



# SHAWNEE TRIBE

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## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

### Executive Order 2020-01-06-A

#### **Proclamation of the State of Emergency for the Shawnee Language, Declaration of the Year of the Shawnee Language (2020) and the Decade of the Shawnee Language (2021-2030) January 1, 2020.**

**On File with the Office of Tribal Secretary**

*howe noki, nitepimahi cyaki saawanoki hina kwteletiiwena,*

#### Rule 100. *Purpose.*

This Executive Order is issued by the Chief of the Shawnee Tribe pursuant to the Constitution of the Shawnee Tribe. In order to protect and preserve our ancestral legacy that all Shawnee people share, by Proclamation of a state of emergency, the Office of the Chief of the Shawnee Tribe will pledge to Shawnee citizens and descendants of the Shawnee Tribe, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma to support, commit resources, and develop materials to create new language speakers, and furthermore that as the United Nations' observance of the 2019 International Year of the Indigenous Languages draws to a close, we recognize and uplift the language of the 2019 International Year of the Indigenous Languages by declaring that effective January 1, 2020 shall be the Year of the Shawnee Language. In recognition and uplifting of the United Nations' Proclamation of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, the Shawnee Tribe proclaims that upon the new year of 2021, we shall embark upon the Decade of Shawnee Language, where our tribal nation shall do all within our governmental power to support, provide resources, and enable all of our citizens, descendants, and our communities to create from the youngest of our people, fluent speakers by the end of the Decade of Shawnee Language,

#### Rule 100. *Definitions.*

The following definitions shall apply:

- (a.) "Community" shall refer to groups of Shawnee citizens of the Absentee Shawnee of Oklahoma, the Eastern Shawnee of Oklahoma, and/or the Shawnee Tribe, as well as Native Americans that are eligible to enroll in one of these three Sovereign Nations, but are unable to do so because of enrollment preclusions existent at other federally-recognized Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, or federally-recognized Alaskan indigenous communities.
- (b.) "Shawnee," or collectively, "the Shawnee," refers to all of the Shawnee people and communities, being the lawful and rightful inheritors of the language and culture of the Shawnee prior to their separation into the three sovereigns of Shawnees: the



Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Shawnee Tribe.

(c.) "Shawnee Tribe" refers to the Shawnee Tribe of American Indians, a federally-recognized tribe of Indians, recognized by the United States Congress, and having preexisted the formation of the United States since time immemorial.

(d.) "staff" refers to employees that receive compensation from the Shawnee Tribe or any of its political or governmental subdivisions.

Rule. 101. *Status and History of Shawnee Language*

The Shawnee have fewer than one score of first-language speakers remaining. The Shawnee language, whose history extends into deep time, long before the colonization of the Americas, was once the lingua franca for commerce and diplomacy east of the Mississippi River. The Shawnee language is vital to our cultural survival and indispensable for our traditional religious communities. In accord Article 13 of the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People to have the "right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures...", and

Rule 200. *Year of the Shawnee Language.*

The tribal government shall provide resources to support the development of curriculum, pedagogy, and technical support and staff to the Shawnee Language Program, the Shawnee Tribe Cultural Center. The Office of the Chief also directs administration, grant writers, and cultural center employees to find grant opportunities to help our language flourish. All staff are hereby ordered to seek ways to incorporate Shawnee language into their daily functions. The Shawnee Tribe shall endeavor to incorporate Shawnee language into our governmental functions, courts, codes, publications, and internal communications to demonstrate our commitment to Shawnee language to our citizens communities.

Rule 300. *Decade of the Shawnee Language.*

The Decade of Shawnee Language shall begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and conclude on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2030. It is commanded that all language and cultural support staff commit attention to finding ways of creating fluent speakers from our youngest Shawnees, so that by the conclusion of the "Decade," we will have fluent youthful speakers. Prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the Shawnee Tribe will implement a comprehensive plan that has been approved by the elected business council to deploy curriculum to Shawnee people, particularly our youngest children, and to share pedagogy materials to volunteer teachers in our communities, wherever lawful descendants of the Shawnee people may live. The Shawnee Tribe will seek to research, document, account, and publish how Shawnee peoples have lost our languages to prevent such a reoccurrence as well as work with national, state, local, and tribal governments to remedy this history, pass supportive legislation, lobby for additional governmental funding opportunities, and if necessary, litigate for the preservation and protection of the Shawnee Language. These efforts shall continue through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2030.

Rule 400. *Cultural Privacy, Intellectual Property, and Responsible Stewardship.*

The Shawnee Tribe reserves all rights to materials to all published and shared materials. It releases the rights of duplication, distribution, or edits so long as material is freely shared with Shawnee Community as defined above.

Rule 500. *Effective Dates.*

501. *Declaration of Language Emergency*

January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2020 shall be the effective date for the state of emergency for the Shawnee language and it shall not expire until the Shawnee have a sustainable community of youthful speakers.

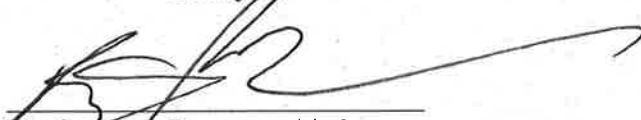
502. *Year of the Shawnee Language.*

Shall begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2020 and continue through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

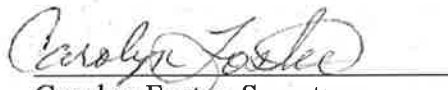
503. *Decade of the Shawnee Language.*

Shall begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021 and continue through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2030.

Issued this January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

  
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Benjamin J. Barnes, Chief  
Shawnee Tribe

Attest:

  
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Carolyn Foster, Secretary  
Shawnee Tribe

