

indianag.org

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL



2024 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● **PACKET**



INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

PO Box 958, Billings MT 59103



Dear Tribal Leader,

We are pleased to extend an invitation to your Tribe to join the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) as a General Membership Tribe. IAC is a Native-led nonprofit that was formed by a group of federally recognized Tribes in 1987 with a mission to pursue and promote the conservation, development, and use of Tribal agriculture resources for the betterment of our people. Since its founding, the IAC has actively supported Tribal producers—both Tribal Nations and their citizens—across the country through on-the-ground technical assistance and services, as well as advocacy for improvements in the policies that govern the landscape in which Tribal producers must operate. As an IAC General Membership Tribe, your involvement is not just a partnership; it's a commitment to fostering growth, resilience, and self-determination across Indian Country.

Why Join?

As a General Member of the IAC, your Tribe will play a crucial role in empowering Tribal producers and fostering resilient agricultural practices across Indian Country. Here are some of the key benefits and opportunities that come with membership:

- **Shape Policy:** Contribute to discussions that influence federal and regional agricultural policies.
- **Access Resources:** Benefit from tailored support and resources to advance your agricultural endeavors.
- **Network:** Connect with other Tribal leaders and agricultural professionals committed to the same goals.
- **Advocate:** Support efforts to address and rectify systemic inequities affecting Indian Country.

Our Services Include:

- **Legal and Policy Development:** Shaping policies that impact Tribal agriculture.
- **USDA Technical Assistance:** Providing essential support to navigate federal programs.
- **Natural Resources Management:** Ensuring sustainable practices for our lands.
- **Marketing Support:** Enhancing domestic and international market access for Native products.
- **Youth Leadership Development:** Empowering the next generation in food and agriculture.

Our Commitment:

The IAC's leadership is grounded in the principles of self-determination, with Tribal leaders guiding advocacy and technical support to address the unique needs of the 574 federally recognized tribes. Your participation as a General Member Tribe will empower us to continue providing critical assistance, advocating for equitable policies, and addressing the specific challenges faced by American Indian and Alaska Native producers.



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We honor the legacy of our founding Tribal leaders who crafted and endorsed the IAC Charter. This charter has been the cornerstone of our governance and allows us to unify the interests of Tribal nations. We are dedicated to redefining and rebuilding self-determined Tribal food systems, advocating for policy changes, and supporting Native producers through various programmatic offerings.

At IAC, we center our work around the values of reciprocity and trust. We believe in the leadership of Native people and invest in and trust Tribal Nation leadership. By joining us, you will help drive meaningful change and build a stronger, more sustainable future for all.

We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate and for your Tribe's participation in this transformative journey. Thank you for your commitment to advancing Indian agriculture and for considering this invitation to join our movement.

The 2024 IAC Annual Conference and membership meeting will be held December 10-12, 2024; the conference will be held at the Palms in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mark your calendar and get ready for an exciting event!

Respectfully,

Kari Jo Lawrence, IAC Chief Executive Officer



BACKGROUND

IAC was founded in 1987 to pursue and promote the conservation, development, and use of our agricultural resources for the betterment of our people. Tribal leaders, in a true expression of self-determination, identified and delegated their representation within the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Charter, comprising the voting membership that remains in existence today. This organizational leadership structure uniquely positions the IAC to inform policy and USDA programmatic implementation, simultaneously redefining and rebuilding our self-determined Tribal food systems.

ELIGIBILITY

All Federally recognized Tribes and Native Alaskan Tribes, as defined in the Self Determination Act, (PL93-638) with an interest in the management and development of Indian agricultural resources are eligible for general membership.

JOIN IAC'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AS A VOTING MEMBER TRIBE

A federally recognized Tribe may become a voting, general member of the Intertribal Agriculture Council by following these steps:

- 1. Submit Tribal Resolution (or something equivalent) to the IAC that expresses Tribe's intent to join the IAC as a General Member.**

This document should comply with the requirements set by your Tribe's Governing Body and will remain in effect until officially withdrawn.

**A template resolution is included at the end of this packet that Tribes may use at their discretion. See Attachment 1, Template Tribal Resolution.*

- 2. Designate Delegate to Represent Tribe's Interests on the IAC.**

Formally Designate the Tribe's delegate to represent the Tribe's interests and vote on behalf of the Tribe at the Intertribal Agriculture Council's meetings.

