WELCOME

Principal Chief David Hill

Hesci!

Welcome to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Let this official Guide to the Mvskoke Nation be your ticket to discover our distinctive language, history, and culture as well as our diverse points of interests and attractions. As the Principal Chief and on behalf of the entire Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I welcome you to our home in Oklahoma and would like to extend the warmest greetings as you travel within our great Nation. We are honored to have you as our guest and look forward to our shared time together.

---

Second Chief Del Beaver

Hesci!

Welcome to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Use this guide to navigate your way through our one-of-a-kind culture and unique history of the Muscogee people. Along the way you will experience first class hospitality that will inspire you to learn more about the Mvskoke way of life. Enjoy your time here. We look forward to meeting you.

MVTO

Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Article V, §1 (a)

The Executive power shall be vested in and shall be known as the Office of the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Principal Chief shall hold office during a term of four (4) years upon election by majority of the votes cast. The term of office shall begin the first Monday in the new calendar year (January). No person shall serve office of Chief more than two (2) consecutive terms for which he/she is elected.
CREEK TOURISM

Experience the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Explore the tribe’s truly unique culture and rich history. Discover the many historical sites and points of interest throughout the area including the recently restored Creek Nation Council House. The building now serves as an interpretive centre for a 19th century experience of the Muscogee Nation’s original capitol and includes not only visual displays but also auditory and interactive exhibits focused on the history of the building, Muscogee government and tribal citizens. Find fun and exciting places and events within the tribe’s eleven-county area. Get moving!

Gaming, live concerts, fun and relaxation await you at the tribe’s premier destination, River Spirit Casino Resort®, located on the east bank of the Arkansas River, Tulsa. The Nation’s flagship casino boasts a Vegas-style atmosphere with one of the largest gaming floors in the state. Oklahoma’s largest buffet, luxury hotel and spa, convention and meeting space, Paradise Cove Showroom Theatre and Jimmy Buffet’s Margaritaville Casino, Restaurant, and Land Shark Bar are just some of the aspects of the well-appointed property that make this casino resort one of the most appealing and accommodating destinations in Oklahoma.

Just across the river from River Spirit, shop, dine, enjoy live music (seasonal), or play at the FlyingTee driving range and entertainment center at the Riverwalk family entertainment district. Perfect your swing at the 18-hole, par 72 Fountainhead Creek Golf Course located on picturesque Lake Eufaula in Checotah. Lake Eufaula, Okmulgee Lake and Dripping Springs State Parks are naturally beautiful attractions and definitely worthwhile destinations within the tribe’s boundaries.

Visit the Nation’s capital city of Okmulgee during the fourth weekend in June for the Muscogee Nation Festival. Festivities include music, food, culture, carnival rides, and fun in a lively and family-friendly atmosphere throughout the weekend. Let the following pages chart your course for a journey abounding with culture, history, education and fun for the entire family.

Encounter the limitless ways to experience, learn, and make memories in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
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MUSCOGEE / Muskoke/ v. Creek
While reading the text, it is important to note that "Muscogee" and "Creek" are interchangeable, and both are acceptable, when speaking of the Nation, people, language or anything associated with them. The British coined the term "Creek" in the late 15th century and used it to identify entire groups of tribal towns living near them along Oches Creek in Georgia. Although the more traditional term "Muscogee" is slowly becoming more commonplace, the term "Creek" remains the most recognizable to the general public.
The Muscogee People are descendants of the Mississippian culture that spanned the entire Mississippi River valley and floodplain. Ancestral Muscogee (800-1540 CE) constructed monumental earthen pyramids along the rivers of the area as part of their elaborate ceremonial complex extending regionally from the Macon plateau near present-day Macon, Georgia.

1540
EUROPEAN CONTACT

Chronicles of Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto's expedition in the 1540s write the first descriptions of the ancestors of the historic Creek and other Southeastern people. They note that many of the towns feature open plazas, earthen temple mounds, public buildings and homes constructed of upright logs, interwoven with vines or cane and plastered with clay (wattle and daub).

Upon the arrival of Europeans, disease and warfare lead to the decimation of populations. The indigenous people scatter among separate, related or allied “towns.”

Population shifts, amalgamations of town survivors and refugees from other tribes, pressure from slave traders, and changes in trade practices lead to the combining of groups/tribes for stability. Member tribes are tribal towns, numbering at least fifty with a population of more than twenty thousand. Within this political structure, each tribal town, having its own leader, maintains political autonomy and distinct land holdings; however, the language and the culture of the founding tribal towns becomes dominant. Collectively, the towns consider themselves a confederacy consisting of distinct provincial groups.

