



2027 Community Leadership Fund

Purpose

To directly serve the needs of an elder, handicapped, or disabled Cherokee Nation citizen or assist with needs in a Cherokee community. Service must be meaningful, positive, and culturally impactful.

Overview

Cherokee Nation citizens ages 10-17, can serve on the Cherokee Nation Reservation in accordance with our purpose. We insist that you have in mind the spirit of Gadugi, working together, when you choose how you serve. Cherokee Nation citizens ages 18-61 can also participate IF documentation of CURRENT enrollment in school or enrollment in career training is provided. Cherokee Nation citizens 62 and older, can participate without school enrollment or career training documentation.

Participants must complete 20 hours of service **OR** 10 hours of service plus completed History Portion

We are intentionally realigning the Community Leadership Grant with the central purpose of Gadugi Corps: Meaningful volunteer work. If you are unsure that your choice of service aligns with the purpose of Gadugi Corps, please email gadugicorps@cherokee.org **BEFORE** you serve and our team will advise. Gadugi Corps can also help you find opportunities to serve with us or in your community. Email us!

Remember

- Application must be filled out completely
- You must be a Cherokee Nation citizen and provide your Cherokee Nation citizenship number
- Can only participate once per fiscal year (October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027)
- All service must be completed within the Cherokee Nation's Reservation boundaries
- Service done for an entity or individual where profit will be made will not be accepted
- Serving family members: Allowable if member being served is 62 or older
- This application will expire on September 30, 2027



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I understand that the Gadugi Corps team reserves the right to review, verify, and deny any submitted service hours at the team's discretion. Hours that do not fully align with our eligibility criteria and our purpose may not be accepted.

Signature of participant _____

Signature of parent or guardian if participant is a minor _____

How to turn in completed applications:

1. Mail to: Attn Gadugi Corps P.O. box 948 Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948
2. Scan and email to: gadugicorps@cherokee.org
3. Hand deliver to: 18922 N. 466 Road, Tahlequah, OK

We will be moving to 1540 Echota Ave during this fiscal year. If you are hand delivering, please call 918-453-5000 Ext: 5982 or 7053 so you don't miss us.



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Cherokee Nation Gadugi Corps Community Leadership Fund Individual Application *(Please fill out application completely)*

Applicant Name:	Youth:	Elder:	Citizenship No#
Date of Birth:	Age:	Male:	Female:
Mailing Address:			
Physical Address:			
County:		Phone #1:	
Email Address:		Phone #2:	

Have you received assistance on this program, or through the Community Leadership Funds in the past?	Yes:	No:
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All eligible applicants who wish to participate in the Cherokee Nation Gadugi Corps Community Leadership Fund Program **MUST SIGN** this document

I _____, have read and understand the application process in its entirety, or the application was read to me, and I have completed it accurately to the best of my knowledge. I understand all additional documentation required for the application must be provided.

Signature of Applicant

Date

If the applicant is under the age of 18 a parent or legal guardian must also read and sign this document.

I _____, the parent/legal guardian of the above applicant have read and understand the application process in its entirety, or the application was read to me and I have completed it accurately to the best of my knowledge. I understand all additional documentation required for the application must be provided.

Signature of Applicant Parent/Legal Guardian

Date



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Cherokee Nation Gadugi Corps Community Leadership Fund Community Service Verification Form is **REQUIRED**

Applicant's Name: _____

*Please fill out ONE section for each day worked. More than one "Community Service Verification Form" may be submitted if needed. **Parents DO NOT sign the verification form.***

Volunteer Date:		Hours Worked:	
Worksite Name:		Worksite Address:	
Type of Service Performed:			
If service was for an individual, circle all that apply: Elder Handicapped Disabled			
Is the individual being helped a relative? Y or N	If yes, please provide name & age of relative (Must be 62 or older)		
Signature of Contact Person (Supervisor)		Contact Phone Number:	

Volunteer Date:		Hours Worked:	
Worksite Name:		Worksite Address:	
Type of Service Performed:			
If service was for an individual, circle all that apply: Elder Handicapped Disabled			
Is the individual being helped a relative? Y or N	If yes, please provide name & age of relative (Must be 62 or older)		
Signature of Contact Person (Supervisor)		Contact Phone Number:	



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Is the individual being helped a relative? Y or N	If yes, please provide name & age of relative (Must be 62 or older)		
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Volunteer Date:		Hours Worked:	
Worksite Name:		Worksite Address:	
Type of Service Performed:			
If service was for an individual, circle all that apply: Elder Handicapped Disabled			
Is the individual being helped a relative? Y or N	If yes, please provide name & age of relative (Must be 62 or older)		
Signature of Contact Person (Supervisor)		Contact Phone Number:	



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Cherokee Nation History

Remember, the history portion is **just an option**. We encourage you to help, should an elder that would like to participate in this option need assistance.

Use your preferred method/methods for defining the following terms. Use at least one complete sentence for each.