** A template letter for designating a Tribe's delegate is included at the end of this packet. See attachment 2, Template Tribal Delegate Designation Letter.*

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3. Pay Membership Dues.

IAC will send an invoice once the Tribe submits a Tribal Resolution (or something equivalent), and designates a delegate. IAC can send an electronic invoice or assist your staff in sending invoice paperwork for payment processing via physical check to complete the payment of dues. Memberships runs from January 1st through December 31st annually.

** General Membership dues are set at \$200 annually.*

GOOD STANDING

Tribal membership “in good standing” is based on three criteria:

1. Submitting written documentation confirming your Tribe’s membership in the IAC. This should comply with your Tribe’s Governing Body requirements and remain valid until officially withdrawn
2. Designating an official Tribal delegate to the Council
3. Paying annual dues for the current year

CAUCUS INFORMATION FOR IAC MEMBER TRIBES

The IAC caucuses are integral to our information sharing, policy development, and support structures, benefiting our Member Tribes and Indian Country as a whole.

Participation Benefits: As a voting member of the IAC, participating in your regional caucus allows you to influence the organization’s annual priorities. Caucuses are regional meetings where Member Tribes discuss and propose their priority issues.

Caucus Participation Requirements:

1. **Registration:** To participate in a regional caucus, you must be registered as an IAC Member Tribe.

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- 2. Documentation:** Submit written documentation confirming your Tribe's membership in the IAC. This should comply with your Tribe's Governing Body requirements and remain valid until officially withdrawn.
- 3. Designation of Representatives:** Formalize the designation of your Tribe's representative(s) as outlined. These representatives will act on behalf of their Tribe.
- 4. Payment of Dues:** Ensure that all dues are paid in full.

Caucus Process:

- Member Tribe delegates bring forward regional concerns or issues affecting agricultural success.
- Tribes in good standing can submit issues for consideration during the 2024 IAC Annual Conference regional caucus sessions.

Tribes may raise caucus issues via resolution, or by completing the online caucus form: bit.ly/IAC-caucus-issue.

Final Reminder: Once approved, your Tribe's voting delegate can present actionable items at the Annual Membership Meeting.

ATTEND THE IAC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 2024 Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2024. This year's event will be held during the 2024 IAC Annual Conference at the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, on December 10-12, 2024. **Registration for one [1] General Membership Tribal delegate will be waived to attend the Annual Conference, a savings valued at \$750.00!**

REGISTER: indianag.org/annual-conference



FOLLOW THE LINK TO SUBMIT A MEMBERSHIP FORM: bit.ly/IAC-member-form

REGIONAL CAUCUS PROTOCOL

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL



- **The Board Member or Alternate for your region is responsible for presiding over the Caucus meeting.**
- The Board Member or Alternate for your region is responsible for presiding over the Caucus meeting.
- An IAC staff member will be in attendance to record the actions in our preferred format.
- Staff members may not offer issues for consideration, but may offer their perspective on issues raised, when asked to do so.
- It is generally accepted that all conference participants are invited to attend the meeting, and may raise issues for consideration.
- Issues may be offered for caucus consideration by registered conference participants from that region, however, if no duly appointed Member Tribe delegate(s) move to support the issue it will not be discussed, nor included in the caucus report offered to the membership.
- The Board Member from that region will present the regional caucus issues report to the General Membership at the annual Membership Meeting at the end of the Annual Conference, for consideration of adoption as IAC Policy for the year.

Issues not receiving consensus approval at the in-person caucus may be voted on in a manner as determined by the presiding officer, for reporting out to the Membership Meeting. A majority of the duly appointed Member Tribe delegates attending the caucus may approve an issue, or the caucus report in its entirety.

SAMPLE CAUCUS ISSUE

ISSUE: Less than 40 Tribes are able to utilize FRTEP due to the funding limitation to the program. Member Tribes request an increase in funding directly to their congressional representatives to \$10 M.

PROPOSED SOLUTION: IAC advocacy for 2023 Farm Bill will include mandatory funding for 100 FRTEP agents.



