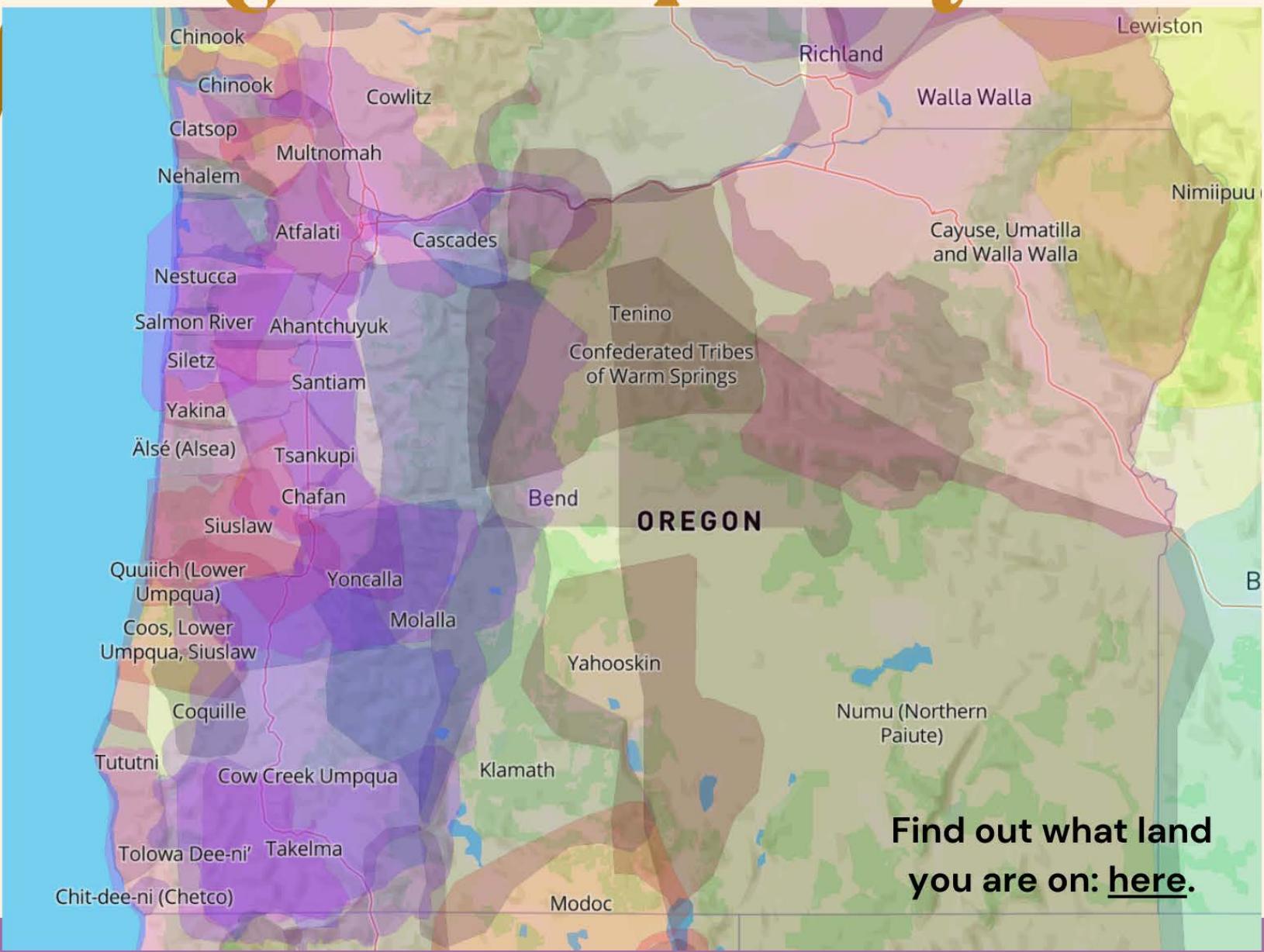




BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

Indigenous Peoples' Day, 2025



Telling the Truth: Why Indigenous Peoples' Day Matters

For generations, Native people and allies have opposed the federally recognized Columbus Day (since 1937). The holiday whitewashes the true legacy of Columbus: a history defined by enslavement, genocide, and the massive theft of land and resources that led to an estimated 95% loss of Native American life in the 130 years after his arrival. Celebrating this day ignores these historical atrocities and the continuing impact of colonialism.