1690
THE “CREEKS”

The British construct a trading post on Ocheese Creek (present Oc Mulgee River, Georgia). The various towns located along the river are known, by the British, as the Ocheese Creek Nation. They refer to them as the “Creeks.”

1793
ASSIMILATION

Indian Agent Benjamin Hawkins, appointed to the Creek people by President George Washington, initiates an assimilation policy. Eventually, the changes that became visible, like ownership of slaves, European clothing and lifestyle, and restructured government, lend the assumption and label “civilized” to the tribe.
The Creek Nation was divided among two groups.

The Upper Creeks occupied territory along the Coosa, Alabama, and Tallapoosa rivers in central Alabama, while the Lower Creeks occupied the areas along the lower Chattahoochee, Ocmulgee, and Flint rivers in southwestern Georgia.

Due, in part, to their proximity to the English, the Lower towns were substantially affected by intermarriage and its impact on their political and social order. The Upper towns remained far from European influence and, therefore, continued to maintain distinctly traditional political and social structure.

1812-1814

THE CREEK WAR

The Upper Creeks or Red Sticks (derived from their red-colored war clubs) strongly support traditional views of Creek society. Hostility toward the encroachment of white settlers combined with the influence of Shawnee leader Tecumseh instigates a rebellion against the pro-European Creeks and, ultimately, the U.S. military.

The “Red Stick War” or “Creek War” culminates in a battle at Horseshoe Bend, Alabama. More than 800 Muscogee perish. Andrew Jackson forces both factions to sign the Treaty of Fort Jackson, 1814, ceding 23 million acres.

1825

TREATY of INDIAN SPRINGS

William McIntosh, a Lower Creek, and a small contingency sign the Treaty of Indian Springs ceding all Lower Creek lands and a large tract of land in Alabama in exchange for a payment of $200,000 and the same amount paid directly to McIntosh. According to a Muscogee law that McIntosh himself had supported, a sentence of execution awaits any Creek leader who cedes land to the U.S. without the full approval of the entire Creek Nation. The Muscogee National Council orders the execution of William McIntosh and his coconspirators.

The very next year, the U.S. Supreme Court nullifies the treaty marking the only time that a ratified treaty with an Indian nation was overturned. In return, Muscogee leaders sign the Treaty of Washington ceding all Creek lands in Georgia, saving Alabama/Upper Creek lands, in exchange for a one-time payment of $217,600. All Georgia Creeks emigrate westward to Indian Territory (I.T.).

1836

REMOVAL

The Indian Removal Act, 1830, authorizes President Andrew Jackson to “negotiate” the removal of southern tribes to Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River, in exchange for their lands.

The Treaty of Chippewa, 1832, trades the Creeks’ sovereign claim to their land in exchange for legal title to their land. This enables the legal sale of property or the ability to remain.

Despite land titles, settlers continue to encroach upon or swindle people who attempt to sell their land. These situations create high tension leading to violence, which, in 1836, erupts into the Second Creek War. The violence against whites provides Pres. Jackson justification to forcibly remove all Creeks remaining in the southeast to land in I.T.

Because of his status of possibly the most prominent Creek man, the government assigns Opothle Yahola to lead the first contingency. During the summer and winter of 1836 into early 1837, more than 20,000 Creek people make the journey from Alabama to Indian Territory.
LIFE IN INDIAN TERRITORY

Once the entirety of the people reached Indian Territory, Lower Creeks settled in the Three Forks area of the Arkansas River, and the Upper Creeks lived along the North Fork, Deep Fork, and Canadian river valleys. They still showed the ancient divisions of their old confederacy. The separate groups, now numbering approximately thirteen thousand, agreed, in 1840, to a new national government.

A new golden age of independent development ensued but was short lived. The Civil War destroyed much of the progress, but another new national government, with a bicameral legislative system emerged after 1866.

1866

THE CIVIL WAR IN I.T.

During the U.S. Civil War, Muscogee citizens divide their support among the Union and Confederate sides. More than 100 battles occur in Indian Territory.

Because a portion of the tribe supported the Confederacy, the U.S. government requires the Nation to sign the Reconstruction Treaty of 1866 renewing their allegiance. Proof of allegiance also costs the cession of the entire western half of the Muscogee domain, 3.2 million acres.

