



This Friday, September 28th is American Indian Heritage Day in Montana. In 1997, the [Montana Legislature marked](#) the last Friday in September of every year “as a day of observance to commemorate this state's American Indians and their valued heritage and culture”. In 1999, [House Bill 528](#) was signed into law and created what is commonly known as “Indian Education for All” in Montana schools.

“Montana’s American Indian cultures are a major influence in our state’s proud history. American Indian heritage continues to shape Montana’s future through our constitutionally recognized Indian Education for All programs in classrooms across the state. I encourage all Montana students and teachers to join the OPI in participating in American Indian Heritage Day this year,” **State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen.**

The OPI is encouraging schools to participate in American Indian Heritage Day through activities that create sustained interest in learning about the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians in Montana. Suggested activities include:

- Display information about Montana tribes including the new [Making Montana Proud Poster series](#).
- View IEFA online resources available on OPI’s [website](#).
- Learn the names of all Montana reservations, tribes that live on them and languages spoken there.
- Research the names the tribes have for themselves, which often differ from English translations. Visit [MontanaTribes.org](#) to learn more.
- Explore nearby Montana Indian cultural and historical sites and community museums.
- Invite cultural resource experts from Montana’s tribal nations to visit.
- Highlight Montana tribal [histories](#).

This year, the OPI is [partnering with the Myrna Loy Center](#) for an evening of celebrating American Indian Culture through film, traditional hoop dancing and a drum ceremony, and traditional food. Educators can gain continuing education credits for participation.

The OPI will also be participating in the [2018 Last Chance Pow Wow](#) at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds the last weekend of September.