Indigenous Peoples' Day is an essential step toward historical truth and reconciliation, honoring the Native people who are the original inhabitants of the United States. This day challenges us to re-evaluate the past and acknowledge the present.

Telling the Truth in Our Clubs: Resources & Ideas

Inaccurate and incomplete narratives about Columbus and the "discovery" of the Americas persist in our education system. For many young people, this misinformation is their earliest lesson on cultural encounters and diverse histories. To truly advance as a society, we must teach more accurate, complete histories and differing perspectives.

As youth workers, we have a powerful opportunity to challenge this historical narrative and equip young people with a more honest understanding of the past. Here are some ideas for shifting the conversation:

1) Share an example of indigenous activism with members:

Indigenous Peoples' Day is an opportunity to talk about one of the many movements for indigenous rights, from the present or the past. For preschool and younger elementary children, you could pick one of these examples of Native American activism from the 1960s to the present, presented by the Zinn Education Project. Upper elementary and middle school aged kids could look at the entire timeline for themes.

2) Watch videos with members:

5-minute video on the truth about Columbus: [click here](#).

Indigenous Peoples Day for Kids: [click here](#).

Indigenous People Review Native American Characters In Film & TV: [click here](#).

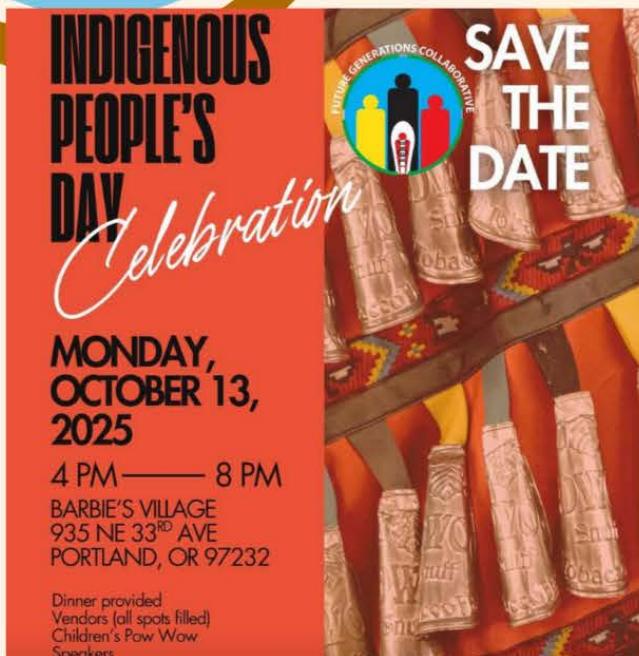
A Conversation With Native Americans on Race: [click here](#).

3) Have a discussion with each other and with our young people:

- Why is it important that we honor Indigenous Peoples' Day?
- How are we acknowledging and bringing light to Indigenous experiences in our Clubs on a consistent basis? What would it look like for us to do that more?
- What is the impact of honoring Columbus Day instead of Indigenous Peoples' Day?
- What do you know about Indigenous People in Oregon? What are you wondering? (you can add in an activity here and have small groups research Indigenous People/Tribes/History in Oregon and share what they learn out loud.)

"Man has responsibility, not power."
– Tuscarora Tribe

Get Involved in Local Events!



At Wisdom of the Elders, we believe in the power of gathering, sharing stories, and celebrating the strength of our communities. This October, we're honored to invite you to join us for a very special event: Indigenous Peoples' Day 2025.

This day is more than just a date on the calendar—it's a time to honor our histories, uplift our cultures, and connect across generations. Together, we'll celebrate resilience, joy, and the traditions that carry us forward.

[Learn more here.](#)



Join Portland Indigenous Marketplace (PIM) on Saturday, October 11, and Sunday, October 12, for a celebration hosting 50–100 Indigenous and Black artists and entrepreneurs, promoting cultural resilience, and honoring Indigenous heritage through art and community.

Saturday, October 11 | 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday, October 12 | 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

PIM supports Indigenous artists and entrepreneurs by providing barrier-free, culturally respectful spaces that encourage cultural resilience and economic sustainability by promoting public education through cultural arts. Learn more at indigenousmarketplace.org.

Learn about local tribes: There are many Indigenous tribes that have ancestral ties to the Portland area, such as the Cowlitz, Clackamas, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.