1867

RECONSTRUCTION

The Muscogee Nation adopts a new national government along with a written constitution providing for a Principal Chief and Second Chief, judicial branch, and legislature. The Nation establishes the seat of government in the capital city of Okmulgee and constructs a log cabin capitol. The Muscogee Nation begins to experience a new period of prosperity and builds schools, public houses and churches.

1898

ALLOTMENT

In 1887, U.S. Congress passes the Dawes Act (General Allotment Act) to break up tribal landholdings and allot land to individuals; thus furthering assimilation by breaking up communal life and encouraging individualistic farming. The act does not include I.T. However, when the demand for land in I.T. increases, Congress passes the Curtis Act, 1898, an amendment to the Dawes Act, enabling the Allotment Act to apply to the "Five Civilized Tribes," which results in surplus land for white settlers.

In 1901, Creek Chief Pleasant Porter and the Muscogee National Council consent to the Curtis Act and cooperate with the allotment process of Creek land.
1901

OPPOSITION TO ALLOTMENT

Noted Muscogee Statesman, Chitto Harjo, leads organized opposition to the Curtis Act and its dissolution of Muscogee National government and allotment of collectively-held lands. His efforts include lobbying President Theodore Roosevelt to stop the allotment process. He establishes an independent government at Hickory Ground Tribal Town in opposition to the Creek National Council. Harjo leads the rebellion along with supporters known as “Crazy Snakes” (Chitto Harjo, from the Muscogee language, loosely translates as “crazy snake.”) until his death in, approximately, 1911.

Oklahoma’s statehood (1907) brings the completion of the assimilation process and the partial dismantling of tribal government. The Nation loses more than two million acres of allotted domain.

1975

SELF-DETERMINATION

The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 gives tribes the authority to contract with the Federal government. This allows tribes to operate programs serving their tribal members and other eligible persons. In 1979, the Nation ratifies a new constitution calling for a unicameral legislature, the National Council.

1981

CITIZENSHIP

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation opens enrollment. Descendants are allowed to enroll provided they are able to prove direct lineage to an ancestor listed on the 1906 Dawes Roll through the issuance of birth and/or death certificates as established by the Act of April 26, 1906. According to the current population count, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is the fourth largest in the U.S. with a population of more than 87,000 enrolled citizens.
Visit the Redstick Gallery just across the street from the Creek Nation Council House for arts and crafts made by Muscogee artists/artisans.

105 South Grand Avenue | Okmulgee, Oklahoma
Tues-Sat 10:00am-4:00pm

CreekNationGiftShop.com
CEREMONY

Turtle shells are an integral and inseparable part of the traditional Muscogee ceremonial. The shells from female box turtles are filled with pebbles and other trinkets that will make a rattling noise. Several shells are then tied to the removed top of a boot or a piece of leather large enough to wrap around and cover the wearer’s lower leg from below the knee to just above the ankle. The shells cover every part of the piece, save the area where the wearer strings leather or shoe laces bringing the two ends together to attach the shells to her leg.

Female participants wear the shells on both legs and make a stomping motion providing the “music” to which male participants sing in a call-and-response fashion. While the men sing and the women “shake shells,” each participant falls in line in a male-female pattern trailing in a counter-clockwise motion forming a spiral around a central fire.

All of this is part of a ceremony that is a hopeful attempt to restore harmony on earth through prayer, song, dedication, sacrifice, and, most importantly, love.

![Image of Turtle Shell](image)

Today, 16 ceremonial grounds remain active and approximately 100 historically Muscogee Christian churches. Church congregations blend Christianity with Muscogee language and customs making worship and the church itself distinctly Muscogee.
HISTORY

Four hundred years ago, a single language was shared among a large number of towns in Alabama and Georgia. It was the most widely spoken language in the region, used for diplomacy, medicine, and personal names even in towns where other languages were used for everyday speech. The language the townspeople shared came to be known as the language of the Mvskoke people; English settlers later called it Creek. Today, the English words "Creek" and "Muscogee" are used interchangeably by some, though the term "Creek" is still more familiar.

Creek is a member of the Muskogean language family indigenous to the southeastern U.S. Other languages belonging to the Muskogean family include the languages of the Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole people.

The Mvskoke Language, in written form, uses the letters of the English alphabet. Through the work of many missionaries, the alphabet of the Creek language was adopted by many interpreters and chiefs of the Nation in 1853. While some of the sounds applied to the letters are similar to their English counterparts, others are distinctly Mvskoke making it difficult to replicate them phonetically.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Language Preservation Program works to promote and protect the Mvskoke language. The program develops resources and provides language teachers to communities and schools throughout the Nation to increase use of the language.

