

December 4, 2019

Dear Language Teachers, Language Program Coordinators, and Parents:

Greetings from the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair! We are pleased to announce that the **18th Annual ONAYLF** will take place on **April 6 and 7, 2020**, at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History on the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman, Oklahoma. The poster art and topical essay theme for 2020 is ***“Living Life Through Language”***.

The PreK – 5th grade performances will take place on **Monday, April 6th**, 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 7th**, 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.

On-Line Registration will open **Monday, January 13th** and will close **Monday, March 2nd** at **5:00 p.m.** The On-Line Registration System has been revised for the 2020 ONAYLF. Access to the system will be through the ONAYLF website. You will need to create a new user name and password for the system. 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 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 19, 2019 through January 3, 2020 for the Holidays. The office will reopen on January 6, 2020.

Pre-judged categories (books, posters, topical essays, comics & cartoons, and film/video) must be at the museum or postmarked by **Friday, March 6th**.

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.

Please view or download the 2020 Category Guidelines from the ONAYLF website to make sure the submissions and performances from your students meet the guidelines.

The 2020 performance and material submission categories and eligible grade levels are:

Live 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)
- Language Masters/Master Performance in Native American Language (3rd – 12th)

Material Submission Categories

- Books (PreK – 12th) (includes comic books and graphic novels)
- Cartoons & Comic Books (PreK – 12th)
- Film/Video (3rd – 12th)
- Poster Art on Theme: "*Living Life Through Language*" (PreK – 12th)
- Topical Essay on the Theme: "*Living Life Through Language*" (English) (9th – 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**. 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 submissions received without a material submissions form will not be eligible for prizes.

Comics & cartoons, film/video, and topical essays 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 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.

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.

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

Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair

Native American Languages

Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

Page 3 of 3

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 Redbud Café will be open for beverages, snacks and lunch as well.

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

Daniel Swan, Interim Director and Curator of Ethnology, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History and Professor of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma

Nicholas Wojcik, 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.