Territory	
Expedition	
Dominion	
Comprised	
Treaty	
Relinquish	
Entice	
Migrate	
Ancestral	
Aboriginal	
Embark	
Allotment	
Declaring	
Abolished	



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Supreme Court	
Foreign	
Domestic	
Reside	
Impose	
Authority	
Purported	
Rights	
Privileges	
Assurances	
Provision	
Severalty	
Continuity	
Resiliency	
Vast	
Voluntarily	
Forcibly	



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Relocation	
Perished	
Immigrant	
Faction	
Entirety	
Governed	
Legislative	
Alliance	
Freedmen	
Descendant	
Shall (as it pertains to law)	
Parcel	
Policy	
Compel	
Coercive	
Subsequent	



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Impede	
Popular Election	
Supersede	
Disestablished	
Intact	
Sovereign	
Jurisdiction	
Generation	

Read the Cherokee Nation History Summary. Participants are encouraged to read together as a family, helping youth or elders if they should need assistance.

To find summary:

- Go to the Cherokee Nation website- <https://cherokee.gov>
- Click Menu
- Scroll down to Community & Culture, click History



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Fill in the blanks:

The first _____ between Cherokees and _____ was in 1540, when Hernando de _____ and several hundred of his conquistadors traveled through Cherokee _____ during their expedition in what is now the southeastern United States. At that time the Nation held _____ over a sprawling _____ comprised of much or most of the modern states of _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____.

Historically, the Nation was led by a _____, regularly _____ by chiefs from _____ towns within the Nation's _____.

Because of successive treaties with the British Crown and the United States, by 1817 the remaining Cherokee lands covered an area consisting of southwestern _____, southeastern _____, northeastern _____ and northern _____.

In 1817, enticed by agents of the United States, some residents of _____ towns in what is now far northwestern _____ and northern _____ abandoned what remained of the Cherokee Homelands and _____ opted to migrate west of the _____. These Cherokees migrated first to lands located in what is now _____ and then, in 1828, farther west to a reservation established by treaty for the Cherokee Nation in what is today eastern Oklahoma.

The great majority of the Nation's members remained in the _____, refusing to abandon their ancestral _____ despite the best efforts of the United States to _____ them to the Arkansas Territory. By 1827, as a result of further cessions confirmed in a 1819 _____, most of the Nation's remaining lands were located in _____.



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Starting in this year, the part of the Nation which remained in the east, led by Principal Chief _____, entered into a multi-year struggle with the state of Georgia to _____ in and protect their _____ homelands from Georgia's efforts to take over _____ country in that state.

In 1827, the Cherokee Nation _____ a written _____ modeled on that of the United States, to which Georgia responded the following year by _____ the Cherokee government _____, and its citizens subject to the _____ of Georgia.

The Cherokees replied by filing suit in the _____ court of the United States challenging these actions. This case, _____ v. _____ (1831), ended with a _____ of the Court deciding that the Court had no original _____ under Article _____ of the U.S. Constitution to hear the suit because the Nation was not a _____ State, a requirement for such original jurisdiction cases in the Supreme Court, but was instead a "domestic _____ nation." The court therefore _____ the case without considering whether Georgia's actions were lawful. The following year, the Cherokee Nation supported a case filed in the Supreme Court by _____, a missionary and U.S. _____ residing in the Cherokee Nation who had been _____ under Georgia law for residing in the Nation's limits without a state _____. That case, _____ v. _____

_____ (1832), was a _____ for the Cherokee Nation. The Court held that _____ had _____ power to impose its _____ in the Cherokee Nation. Nevertheless, the determination of then-President _____ to _____ the Cherokees and other southeastern Indian nations from their aboriginal



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_____ resulted in the 1835 Treaty of New _____. The
Cherokees who signed that treaty lacked _____ to do so under
Cherokee Nation law, but nevertheless purported to agree, on behalf of the
Nation, to _____ the Cherokee Nation's lands east of the
_____ and to remove to the _____ west of
the Mississippi, where the Nation could exercise the right to _____
itself, among other rights, _____, and assurances.

Because the vast majority of Cherokee people refused to _____
abandon their ancestral _____ despite the _____ of New Echota, the
United States, in _____, deployed troops under General _____ Scott
to _____ round up the Cherokee people into relocation _____ and from
there remove them _____ to the _____ west of the Mississippi
on what would come to be known as the _____ of _____. Some
_____ Cherokees who were forcibly removed from their homes (about one-
fourth of the population) _____ in camps or _____ the Trail of
Tears. When the _____ arrived at the Cherokee Reservation in the
_____ Territory (present-day eastern _____), they were
_____ with the Cherokees who had _____ migrated there
earlier. After a period of internal disputes, _____, and _____
conflict over the signing of the 1835 _____ and how to organize the
Cherokee Nation _____ on the Reservation, in _____ the
Nation came together under a new _____, modeled on the 1827
Constitution. However, ongoing _____ persisted between the pre-
removal immigrants, Cherokees who had _____ removal and voluntarily
removed after the New _____ Treaty, and the Cherokees who had
_____ removal until being forced by the _____. The persistent internal
struggle eventually led to the signing of a new _____ among the
various factions within the Nation and the United States in _____. This
treaty made _____ that the Cherokee Nation was one nation with the



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_____ of the lands it now _____ “secured to the _____ Cherokee people for their _____ use and benefit” and that the whole Nation accepted that the _____ would be their new _____, to be _____ on the terms _____ by the Treaty of New Echota.