FOLLOW THE LINK TO SUBMIT A CAUCUS ISSUE: bit.ly/IAC-caucus-issue

REGIONAL CAUCUS AGENDA FRAMEWORK

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ROLES SUMMARY

- IAC Board Member Facilitates Meeting
- IAC Technical Assistance staff (TA) takes notes, offers context on USDA resources as necessary, fields pertinent questions- does not direct conversation or have the floor for any length of time

INTRODUCTIONS (IAC BOARD MEMBER)

- Member Tribe Delegates: Name, Tribal Affiliation, Role/Operation/Business
- General Attendees (only if size of caucus permits and this will not take away from primary scope of this meeting): Name, Tribal Affiliation, Role/Operation/Business

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS CAUCUS ISSUES (IAC BOARD MEMBER/TA)

- Present TA accomplishments relevant to caucus issues raised last year

REVIEW OF PRESUBMITTED CAUCUS ISSUES (IAC BOARD MEMBER/TA TAKES NOTES)

- Review background
- Consider actionable solutions

ROUND TABLE MEMBER TRIBE DELEGATE DISCUSSION (IAC BOARD MEMBER/TA TAKES NOTES)

- State name, Tribal affiliation, issue or concern, possible remedy or solution
- Review background
- Consider actionable solutions

VOTE ON CAUCUS ISSUES RAISED (IAC BOARD MEMBER/TA)

- Clarify notes in support of generating the caucus report

FINAL THOUGHTS (IAC BOARD MEMBER)

ADJOURN

TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION - 1

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

[DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATE](#)

TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

NUMBER: _____

WHEREAS, The _____ Tribe is the duly constituted governing body within the exterior boundaries of the _____ Indian Reservation, and

WHEREAS, The _____ Tribe has been organized to represent, develop, protect and advance the views, education and resources of the _____ Indian Reservation and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the _____ Tribal Constitution and ByLaws, Article____, Section ____, the _____ Tribal Council has the power and authority to negotiate with the federal, state, and local governments on behalf of the _____ Tribe, and

WHEREAS, The Intertribal Agriculture Council is a non-profit national Indian agriculture organization formed in 1987 to advance agricultural interests of Indian Tribes and Tribal agriculture producers nationwide, and

WHEREAS, The _____ Tribe has been a member of the Intertribal Agriculture Council, and

WHEREAS, It is essential to the agricultural development of the _____ Reservation that the _____ Tribe maintain membership with the IAC and joins with other member Tribes to provide a unified effort to promote change and improvement in Indian agriculture, now

WHEREAS, BE IT RESOLVED, that the _____ Tribal Council, acting for and in behalf of the _____ Tribe, does hereby approve membership in the Intertribal Agriculture Council, and thereby approves payment of the [2024] membership fees in the amount of \$200.00, which shall thereafter be paid annually before November 15 of each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the _____ Tribal Council hereby appoints _____ as official delegate and _____ as the alternate for the _____ Tribe to the Intertribal Agriculture Council with all privileges afforded member representatives.

ATTEST:

THE _____ TRIBE OF THE INDIAN RESERVATION

Secretary

Date: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION - 2

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TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

This resolution template was created by the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) to serve as a model with which federally recognized tribes can base their own resolution for membership of IAC, along with identification of delegate and alternate. Users are encouraged to modify the template as needed to better represent the priorities of the tribe.

Throughout the template, there are identified areas in which the user should replace with their own information. For example, wherever “The _____ Tribe” occurs, the user should input the name of their federally recognized tribe in the blank space.

For questions, contact the main office at 406-259-3525 or Membership Relations and Board Affairs Manager Nicole Charley at nicole@indianag.org.

TEMPLATE TRIBAL DELEGATE DESIGNATION LETTER

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

[DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATE](#)

TEMPLATE TRIBAL DELEGATE DESIGNATION LETTER

Dear IAC Chief Executive Officer:

The _____ Tribal Council has designated _____ to the Intertribal Agriculture Council as the official Tribal Delegate and _____ as the alternate affording all privileges of member representatives.



Please remit payment to:
Intertribal Agriculture Council
Attn: Accounts Receivable
PO Box 958, Billings MT 59103

**For information on wiring your membership payment,
please contact:**
Audrey Ellien, Finance Specialist at audrey@indianag.org

IAC membership information can be found at:
www.indianag.org/membership



Scan the QR code or contact the Member Relations and Board Affairs Manager, Nicole Charley, at nicole@indianag.org to learn more. We look forward to collaborating with your Tribe.

BECOME A MEMBER
bit.ly/IAC-member-form



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