

National American Indian Heritage Month Events 2012

National American Indian Heritage Month is observed throughout November. Listed below is a series of local performances, lectures, exhibitions, family activities and tours arranged in celebration of the observance. The majority of events will be held at or sponsored by the National Museum of the American Indian (NAMI), and are free and open to the public. For more information, visit the museum's website at [NAMI Events](#).

Tour - Throughout November, every Friday from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., National Museum of the American Indian, Fourth Street & Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC.; tour behind the scenes of the exhibition "A Song for the Horse Nation" with museum conservators and mount makers to learn about object preparation and exhibition practices. Visitors interested in taking this tour should meet in the "A Song for the Horse Nation" gallery located on the museum's third level.

Tour - Throughout November, every Saturday, 3:00 p.m., National Museum of the American Indian, Fourth Street & Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC.; an Interpreter's Choice Tour wherein Cultural Interpreters (Native docents) lead a 60-minute tour of their favorite museum highlights. Tours begin in the Potomac Atrium.

Dance Performance - November 9, 2012, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., National Museum of the American Indian, Potomac Atrium, Fourth Street & Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC. World Champion Fancy Dancer Larry Yazzie and the Native Pride Dancers will perform traditional Buffalo, Eagle and Round Dances. The performances will feature authentic regalia, rhythmic drumming and traditional songs from the Northern Plains tribes.

Festival - November 15-17, 2012, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., National Museum of the American Indian, Fourth Street & Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC. Attend a celebration of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribe's history and heritage featuring performances, presentations and storytelling, Muscogee arts and crafts, tribal cooking and more. For more information on the Muscogee Nation, visit www.MuscogeeNation-nsn.gov/.

Exhibition - On view through Jan. 7, 2013, visitors can tour "A Song for the Horse Nation," an exhibition that presents the epic story of the horse's influence on American Indian tribes, beginning with the return of horses to the Western Hemisphere by Christopher Columbus to now. Through an array of 122 historic objects, artwork, photographs, songs and personal accounts, the exhibition traces how horses changed the lives of Native people, from the way

they traveled, hunted and waged war to how they celebrated generosity, exhibited bravery and conducted ceremonies. It shows how horse trading among tribes was the conduit for the extensive spread of mustangs in the Plains and Plateau regions of the United States, as well as how horses became the inspiration for new artistic expressions and rich traditions that continue to this day.

Pow Wow – December 8, 2012, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., University of Maryland, College Park, Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center, the 8th Annual Pow Wow will feature the NDN Boys, Host Drum as well as Native American Indian food, educational and craft vendors, Native American Indian flutist and more. For more information, contact Dottie Chicquelo at 301-405-5618 or chicodh@umd.edu.

Resources

[**Presidential Proclamation 2012**](#)

[**U.S. Mint 2012 Native American Coin**](#)

[**Census Facts 2012: Native American Indian & Alaska Native Americans**](#)