PHRASES

Hello! (All is well)  Hesci! /his-JÂ/
How are you?  (E)stonko? /i/-SDÔN-gÔ/
Very well.  Heremahe. /hi-thlê-MAH-hê/
And you?  Centv? /JIN-de
What is your name?  Naket cehocekvtër /NAH-git jê-hô-JIF-gâ-dês/
My name is_________. _________ cehocekvtos. /jê-hô-JIF-gâ-dês/
Thank you.  Mvto. /me-DÔ/
I will see you again. (no word for "goodbye") Hvtvm Cehecaresh. /ha-DêM jê-hê-JAH-thlês
Come! (command said to 3/more)  Awpvkês! /AH-wi-bëks/
Eat! (command said to 2/more)  Hompvks (Ce)! HÔM-bêks (JÊ) (Ce=spoken emphasis)

ACEFHIKLmnoprstuvwyz

Guide to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation
THE PERFECT BLEND
of Play & Paradise

PROUD RECIPIENT OF

One-of-a-kind experiences await you

Endless gaming excitement
Two casinos under one roof—River Spirit® & Margaritaville®

Fine-dining excellence
The only Ruth's Chris® Steak House in Oklahoma

Luxurious spa & salon
Pamper yourself in our relaxing retreat

Beautiful river views
Luxurious resort hotel

Caribbean-style pool
Soak up some sun

Awesome live music
5 o’Clock Somewhere® Bar, Jimmy Buffett’s Margaritaville®, Paradise Cove Theater

RIVER SPIRIT
Casino & Restaurant

8330 RIVERSIDE PARKWAY TULSA, OK 74137
888-748-3731 • RIVERSPIRITTULSA.COM

Proud Recipient of Four Diamond Award
THE COUNCIL HOUSE

In 2018, after a complete restoration under the guidance of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center & Archives Department, the Nation's original capitol in Indian Territory opened as an historical interpretive centre where visitors learn the history of the building, its daily operations, and the people it served during its active years from 1878 to 1906.

The Creek Nation Council House, or “the door to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,” is the hub of tribal history and was the center of all tribal government activity and a gathering place for citizens until it was removed from the Nation’s possession in 1906 by the U.S. Department of the Interior. For anyone wanting to learn about the Muscogee people and tribal government, the Council House Interpretive Centre is the starting point.

The Interpretive Centre offers visitors the chance to experience the capitol as if it were 1878. Audio/visual displays and interactive exhibits tell the story of the building, the type of services it provided, the citizens it served, tribal government, and those that built and maintained the Muscogee people's government. Rooms, such as a replica classroom in the Board of Education exhibit, are complete with period furnishings and provide a sense of the daily operations of the Council House when it served as the capitol of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
CAPITOL TIMELINE

1837
The Nation arrives in LT, 1836-37, and works to re-establish law and order.

1867
Following the Reconstruction period, the Nation chooses Okmulgee as their new capital and ratifies a new constitution.

1869
The Nation constructs a log-cabin Council House. The City of Okmulgee is established and opens a post office.

1878
The log cabin burns and the Nation builds a stone capitol along with schools, churches and public houses.

1906
The U.S. Dept. of the Interior takes possession of the Council House in accordance with the 5 Civilized Tribes Act.

1907
Oklahoma becomes a state. Okmulgee County leases the building for $2,000/year to serve as the county courthouse.

1923
Formation of the Creek Indian Memorial Association (CIMA), the parent organization of the Creek Council House Museum.

30-60
Different uses of the building: Sheriff’s office, Boy Scout meeting room, Red Cross, and a YMCA.

1961
The Council House is listed on the Nat’l Register of Historic Sites and designated as a National Historic Landmark.

1971
The City of Okmulgee purchases the structure and it becomes a Native American history and art museum.

1989
The CIMA initiates a $1 million drive for the historic restoration of the Council House.

1992
After a year-long restoration, the museum reopens and receives the Nat’l preservation award the following year.

2000
The Nation provides an annual appropriation for the support of the Council House Museum curator.

2010
The City of Okmulgee sells the Council House to the Nation for $3.2 million.

2018
After a complete restoration, the Council House opens as an historical interpretive centre operated by the Nation.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism Department
CreekTourism.com | CreekFestival.com | MCN-nan.gov
The Creek Nation Council Oak Park, created in the mid 1900's, lies just south of Tulsa's downtown amidst a mixture of houses and apartments. The park is home to a statue of soaring bronze flames, native plants, and the park's namesake and most prominent feature—The Council Oak. The tree, dubbed “Tulsa’s first city hall,” has witnessed the beginnings of a city starting with the area’s first inhabitants.

