

Onayote?a·ká· Tsi? Niyukwalihó·ta

Two-Years

Developing an Oneida
Cultural Identity

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Cultural Identity*
Application packet



OVERVIEW

The Onyoteak@Tsi Niyukwalih%t< intense culture-language initiative is designed to help prepare the Oneida community to reach their vision:

"A Nation of strong families built on Tsi? Niyukwalih%t< and a strong economy."

Most members may not know what that means. In 2010 the Oneida Business Committee approved a definition for Tsi? Niyukwalih%t<: *"In the Oneida language, the word includes the ways of Oneida people from the Creation story to the present day. This includes our culture, our history-before and after the move to Wisconsin, our economy, our language, land, music/dance, arts, clothing, clans, government, child rearing, healing, agriculture, parenting, ceremonies, economy, employees, food, stories, our environmental ethic. It covers everything about our Nation."*

Our initiative will help rebuild a cultural identity lost through colonialism and promote the use of the Oneida language to remain sovereign. Along with building knowledge, skills and abilities in an Oneida identity our curriculum assists in developing cultural wellness for our participants. Holistic learning opportunities are developed to strengthen self-esteem and self-concept leading to a productive, resilient, self-sustaining lifestyle. Cultural activities will integrate the Oneida language to help develop a full understanding and awareness of our connection to the physical environment, family, community, to other Oneida communities and our place in the world.

An application process is in place to select up to 10 individuals per year. Others are welcomed however assistance for material, etc... is not guaranteed.

A Balance Scorecard validation process and years of discussion identified the foundational components of Tsi? Niyukwalih%t<. Below is an outline of topics to complete for an official Onyoteak@Tsi? Niyukwalih%t< certification.

1. Creation - the full narrative
2. Clan system - roles, responsibilities, representatives, conducting meetings
3. Four ceremonies - when and how they are used
 - A. Feather dance
 - B. Drum dance
 - C. Men's chant
 - D. Peach Stone game
4. Kayantl@la-Great Law
5. Kalihwi=y%Handsome Lake-The Good Message
6. Post European contact history

Seasonal traditional and cultural life skills will be incorporated throughout the two years.

In 2010 classes for Cultural Heritage provided an opportunity for employees to share their collective knowledge on the components of Tsi⟩ Niyukwalih⟨. Increased website development and utilization of technology will help us to remain connected to our Oneida families out East and enhance our learning opportunities.

The On⟨@ Tsi⟩ Niyukwalih⟨ initiative is now accepting applications from interested individuals who wish to participate in a two-year language-culture immersion experience.

An interdisciplinary approach to transferring knowledge, skills and abilities includes the use of oral tradition, experiential activities and creative ways to demonstrate transference (show us what you learned). Participants will gain insight to their talents and abilities. In the second year the academy will also develop a plan with each participant for reaching their career or life goals.

Researchers, practitioners, professors, cultural title holders and knowledgeable community members will conduct lessons for participants. Participants will be immersed daily from 4-6 hours with a variety of lectures, workshops, panel discussions or field trips and develop weekly or bi-weekly projects to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities they gain. Breaks will be incorporated after major events and during the summer.

A certificate of successful completion will be signed by an available fluent Oneida language speaker¹, and the primary educator. Certificates will be awarded at the end of the two years. The certificate can be used to validate competencies that can be applied to employment positions requiring knowledge of the Oneida culture and language and most importantly, tribal member cultural competencies that improve the wellness and Quality of Life for the entire Oneida Community.

Participants will be expected to attend classes and join all learning activities including field trip opportunities to earn a certificate. Breaks will be discussed and planned accordingly. There are no Higher Education funds to support this initiative at this time.

Requirements:

Interested applicants are required to:

1. Totally commit to the two year program demonstrated through attendance and participation.
2. Complete the application process

Application for 2017.

¹ Refers to any Oneida in any community

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

Complete the entire application.

First Name:	Middle Name:	Last Name:	Date of Birth:
Do you know your Oneida name? Yes No		Do you know your clan? Yes No	
Name:		Clan:	
Gender: <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female	Tribal affiliation: <input type="radio"/> Oneida enrolled <input type="radio"/> Oneida descendant <input type="radio"/> Other tribe <input type="radio"/> Other tribe descendant <input type="radio"/> Other: _____	Highest level of education completed: <input type="radio"/> Less than high school <input type="radio"/> High school diploma or equivalent <input type="radio"/> Some college <input type="radio"/> Bachelor degree <input type="radio"/> Graduate degree <input type="radio"/> Post graduate	
Do you have a steady income? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Will it be affected by your attendance? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
Street address:	City:	State, Zip:	
Home phone:	Cell phone:	E:mail	Best way to contact you?
How did you learn about this program: <input type="radio"/> Word of mouth <input type="radio"/> Post card <input type="radio"/> Flyer <input type="radio"/> Other			
How would you rate your knowledge of the Oneida Language and Culture? Please circle best answer			
None Very little Basic introduction I can teach a unit on: _____			
What is one thing that would stop you from completing all components of On<yote>a-k@ Tsi> Niyukwalih%t<?			
Why is your participation necessary?			
Signature: _____		Date: _____	
<p>Send completed application, personal statement and letter of commitment:</p> <p>Confidential Cultural Heritage Area Manager P.O. Box 365 Oneida, WI 54155 or E:mail: abarber@oneidanation.org Call: 920-496-5394</p>			

On a separate sheet of paper

Personal statement

Write a personal statement on a separate sheet of paper using the questions and statements below to help guide you.

Why are you interested in participating in the On<yote>a-k@ Tsi> Niyukwalih%t< Immersion Academy?

What are your expectations of Tsi> Niyukwalih%t<

What will it take to keep you motivated?

How will your attendance or absence affect

- i. Your life
- ii. Other participants
- iii. The community

What are your plans after completing the two year initiative?

Letter of Commitment to Tsi> Niyukwalih%t<

Submit a letter of commitment starting with

Dear Oneida Members,

“I will attend Tsi>niyukwaliho-t^ as a way to.... “

"I will use the information I gain to.... "

“I will keep my commitment by.....”

If for some reason I cannot finish the 2 years I will commit to....