawnees removed to reservations in Kansas.

The US government drastically reduced the Kansas reservation in 1854. This, coupled with brutal abuses by white settlers during and after the Civil War, forced many of the Kansas Shawnees to relocate. One group moved to the Cherokee Nation in northeastern Oklahoma. The U.S. caused those former Kansas Shawnees and the Cherokees to enter into a formal agreement in 1869, granting the Shawnees allotments and citizenship in the Cherokee Nation. They were often called "the Cherokee Shawnee" or the "Loyal Shawnee," the latter because they sided with the Union during the Civil War.

Almost 130 years later, the "Loyal" Shawnee sought to reestablish their separate tribal government with their relatives in Kansas. In 2001 they were awarded "federal recognition" as an independent sovereign with the blessing of the Cherokee. Today they have some 3,000 members.

About the flag

The new flag of the Shawnee is a field of light blue with a white rectangular band rimmed in red representing Shawnee ceremonial grounds. On it are 12 four-pointed yellow stars representing the 12 animal clans. Rising from the center is a similar larger yellow four pointed star, representing Tecumseh. Under the band, a pair of green oak leaves signify the modern day Shawnee.

Educational Activity

The Shawnee reestablished their separate tribal government and were awarded federal recognition in 2001. What has the tribe done to distinguish themselves from other tribes?