The Locsopoku (LO•joo•BO•ga) tribal town arrived in Indian Territory in 1836 carrying the coals and ash from their original fires in Alabama. In a ceremonial act proclaiming this their new home, they used the coals to rekindle the fire at the base of a towering oak on a hill overlooking, what is now, the Arkansas River. The Locsopoku people built their town around the tree and called it Toluhasse (da•lah•HAI•see) or, in English, Tallahassee.

Once settled in I.T., the confederated towns of the Muscogee Nation held council at the tree to re-establish their government. The tree was host to governmental discussions as well as tribal gatherings, ceremonies, games and feasts.

With the contribution of the Reconstruction period, following the U.S. Civil War, change and urban development smothered the original town. Even the town's name, mostly due to settlers’ inability to pronounce it, changed to Tallas and, eventually, Tulsa. In 1897, Tulsa became the city's official name with the establishment of a post office. Disturbance from the city's population and industrial growth brought an end to the activity around the oak. Tribal town members scattered and joined other towns.

Though the development of Tulsa drove the people away from the oak, Muscogee influence remained. Families operated their own businesses or maintained large tracts of land and others were highly involved in establishing the city. George Perryman, a Muscogee citizen, established the first official post office in his house and his brother, Josiah, became the city's first postmaster. George was also a signer of the original charter for the Town of Tulsa in 1898.

Every October, the leaders of Muscogee and Euchee ceremonial grounds, tribal government and city officials along with the public, gather at the Creek Nation Council Oak Park for the Council Oak Ceremony. The event commemorates the arrival and contributions of Locsopoku. The ceremony includes retelling the history of Council Oak, Locsopoku tribal town, Muscogee culture and traditions, and the city that Muscogee people created.

In 2008, 100 years of Oklahoma statehood (1907), the state's Centennial Commission sponsored a “Trail of Tears” monument acknowledging and remembering the endurance of the Muscogee people along the Removal routes. Creek artist Dan Brook is the creator of the sculpture, entitled “Morning Prayer.”
All tribal towns originated from four mother towns...

Abika, Koosa, Koweta, and Tuckabutche.
Open since 2016 on the banks of the Arkansas River in Tulsa, River Spirit Casino Resort has brought a little slice of paradise to Tulsa with Margaritaville Casino & Restaurant. The addition of this new casino means River Spirit now has two casinos in one, each with its own distinctive atmosphere and décor. With over 3,000 high-tech electronic machines, numerous poker tables and table games, River Spirit Casino and Margaritaville Casino are the destination of choice for casino excitement.

Guests can enjoy several dining and entertainment venues including Fireside Grill, Visions Buffet, Scoreboard Sports Bar, 5 o’Clock Somewhere Bar, Jimmy Buffett’s Margaritaville restaurant and Ruth’s Chris Steak House.

River Spirit Casino Resort features a luxurious 27-story, 483-room hotel, Margaritaville Retail Store, River Spirit Casino Resort gift shop, coffee shop, 30,000 square foot convention and meeting center and Paradise Cove Theater, a 2,500+ seat showroom theater for live entertainment and sporting events. Additional casino amenities include a poker room, high-stakes room and designated smoke-free areas.

As an active community partner, River Spirit Casino Resort provides a positive economic impact for Tulsa and surrounding towns. River Spirit, along with Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s eight other casinos, pays millions of dollars in exclusivity fees to the state of Oklahoma to help fund the state’s Education Reform Revolving Fund, the General Revenue Fund and the Oklahoma State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Other proceeds from gaming operations help to fund a variety of Muscogee (Creek) Nation service programs such as housing, education, elderly assistance and health care.
Held annually in June, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival is a celebration of the living culture and contemporary life of Muscogee people. Since 1974, the Muscogee Nation Festival has been a treasured and time-honored experience.

