

## Formation Of Indian Student Councils

Purpose: To start forming Indian Student Governance in Schools, Community Centers, and other places where Indian children regularly represent a population. To better meet the unique educational and cultural needs of descendants of Indigenous Tribes. To better inspire and engage youth in their education and the betterment of their schools and communities.

Plan: Indian Education Program Staff and/or Tribal Delegate

1. Gather Indigenous Students and do a “Crash Course” in Anishinaabeg Tribal History and Governance. Go over changes in inclusion and government structure over time. Through critical thinking and conversation, students will begin to acquire the background needed to make sound decisions in creating their own government structure. Discuss current MCT Constitutional Reform efforts.
2. Introduction to Organizational Documents- Review & Discuss current MCT Constitution, Local RBC Bylaws and Code of Ethics. Review and Discuss school Organizational Documents of School Board and Local Indian Education Committee.
3. Student formation of Indigenous Student Council organizational documents, constitution/bylaws. Students identify their mission as a council and write out the way they will operate to achieve goals and priorities of the youth council. Learn about and create meeting agendas.
4. Students identify student, school, and community needs they would like to take action on and start working through their organization to carry out tasks.

Follow-up and carryover-

Contact Minnesota Indian Education Association for a Youth Council Constitutional Convention- let all these kids meet and learn about what each other has done and collaborate for the future. Also an opportunity for Indian students to learn more about the Indian Education side of their education and meet American Indian Education and Government Professionals.

## Suggested Resources

Zaagibagaang- <https://zaagibagaang.com/>

Offers many resources and media that can help begin conversations needed in the startup and continuance of a Youth Tribal Council.

“Zaagibagaang is a grassroots effort focused on governance and nation building. With our Anishinaabe teachings guiding us, we bring our gifts together to provide information and work towards mino-bimaadiziwin today as well as for the next seven generations.”

“WHAT: Promoting greater civic participation and democracy within our Tribal government

HOW: Nurture healthy, high-functioning circle of individuals who bring their gifts together

WHY: Mino-Bimaadiziwin, Us/We/Belonging; self-sufficiency individually as well as for the Nation”

Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Commission - [www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org)

This website contains a great deal of inter-tribal and inter-governmental workings of Tribals agencies and governments. They also have a great deal of educational materials for classrooms.

The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission is commonly known by its acronym, GLIFWC. Formed in 1984, GLIFWC represents eleven Ojibwe tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan who reserved hunting, fishing and gathering rights in the 1836, 1837, 1842, and 1854 Treaties with the United States government.

GLIFWC provides natural resource management expertise, conservation enforcement, legal and policy analysis, and public information services in support of the exercise of treaty rights during well-regulated, off-reservation seasons throughout the treaty-ceded territories. GLIFWC is guided by its Board of Commissioners along with two standing committees, the Voigt Intertribal Task Force and the Great Lakes Fisheries Committee, which advise the Board on policy.

*Please check with Dakota/Nakota/Lakota/other Tribes for educational materials and tribal organizational documents; if you have students of another tribe. We do encourage inter-tribal councils if it is more inclusive and feasible- remember student lead - student choice- having more than one council may prove to benefit everyone.*