

December 7, 2022

Dear Language Teachers, Language Program Coordinators, and Parents:

Greetings from the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair! We are so pleased to announce that the **20th Annual ONAYLF** will take place *in-person* on **April 3 and 4, 2023**, at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History on the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman, Oklahoma. The poster art theme for 2023 is ***“20 Years Carrying Our Languages”***.

The PreK – 5th grade performances will take place on **Monday, April 3rd**, from 8:00 a.m. (check-in) to around 2:00 p.m. The Grand Entry at the Opening Ceremony will begin at **9:00 am**. If your students are planning to participate in the Grand Entry, please bring a flag, poster, and/or banner announcing your school or program. Students and teachers will start assembling in the Foyer at **8:45 am**.

The 6th – 12th grade performances will take place on **Tuesday, April 4th**, from 8:00 a.m. (check-in) to around 2:00 p.m. We will start the Opening Ceremony at **9:00 am**, with a special speaker and presentation of awards to material submission category winners.

Online Fair components

In addition to the in-person ONAYLF on April 3rd and 4th, we will be posting all video submission categories to the ONAYLF YouTube channel. See the ONAYLF website for details. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyF_L10yHtHGUYNMEPKUNSG

20th Anniversary Events

As a special celebration of 20 years of ONAYLF, we are holding a Native fashion show involving language. Professional designers as well as some young designers will present and talk about their designs during the in-person Fair.

As a part of the 20th ONAYLF, we are planning to recognize those teachers who have brought students to the Fair for 15 or more years. If you qualify, or know a teacher/language program director/parent (active or retired) that qualifies, please e-mail ONAYLF their name and school/language program.

Registration

On-Line Registration will open **Monday, January 9th** and will close **Friday, March 3rd** at **5:00 p.m.** The On-Line Registration System has been revised for the 2023 ONAYLF. Access to the system will be through the ONAYLF website. You will need to create a new username and password for the system. Access to the system will be through the ONAYLF website: <https://samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/collections-and-research/native-american-languages/oklahoma-native-american-youth-language-fair/onaylf-fair-registration/>

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If you have trouble with the registration, *or you know of a teacher who does not have access to the web*, please call us at 405-325-7588.

We will be needing volunteers for the in-person April 3rd and 4th Fair days and judges (in-person and electronic) for the 2023 ONAYLF. If you know someone, please encourage them to check out the volunteer and judge webpages on the ONAYLF website and register beginning **on January 9, 2023**. Judge and Volunteer registration closes on **March 10, 2023**.

ONAYLF Office Hours

We will have staff available to assist you on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm during January. The office schedule for February and March will be posted on the webpage in January. If you have questions or need information, please feel free to call 405-325-7588 or e-mail us at onaylf.samnoblemuseum@ou.edu. Please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. The ONAYLF office will be closed from December 17, 2022 through January 3, 2023 for the Holidays. The office will reopen on January 4, 2023.

Information for the Fair is on our homepage: <https://samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/collections-and-research/native-american-languages/oklahoma-native-american-youth-language-fair/> We also have a Facebook page -- Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair. If you 'like' or 'follow' our page, you can get updates quickly. Feel free to share the news about your students' preparations for the Fair on our Facebook page.

Performance Categories and Submission Deadlines

Please view or download the 2023 Category Guidelines from the ONAYLF website to make sure the submissions and performances from your students meet the guidelines.

The 2023 performance and material submission categories and eligible grade levels are:

Live (In-Person) Performance Categories

- Spoken Native American Language (PreK – 12th)
- Spoken Native American Language – Skit/Short Play (PreK-12th)
- Spoken Prayer in Native American Language (PreK – 12th)
- Spoken Poetry in Native American Language (PreK – 12th)
- Traditional Song in Native American Language (PreK – 12th)
- Modern Song in Native American Language (PreK – 12th)
- Master Performers in Native American Language (Language and Song) (3rd – 12th)

Material Submission Categories

- Books (PreK – 12th) (includes comic books and graphic novels)
- Cartoons & Comic Books (PreK – 12th)
- Poster Art on Theme: "20 Years Carrying Our Languages" (PreK – 12th)

Electronic Submission Categories (Posted on ONAYLF YouTube Channel)

- Spoken Language – Puppet Show (PreK-12th)
- Spoken Language – Mobile Video (PreK-12th)
- Film/Video (3rd – 12th)

Guidelines and forms for each category can be viewed and downloaded from the ONAYLF website. Each submission to the books, cartoons & comics, film/video, and poster art categories must be accompanied by a **Material Submission Form**. Each submission to the electronic submission categories (Puppet Show and Mobile Video) must be accompanied by an **Electronic Submission Form**. All entries to the poster art category must have a title (can be the poster art theme) and a statement about the artwork on the Material Submission Form. *Posters larger than 11x17" will not be accepted.* Material and electronic submissions received without a submission form will not be eligible for prizes.

Comics & cartoons, film/video, Spoken Language-Puppet Show and Spoken Language-Mobile Video may be submitted to the ONAYLF Dropbox™. Instructions for using the ONAYLF Dropbox™ will be posted on the ONAYLF website. Make sure add the Material or Electronic Submission Form to the Dropbox as well. Make sure the file name includes the student's full name or clear identifier for the group and matches the name(s) on the Material Submission Form.

Pre-judged categories (books, posters, comics & cartoons, film/video, spoken language-mobile video and spoken language – puppet show) must be uploaded on the Dropbox™, at the museum or postmarked by **Friday, March 8th**.

Miscellaneous Items

Please remember the museum requires one (1) adult chaperone per five (5) PreK through 5th grade students and one (1) adult chaperone per ten (10) 6th through 12th grade students. Please plan to bring the necessary number of parents or other chaperones with you. Admission to the Museum is complimentary during Fair days.

New for 2023. Students who perform at the 2023 ONAYLF in-person will receive a t-shirt and medallions for their participation. Students who submit only Material and/or Electronic Submissions will receive a backpack or similar item for their participation.

There will be seating areas for lunch available for everyone. Lunches must be sealed in Ziploc® bags, Tupperware® style containers, or contained in coolers. There will not be cold storage available, but we can store coolers in the first floor kitchenette. We will have people at the door to help you with these. The Museum no longer has a café.

In order to promote a safe environment, hand sanitizer and masks will be available for use by your students and their guests at ONAYLF. Please be aware of your students' COVID, Flu and other respiratory disease status before arriving at the Museum.

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We look forward to welcoming you and your students to the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History! For questions, please call the ONAYLF staff at 405-325-7588 during the office hours listed above. You can also e-mail questions to onaylf.samnoblemuseum@ou.edu. We hope to see all you and your students in April!

Sincerely,

Christine Armer, Coordinator, Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair and Instructor of Cherokee, Department of Native American Studies, University of Oklahoma

Raina Heaton, Program Director, Oklahoma Native American Language Youth Language Fair, Assistant Curator of Native American Languages, Sam Noble Museum of Natural History and Assistant Professor of Native American Studies, University of Oklahoma

William Madison, Collection Manager, Native American Languages, Sam Noble Museum of Natural History

Nancy Coleman, Registrar, Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair

P.S. Please feel free to share this email or the attached letter to other teachers, parents, learners, or other interested persons that you know.