Festival events include sports tournaments, an all Indian rodeo, a parade through downtown Okmulgee, Junior Olympics, horseshoes, live entertainment, a 5K run, children’s activities, senior activities, a fun fair, art festival, stomp dance, cultural exhibitions, and fireworks. With an estimated attendance of 40,000 plus, all of more than 25 events are free to attend and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. The festival’s goal is to be the premier event in northeastern Oklahoma, providing entertainment and free, family fun for everyone.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation began entertaining the public in 1973 with an all-Indian rodeo. The following year, the nation added a softball tournament to the rodeo, and the festival was born. Forty-four years later, the festival consists of more than 25 events, including the festival’s biggest draw, live entertainment, and requires the help of nearly 900 volunteers.

Festival attendance has dramatically increased in recent years thanks to the addition of some of the music industry’s most well-known stars. Some recognizable names include Smokey Robinson, Eli Young Band, Kool & The Gang, and Bret Michaels. The acquisition of top musical acts has garnered the Nation’s premier event greater attention and has created a much larger festival. All subsequent festivals must now be bigger and better.
The increased awareness of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival has also heightened participation and attendance of all other events including a momentous celebration of traditional Muscogee culture to open the festival each year, with the public invited to a Muscogee stompadance. Everyone is welcome to attend and immerse themselves into a single but vital part of the living Muscogee culture that has been entrusted from generation to generation since time immemorial.

While visiting the festival, make sure to check out some of the largest sporting events in Oklahoma including fast pitch and slow pitch softball tournaments that attract more than 100 teams, volleyball, horseshoes, basketball, as well as a tennis tournament, and the second largest All-Indian Rodeo in the U.S. Everyone enjoys a parade and the festival parade is not one to be missed. Each year the festival parade amasses more than 100 entries. The Parade is always enjoyable to view as it passes in front of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House on Main Street in historic downtown Okmulgee, the capital of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

While some events occur in other locations throughout the nation and throughout the entire month of June, the majority of events are held at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claude Cox Omniplex during the fourth weekend in June. The Claude Cox Omniplex is located on the north end of the city of Okmulgee and west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 75 and OK State Highway 56, Loop Route. Check the festival website, CreekFestival.com, for a full schedule and list of locations.
CLOSE TO HOME
FAR FROM ORDINARY

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION®
Established 1878
Okmulgee, Indian Territory

CREEK NATION COUNCIL HOUSE

The Door to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Begin your visit to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the historically restored Creek Nation Council House for an immersive experience in the History of the Building, Tribal Government, and the Muscogee People, all in a 19th century setting.

100 West Main (6th) Street | Okmulgee, OK
Tues-Sat 10:00am-4:00pm

CreekCouncilHouse.net
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation operates as a self-determined visionary government, designing, developing, and managing an advanced service system for its citizens and communities while maintaining the traditions, culture, and respect of the Muscogee people.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is one of 38 federally-recognized, sovereign tribal governments in Oklahoma and 573 in the U.S. The Nation’s enrollment consists of more than 80,000 citizens* (numbers change daily) making this nation the third largest tribe in Oklahoma and the fourth largest in the United States. Tribal citizens and governments have inherent rights and a political relationship with the U.S. government. Tribal citizens are citizens of three sovereigns: their tribe, the United States, and the state in which they reside; they are also individuals in an international context with the rights afforded to any other individual.

Located in Okmulgee, the Nation’s capital, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex serves as the seat of tribal government and houses the Executive (Principal Chief, Second Chief, Support Staff) Legislative (National Council), and Judicial (District and Supreme Courts) branches as well as many support services essential to the function of tribal government.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation employs over 5,000 people; builds and maintains governmental infrastructure; provides vital services to its citizens such as health care, housing, education assistance, job training and placement, financial assistance and support services, foster care and adoption; provides law and order (Lighthorse Tribal Police Force); and operates many other programs including culture and language preservation and natural resource management. While some of the Nation’s programs and departments operate on an annual budget granted from the Federal Government, the Nation subsidizes some and creates others solely with tribally-generated funds.

The Nation generates revenues from its many business ventures and its tribal tax commission. Monies generated from these sources not only allow the Nation to provide more jobs by funding more operations, but also to give back to state and local governments, schools, communities, businesses, and Muscogee (Creek) citizens. The tribe’s revenue, combined with the number of employees and the payroll, grant the Nation the ability to have an $874 million impact on Oklahoma’s economy.

