

OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR 2026
Master Performers: Language or Song (Live Performance)
Category Description and Guidelines

Students who have grown up speaking a Native language in their home or community (first language speakers) are invited to take part in a special performance category that showcases their advanced abilities. Students display creativity and skill using Native language in stories, narratives, monologues, skits, dramas, dialogues, puppet shows, songs or poems. Both original and traditional performances are encouraged. This category recognizes that first language speakers have different skills than students who learn languages primarily in the classroom setting (second language speakers).

Category	Age Ranges				Size		Award		
	P-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	Group	Individual	Trophy	Ribbon	Medal
Masters Performance		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

- Live In-Person Category! You must be pre-registered and present to perform and to receive awards.

DO

- ✓ Pre-register online
- ✓ Focus on *Native language use*
- ✓ Keep a five-minute time limit (plus two minutes for set-up and exiting the stage)
- ✓ Use props, costumes and Native regalia

DON'T

- ✗ Use scripts, notes or cheat sheets
- ✗ Speak or sing in English
- ✗ Have teachers on stage or prompting
- ✗ Use food, animals or organic materials (grass, bark, leaves) in the performance

Judging Performances

A panel of at least three elders, Native language teachers and/or Native speakers will judge performances on these criteria:

- Presentation and poise of performance
- Fluidity of language use
- Effort and creativity in performance
- Spirit of performance

Notes

- Give us your background music CD at registration; we'll take care of the audio.
- You can dance if you want to but remember that it's about language use.
- You must pre-register to receive t-shirts and awards. Please do so as early as possible.
- Limited on-site rehearsal space will be available. This space is shared with other groups.
- Contact us before the Fair if your performers will need provisions for ceremonial dressing areas.
- Contact us if you're concerned about whether your props and regalia count as "organic."
- Group sizes and performance venues are subject to change based on registered entries.
- Students performing in multiple categories may experience scheduling conflicts. We try to avoid this but help us out and let us know if you see a potential problem.
- Questions? Comments? Help? Contact us at onaylf.samnoblemuseum@ou.edu or at (405) 325-7588.