

ABOUT THE ...
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)
TRIBAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

(downloaded 10/4/05 from website http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tribal/tribal_p.htm)

ABOUT TRIBAL PRESERVATION

Over the last 500 years, Indian cultures have experienced massive destruction, but the tide is changing. Indian tribes are using their resources to halt the loss of language, tradition, religion, objects, and sites. Fundamentally different in character from other components of American society, Indian tribes are living cultures that can continue and be strengthened only through the perpetuation of their traditions. Tribes, therefore, are reintroducing ceremonies, teaching languages, and seeking the culturally appropriate treatment of tribal objects and sites. These activities are not peripheral to tribal life; they are basic to healthy contemporary tribal societies.

WHO WE ARE

The National Park Service (NPS) Tribal Preservation Program assists Indian tribes in preserving their historic properties and cultural traditions. The program originated in 1990, when Congress directed NPS to study and report on preservation funding needs. The findings of that report, the Keepers of the Treasures--Protecting Historic Properties and Cultural Traditions on Indian Lands, are the foundation of the Tribal Preservation Program. Based on that report, Congress has appropriated annual grants for tribal preservation (see STATS below).

PROGRAM PARTNERS

The Tribal Preservation Program is dedicated to working with Indian tribes, Alaska Native Groups, Native Hawaiians, and national organizations, to preserve and protect resources and traditions that are of importance to Native Americans. Given the limited funding levels of the program, its main purpose is to help tribes strengthen their capabilities for operating sustainable preservation programs. Projects that provide training for tribal members and have a lasting impact on the tribe are given the highest priority in the funding process.

HOW WE HELP

The grant awards of the tribal preservation program provide much needed assistance to Indian communities interested in protecting their cultural heritage. The federal grant funds used for these preservation projects are often leveraged with tribal and private funds in cooperative projects that benefit tribal, National Park, and non-profit groups simultaneously.

STATS

To date, 46 tribes have signed an agreement with NPS to assume formal preservation responsibilities under Section 101(d) of the National Historic Preservation Act. Since 1990, the Tribal Preservation Program has directly assisted over 260 tribes through the award of 585 grants. Over \$29.3 million in grant funds has been used to assist tribes in assuming State Historic Preservation Office responsibilities, in drafting preservation ordinances, implementing cultural resource management plans, identifying and protecting historic sites, and conducting preservation needs assessments. The average grant award is \$50,000.

RELATED HPS PROGRAMS

(web links through website http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tribal/tribal_p.htm)

Historic Preservation Planning

Cultural Resource Mapping Services

Federal Agency Preservation Assistance Program

Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives

Historic Landscape Initiative

Historic Preservation Fund

Technical Preservation Services for Historic Buildings

National Historic Landmarks Assistance Initiative

NPS PROGRAMS

(web links through website http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tribal/tribal_p.htm)

American Indian Liaison Office

National Register of Historic Places

Archeology and Ethnography

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

(web links through website http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tribal/tribal_p.htm)

National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO)

National Trust for Historic Preservation

United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)

LEARN MORE ABOUT IT

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