*Muscogee citizen: any person granted citizenship in the tribe following a process including, but not limited to, proof of lineage to a Muscogee ancestor(s) listed on the final rolls by issuance of birth and/or death certificates as established by the Act of April 26, 1906.
The Nation's land base, which includes trust land and fee land owned by the tribe as well as other lands within the boundaries, calls for a high level of coordination and the development of cooperative agreements between tribal, state, and local officials.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation territory consists of an area within jurisdictional boundaries established in treaties between the tribe and the Federal Government following the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Prior to statehood, both Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory contained suzerain Indian Nations that had legally established boundaries. The Federal government dismantled collective tribal landholdings through the allotment process before the establishment of Oklahoma as a state in 1907.

The jurisdictional area includes trust lands and fee lands owned by the tribe as well as other lands not belonging to or owned by the tribe. The Nation's jurisdictional area includes 11 counties, wholly or in part, in east central Oklahoma. The 11 counties make up 8 voting districts, originally for political representation, but now for the sole purpose of administering elections. These districts are Creek (Creek County entirely), Tulsa (Southern portion and western reach of Tulsa County), Wagoner (majority of Wagoner County and very small portions in the southern regions of Rogers and Mayes Counties), Okfuskee (Okfuskee County entirely and a portion of Seminole County), Okmulgee (Okmulgee County entirely), Muskogee (western portion of Muskogee County), Tukvptc (northern portion of Hughes County), and McIntosh (majority of McIntosh County).
1984

The Nation opens Creek Nation Tulsa Bingo on the east bank of the Arkansas River. Gaming creates jobs and revenue funds government operations and programs, provides for the general welfare of citizens, promotes economic development, enhances communities and helps fund operations of local government agencies.

1993

The Nation begins providing citizens, living in the jurisdiction, the option to register their vehicles with the Nation’s Tax Commission. Revenues fund construction and improvement of roads and public parking lots, and to improve public safety within the Nation’s jurisdiction.

2004

The Nation opens the College of the Muscogee Nation. Its purpose is to provide native and non-native students an institution of higher education emphasizing native culture, values, language and self determination. As a member of the American Indian Education Consortium, the college is accredited to provide associate-level degrees.

2008

The Nation begins leasing and operating the Fountainhead Golf Course, now the Fountainhead Creek Golf Course, from the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Nation holds a Constitutional Convention, the first since 1979, to update and propose amendments to the Nation’s constitution. One of the amendments proposed and ratified decreases the amount of representatives on the National Council to two per district for a total of 16 and also makes them, essentially, at large representatives.

2009

River Spirit Casino opens and replaces the Creek Nation Casino. River Spirit is home to one of Oklahoma's largest gaming floors and the state's largest buffet.

2010

After purchasing it from the City of Okmulgee, the Nation regains ownership of the Creek Nation Council House.
VELOPMENT

2012

Remaining in line with the vision for economic development, the Nation purchases Tulsa's pioneering commercial Arkansas River development. The waterfront property, located on the west bank of the Arkansas River, is home to several restaurants, shopping, office space, and FlyingTee golf, which is a dining and entertainment complex.

2013

• The University of Oklahoma transfers ownership of the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center to the Nation.

• The Nation acquires the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital and operates it as a community hospital serving tribal and non-tribal citizens.

2016

A partnership with Jimmy Buffett’s Margaritaville, enables River Spirit Casino, now a Casino Resort, to add a Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant. Along with many other attractive amenities, the casino resort is truly a destination complete with a 27 story, 483 room luxury hotel adjacent to River Spirit Casino.

2018

• After operating the Okemah Hospital since the 70s, the Nation opens the Okemah Community Hospital, a 110,000 sq foot replacement facility, to serve tribal and non-tribal citizens.

• The Nation’s Citizenship Board begins to issue Enhanced Tribal Identification Cards as an option to current citizenship cards. The cards, compliant with the Real ID Act, enable tribal citizens to carry a Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative to be used for domestic air travel and land/sea-border crossings within the Western Hemisphere.

• Following a complete restoration, in accordance with U.S. historic preservation guidelines, the Creek Nation Council House opens as a historical interpretive centre for the history of the building, tribal government, and the Muscogee people.
The official name of the tribe, as noted in the Nation’s constitution, is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Creek, when used with Muscogee, appears in parenthesis because it is, essentially, a pseudonym or alias.

Languages spoken: Mvskoke (ma-ŠKÖ-ge) & English

The U.S. government forcibly relocated the Muscogee people to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) from their ancestral lands in Georgia and Alabama as a directive of the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Removal was complete in 1837.

Third largest tribe in Oklahoma and fourth in the U.S. with 87,000+ enrolled citizens. 66,284 citizens live in Oklahoma and 22,917 live elsewhere. Numbers change daily.