In its new capital of _____, the Cherokee Nation built government buildings, _____, businesses, and homes and, in _____, established the Cherokee _____ newspaper, which was published in both English and _____ (using the syllabary invented by the great Cherokee scholar and educator, _____). The Cherokee National Council—the Nation’s _____—enjoyed broad _____ support, John _____ continued to serve as Principal Chief under the new Constitution, and the Nation was regarded as a _____ to the power of Cherokee _____ and continuity.

Unfortunately, the outbreak of the American _____ War in 1861 revived old _____ within the Nation. As _____ forces abandoned forts adjoining the _____ Nation for bases in Kansas, and _____ forces in Texas threatened to invade, the Cherokee and other Indian nations which had been relocated to the Indian Territory agreed to sign _____ of _____ with the Confederacy. Some Cherokees took up arms in support of the _____, while others fought for the _____. Two years into the war, Principal Chief Ross left for the east to rebuild relations with _____. Shortly thereafter the Cherokee National _____ repudiated the Confederate treaty and, in February of 1863, voluntarily abolished _____ in the Cherokee Nation as a matter of _____ law. At the war’s end, the United States and the Cherokee Nation signed a new treaty, the Treaty of _____ of 1866, in which the Nation agreed to a process that would allow the United States to settle _____ tribes on some of its _____ under certain terms and conditions and agreed that the Nation’s _____ and their _____ “_____ have _____ the



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rights of native Cherokees.” As a result of this provision and provision of Nation _____, the descendants of _____ Freedmen have full citizenship in the Nation, including the right to hold office.

In the late nineteenth century, the United States embarked on a _____ policy of tribal land _____, in which _____ owned tribal reservation lands would be broken up into _____ and distributed in severalty to _____ tribal citizens. Consistent with this national policy, _____ sought to compel the Nation to allot its lands. As part of this coercive effort, Congress passed a series of laws that _____ the authority of the tribal government and provided for the _____ of the Nation’s Principal Chiefs by the _____ of the United States. Congress passed the Cherokee Nation’s allotment act in _____. Five years later, the new state of _____ was admitted into the Union, including within its limits the _____ Nation Reservation. These actions, and the subsequent _____ of some local federal officials to support tribal _____, impeded the Nation’s government for many years in the first part of the twentieth century. But Cherokee leaders continued _____ through the decades of the mid-century and began taking steps to protect and advance the _____ and interests of the Nation’s _____. In _____, these activities led to _____ passing the Principal Chiefs Act, which provided for the popular _____ of the Principal Chiefs of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole Nations, and then, in _____, the Cherokee Nation adopting a new Constitution which by its express terms _____ the Nation’s 1839 Constitution.



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The 1976 _____ was replaced by the current Constitution of Cherokee Nation in _____. Following the U.S. Supreme Court’s July 2020 decision in _____ *v. Oklahoma*, in 2021 the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals ruled in _____ *v. State* that the Cherokee Nation Reservation had _____ been disestablished and _____ intact to this day. Today, under the leadership of the Principal _____, the Cherokee Nation continues to _____ its treaty _____, _____ authority, and _____ over the Cherokee Nation Reservation and to strengthen its institutions of tribal governance for the benefit of the Nation’s greatest resource—its citizens, their children, and the future generations of Cherokees.

Video Review

- Visit Osiyo.tv, click “Cherokee Almanac” under the History tab.
- Watch each of the following videos in their entirety. After viewing each video, write in the lines provided for each, a summary describing the main points, key information presented, and what you may have learned for each.
- YOU MUST FILL ALL OF THE LINES IN YOUR RESPONSES!

CHEROKEE LIFE PRE-EUROPEAN CONTACT, SEASON 6, 602



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EARLY CONTACT, SEASON 6, 603

THE CHEROKEE NATION VS GEORGIA, SEASON 2, 203

THE TREATY OF NEW ECHOTA AND LAND PATENT, SEASON 2, 201

RED CLAY, SEASON 6, 608



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REMOVAL STOCKADES, SEASON 6, 609

THE END OF THE TRAIL, SEASON 5, 507

EZEKIEL STARR AND THE CHEROKEE CIVIL WAR, SEASON 5, 501

SEQUOYAH'S LAST PORTRAIT, SEASON 7, 701



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EDUCATING A NATION: THE CHEROKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT, SEASON 7, 704

PRINTED LEGACY: THE CHEROKEE ADVOCATE, SEASON 8, 803

THE BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE, SEASON 7, 708

CLOSING A CHAPTER-CHIEF JOHN ROSS' FINAL YEARS, SEASON 7, 710



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THE CHEROKEE SLAVE REVOLT, SEASON 7, 705

CHEROKEE NATION FACING OKLAHOMA STATEHOOD, SEASON 8, 810

RESILIENCY AFTER REMOVAL, SEASON 7, 702