Citizenship requirements: Applicant must be a lineal descendant of a Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood whose name appears on the final Dawes Rolls as provided by the act of April 26, 1906, and is not an enrolled member of another tribe, nation, or pueblo...

Enrolled citizens hold dual citizenship: tribal and federal (or foreign country).

Citizens pay state and federal taxes along with tribal tax if choosing to register a vehicle(s) with the tribe. Similar to state and federal elections, citizens 18 and over are eligible to register and vote in tribal elections.

The jurisdictional area consists of 11 counties in east central Oklahoma. The area is further divided into 8 districts: Creek, Tulsa, Wagoner, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Muskogee, Tukyvptce, and McIntosh.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation government, Okmulgee being the capital and the seat of the government, consists of 3 branches.
  • Executive Branch: Chief and Second Chief
  • Legislative Branch: National Council consisting of 16 representatives
  • Judicial: District and Supreme Courts

The Nation maintains a $290 million operating budget, employs more than 4,000 people, and proves vital services to its citizens such as health care, housing and education assistance, job training and placement, social services and operates many other programs including culture and language preservation.

$9.7 million, from the Nation’s 9 casinos collectively, in exclusivity fees were paid to the state of Oklahoma via the Oklahoma State-Tribal Gaming Act, according to the Oklahoma Gaming Compliance Unit Annual Report FY 2018, compiled by the Oklahoma Office of Management & Enterprise Services.
Duck Creek Casino offers the ultimate, small casino, gaming experience with over 12,500 feet of dining and gaming entertainment. Three hundred high tech gaming machines provide 24 hour a day fun!

We offer a wide variety of both classic and popular games to keep your luck rolling through the night. Stop by and find your special game that fits your winning style.

For those who like to play and win big, we feature some of the best progressive gaming machines.
CREEK NATION COUNCIL HOUSE
Historic Interpretive Centre
100 West 6th Street | Okmulgee
539.286.4663
CreekCouncilHouse.net
Tuesday-Saturday | 10:00am-4:00pm

CREEK NATION COUNCIL OAK PARK
Public Park
1750 South Cheyenne Avenue | Tulsa
918.596.7777
CityofTulsa.org
Monday-Sunday | 7:00am-10:00pm

FOUNTAINHEAD CREEK GOLF COURSE
18-Hole, Par 72 Course, Grill, Golf Shop
112496 Highway 150 | Checotah
918.689.3209
FountainheadGolf.com

FLYINGTEE
Dining and Entertainment Venue
600 Riverwalk Terrace | Jenks
918.527.7717
FlyingTeeGolf.com
Sunday-Wednesday 11:00am-10:00pm
Thursday 11:00am-11:00pm
Friday 11:00am-12:00am
Saturday 10:00am-12:00am

MUSCOGEE NATION FESTIVAL
26 Events, 4 Days, Family Friendly, Free
Claude Cox Omniplex
West of the Intersection of U.S. Highway 75 and OK State Highway 56, Loop Route
Annually, 4th Weekend in June
918.732.7992 | 800.482.1979
CreekFestival.com | CreekTourism.com

REDSICK GALLERY
Art Gallery & Gift Shop
105 South Grand Avenue | Okmulgee
918.758.5557
CreekNationGiftShop.com
Tuesday-Saturday | 10:00am-4:00pm

RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT
and MARGARITAVILLE CASINO
8330 Riverside Parkway | Tulsa
888-748-3731
RiverSpiritTulsa.com*
Open 24 Hours, 7 Days/Week
• Hotel
• Emerge Spa & Salon
• Resort Pool
• Paradise Cove Theater
• Margaritaville Restaurant
• Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
• Fireside Grill
• Visions Buffet
• Rain Bay Cafe
• Landshark Pool Bar & Tiki Bar & Dining
*Visit the website for more information on amenities and 8 other Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos.

RIVERWALK
Retail, Dining, Entertainment, Office Space
300 Riverwalk Terrace | Jenks
RiverwalkTulsa.com*
*Visit the website for a list of businesses and information.
Encounter the limitless ways to experience, learn, and make memories in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

CREEK TOURISM

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
Tourism & Recreation Department
P.O. Box 580 | Okmulgee, OK 74447

U.S. Highway 75 & OK State Highway 56, Loop Okmulgee 800.482.7978
CreekTourism.com CreekFestival.com MCN-msn.gov Facebook.com/CreekTourism .../CreektRecreation .../CreektFestival
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GUIDE TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
Guide to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation