

ARIZONA TRIBAL SEALS AND FLAGS

22 federally recognized tribes in Arizona

This document briefly describes the seals or flags of the 22 federally recognized tribes in Arizona. The information provided within this document does not, and is not intended to, override tribal or cultural knowledge; instead, all information, content and attached materials available within this document are exclusively for the benefit of respectfully recognizing each individual tribe. Additionally, this document contains links to other third-party websites and sources. Such links are only for the convenience of the reader, user or browser; ADE-OIE does not recommend or endorse the content of the third-party site. ADE-OIE strongly recommends contacting each respective tribe to learn more before using this material for learning purposes.

For contact information of each tribe in Arizona, visit <https://www.azed.gov/oie/22-federally-recognized-tribes-arizona>

Office of Indian Education



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

22 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES IN ARIZONA

Colorado River Indian Tribe

Designed by Margie McCabe, the Tribal Flag was adopted in 1979 by the Tribal Council and is a symbol of pride, unity and progress among Tribal members. Brown represents the earth. Blue is for the water and the River which gives life to the earth. The orange rays are the eternal rising and setting of the sun upon the earth and water. The four feathers represent each of the four Tribes that make up CRIT (Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo). Learn more at https://www.crit-nsn.gov/crit_contents/about/



Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

The seal depicts the Arizona landscape in shades of blue and green, with the Rio Verde River shown in blue crossing the land. Rising out of the mountains in the background are five rays of the sun. The foreground is dominated by a Saguaro cactus and four arrowheads at the base. These arrowheads, possibly evoking the sacred number four, appear in white, blue, gold, and red. The entire landscape is backdrop to a head of a bald eagle in natural colors, a bird sacred to many Native peoples. Learn more at <https://www.fmyn.org/>



Cocopah Indian Tribe

Seal Description: The Cocopah flag is white with a full-color image of the tribal seal in the center. The seal shows a Cocopah warrior spear-fishing in the Colorado River, which was essential to the life of the Cocopah. At the warrior's feet are several salmon-colored fish and in the background is a stand of corn, both staples of the Cocopah diet. There are also traditional arrowweed thatched homes, the traditional house, and a ramada, a shelter from the hot desert sun, both in gray. Purple hills, a yellow sun, desert rocks in gray, and plants in green complete the picture. The overall design shows the traditions of this desert-dwelling Nation dependent on the Colorado River. Learn more at <https://www.cocopah.com/about-us.html>



Ak-Chin Indian Community

Seal Description: The seal's symbols speak of the ideals on which the Ak-Chin community is based. An arrow symbolizes the Ak-Chin people as a community of Native Americans. A pair of scales balanced on the arrow represents equality and justice. A red rising sun tells of the Ak-Chin's belief in a brighter tomorrow while crossed lightning bolts show the inspiration and energy of the Ak-Chin to uphold the ideals of their community. These elements appear on a white circle along with the tribal motto "EQUALITY FOR ALL" and "FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW". Learn more at https://www.crit-nsn.gov/crit_contents/about/

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Havasupai Tribe

Havasuw `Baaja, the people of the blue green waters, are the traditional guardians of the Grand Canyon. Related to the Yuman, the Havasupai have from the beginning, inhabited the Grand Canyon and its environs. The land consists of plateau country, dissected with deep, scenic canyons. Notable geographic features include "The Great Thumb," Long Mesa, and Tenderfoot Mesa, which converge on the Coconino Plateau. Flag Description: The circle is a prevailing motif in Havasupai legends. Represented in the Tribal Seal are Havasu Falls in the upper left, Wii'Gliva (the Prince & Princess rock formation) in the upper right, corn, pollen and agriculture in the lower left and Big horn sheep in the lower right. Learn more at <https://www.theofficialhavasupaitribe.com/>



Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

Mojave Indians are Pipa Aha Macav – "The People By The River." Mojave culture traces the earthly origins of its people to Spirit Mountain, the highest peak in the Newberry Mountains, located inside the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Centered on the flag is the circular tribal seal, with peaked yellow scallops around the outer edge signifying the sun, so dominant in the life of a desert people. Within the sun, on a brown ring, is "FORT MOJAVE INDIAN TRIBE." Within the ring a reservation map shows the three states and the Colorado River: California (the Golden State) in yellow, Arizona (the Copper State) in a brownish orange, and Nevada (the Silver State) in blue. The states are labeled in black: "CA", "AZ", and "NV" The Colorado River is light blue. Learn more at <https://www.fortmojaveindiantribe.com/>

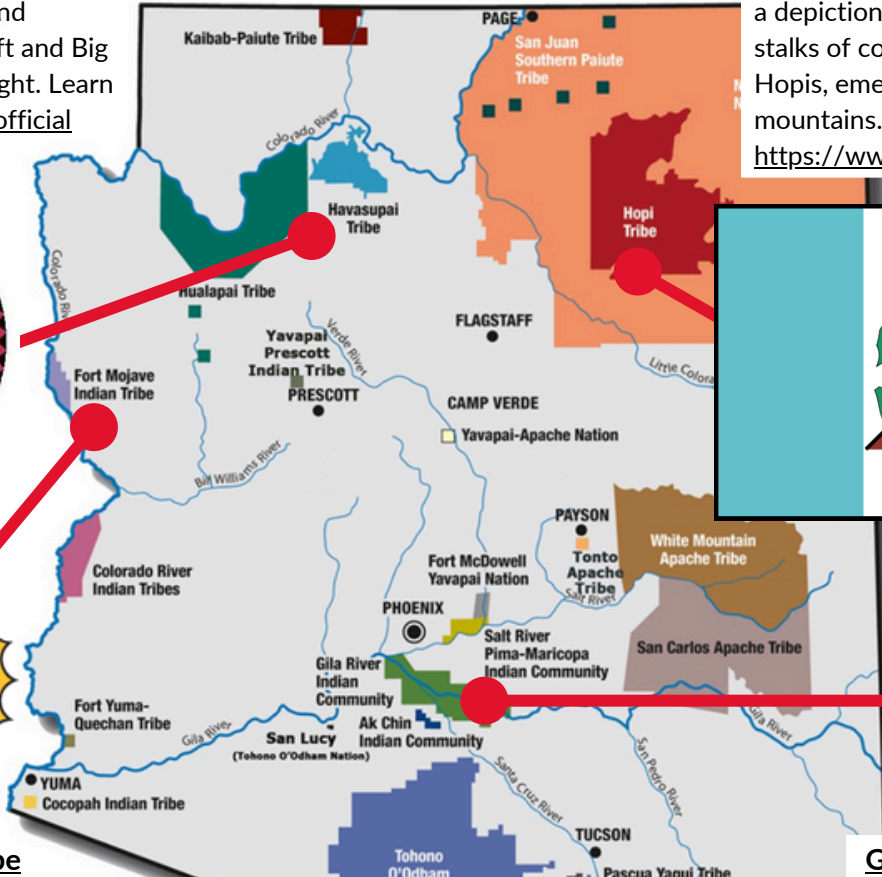
Hopi Tribe

The colors of the flag represent corn and the Hopi way of life. Turquoise (or blue) stripe (sakwa in Hopi): Natwani, all the traditional crops of the Hopi people, continuance of all life, and the duty to provide for family. White stripe (qöötsta): Qastiyayngwani, purity in life and balance at the time of creation. Yellow stripe (sikyangpu): Sitala, many flowers, for when plant life is rejuvenated, the land is blessed with renewed spirits. Centered on the white stripe is a black ring, divided (north-south and east-west) into four quarters by a black cross. Within each of the quarters is a black dot. Below this Tuuwaqatsi or earth symbol is a depiction of mountains in brown. Two stalks of corn, the main food of the Hopis, emerge from the corners of the mountains. Learn more at <https://www.hopi-nsn.gov/>



Gila River Indian Community

The seal depicts the changing of the environment from a dry desert to green life supporting fields through agriculture. The mountain ranges represented are located throughout the reservation- each very sacred to the Pima. The Cactus and Greasewood bush symbolizes the vegetation which is common to the desert. The Sun and the color Blue illustrate that this is being a desert area, the sun is always shining and blue skies are over head most of the year. The Grid and the color Green is representative of the Pima, and our ancestors the Huhugam, as being an agricultural people. The Huhugam were known for the great canals and irrigation system which they built. To this day, the Pima are farmers of the land, raising such crops as corn, barley, wheat, cotton, watermelon, cantaloupe, and beans. Learn more at <https://www.gilariver.org/index.php/about/tribal-seal>



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Kaibab-Paiute Tribe

The land base is approximately 121,000 acres and its northernmost border is the Arizona-Utah border. One of the primary goals is to create economic development on tribal lands while protecting natural resources. The tribe is located on the Arizona Strip, about 50 miles north of the Grand Canyon. Reservation lands total 120,840 acres, straddling Coconino County and Mohave County in Arizona. Elevations range from 7,058 to 4,400 feet above sea-level. The reservation spans semi-arid to alpine lands, dominated by pinyon pine and juniper, with many natural springs and several ephemeral washes that feed into the Colorado River. Learn more at <https://www.kaibabpaiute-nsn.gov/>



Hualapai Tribe

“Hualapai” (pronounced Wal-lah-pie). Tribal seal meaning: The Great Spirit created man and woman in his own image - both were created as equals and dependent on each other in order to survive. The connecting of the hair makes them one person, as happiness cannot be achieved without each other. The canyons, where the people were created, are represented by the purple in the middle ground which are sacred and should be so treated at all times. The reservation is pictured to represent the land that is ours. The sun is the symbol of life; without it, plants won't grow, there will be no life. The sun represents the dawn of the Hualapai people. Through hard work, determination, and education, everything is possible. The tracks represent the coyote and other animals which were here before us. The green symbolizes pine trees, representing Hualapai as PEOPLE OF THE TALL PINES. Learn more at <https://hualapai-nsn.gov/about-2/>

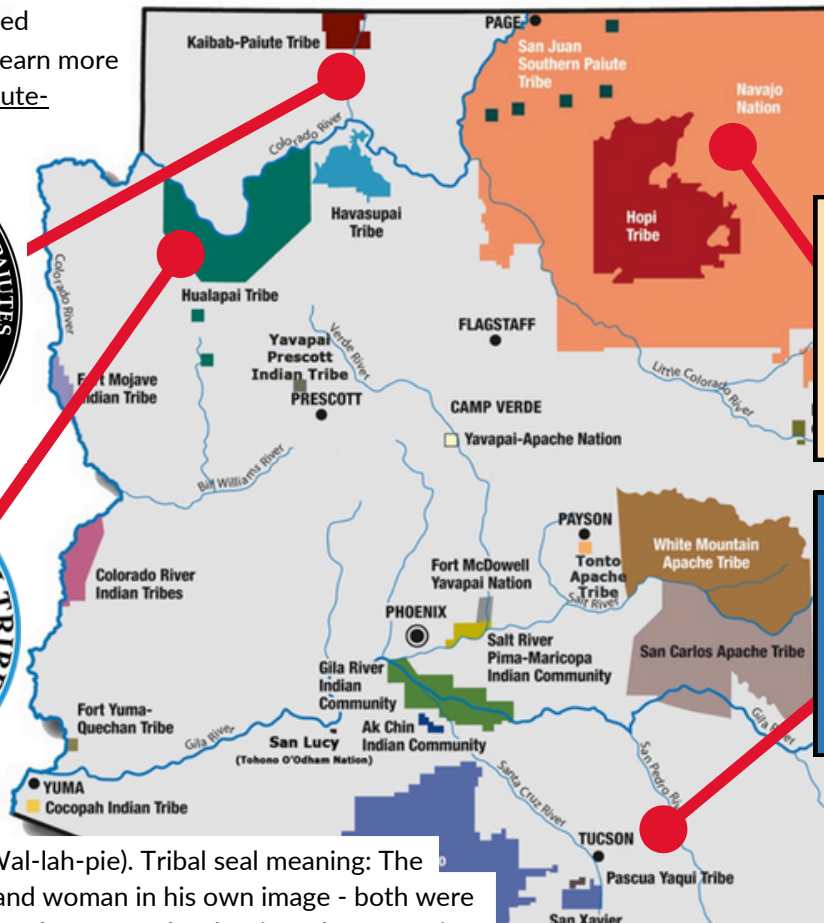
Navajo Nation

The present Nation is shown in copper color with the original 1868 Treaty Reservation in Dark Brown. At the cardinal points in the tan field are the four sacred mountains. A rainbow symbolizing Navajo sovereignty arches over the Nation and the sacred mountains. In the center of the Nation, a circular symbol depicts the sun above two green stalks of corn, which surrounds three animals representing the Navajo livestock economy, and a traditional hogan and modern home. The central oil derrick symbolizes the resource potential of the Tribe, and above this are representations of the wild fauna. At the top near the sun, the modern sawmill symbolizes the progress and industry characteristic of the Navajo Nation's economic development. Learn more at <http://www.navajo-nsn.gov/>



Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Starting at the innermost or hoist, the stripes are blue, white, and red. The central white stripe being approx. one and a half times the width of the others. The color red symbolizes the blood shed to protect our people, our land, our customs and our religion. The color white symbolizes the purity of our spirit. The color blue symbolizes the sky, where our mother, Maala Mecha and our father, Achai Taa'ah are at. The stars represent the cardinal directions, east, west, north and south. The moon represents our mother, Maala Mecha, the mother of all creation. The sun represents our father, Achai Taa'ah, the father of all creation. The black cross represents the memory of all our ancestors who have died in the many wars to protect our people, our land, our customs and our religion. Learn more at <https://www.pascuayaqui-nsn.gov/>



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Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

The Great Seal is an ancient pattern of the Southern Arizona tribes. The pattern represents the MAZE, or house of “Se-eh-ha” (Elder Brother). The legend of the “Man in the Maze” helps children understand the meaning of life. The maze depicts experiences and choices we make in our journey through life. It illustrates the search for balance – physical, social, mental and spiritual. In the middle of the maze are found a person’s dreams and goals. Legend says when we reach the center, the Sun God is there to greet us, bless us, and pass us into the next world. Learn more at <https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/overview/>



Quechan Indian Tribe

The Quechan tribe, also known as the Yuma, is a Native American Indian tribe, whose name is pronounced “kwuh-tsan” and means “those who descended.” The reservation borders the states of Arizona, California and Baja California, Mexico. Encompassing 45,000 acres, the reservation is bisected on the south by Interstate 8 (I-8). Consequently, several million cars a year drive through the Fort Yuma Quechan Reservation on their way to and from Phoenix and San Diego. Learn more at <https://www.quechantribe.com/index.html>

San Juan Southern Paiute

Southern Paiute culture is unique and rich, known for their basketmaking. The language is a different dialect of the Southern Paiute/Ute language group. The traditional territory is in southeastern Utah and north central Arizona within lands designated by the United States as the Navajo Reservation. Learn more at <https://www.sanjuanpaiute-nsn.gov/>



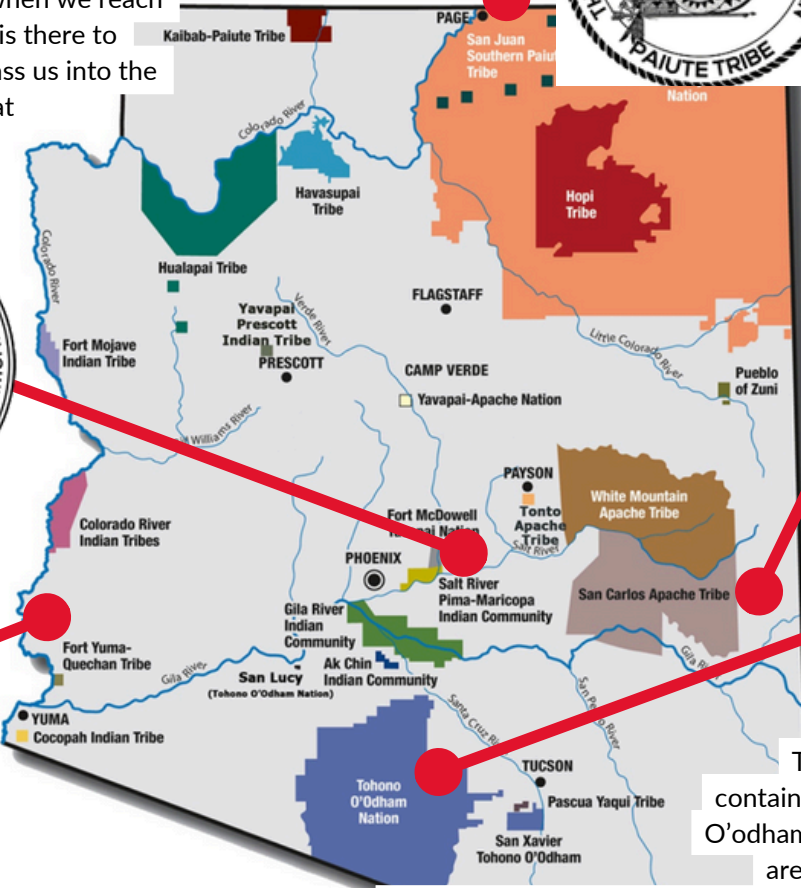
San Carlos Apache Tribe

The seal celebrates the natural beauty of the lands and the major economic resources. The seal is circular, surrounded by a serrated black edge and a red ring. Central to the seal is a geographic tableau showing the mountains, a lake, and two plants of the reservation-the piñon pine and the saguaro cactus-all in natural colors. Below this scene is Hereford steer’s head signifying importance of cattle ranching to the Apache. The pick, shovel, and the piece of peridotite ore symbolize mining. Learn more at <https://www.scats-nsn.gov/>



Tohono O’odham Nation

The outside of the Seal is a purple border containing the words “Great Seal of the Tohono O’odham Nation.” Inside the yellow border there are eleven stars which represent one of the eleven districts of the Tohono O’odham Nation: Pisinemo, Hickiwan, Gu Vo, Chukut Kuk, San Lucy, San Xavier, Baboquivari, Sif Oidak, Schuk Toak, Sells and Gu Achi. At the bottom of this border are the dates 1937-1986. 1937 is the year in which the original constitution and by-laws of the Papago Tribe was approved by the United States Department of the Interior. 1986 represents the year in which the Nation adopted a new constitution and changed its name from the Papago Tribe to Tohono O’odham Nation. The inside picture has a view of the sacred mountain, Baboquivari Peak, home of I’itoi. Also in view is a saguaro, prickly pear and barrel cactus from which the O’odham pick fruit and have various uses from each of these cactus to cook and use for building materials. Learn more at <http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/the-great-seal/>



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Yavapai-Apache Nation

The Yavapai-Apache Nation is located in the Verde Valley of Arizona and is comprised of five (5) tribal communities: Tunlii, Middle Verde, Rimrock, Camp Verde and Clarkdale. With 2,596 total enrolled tribal members with over 750 residents living in the five (5) tribal communities. The seal of the Yavapai Apache Nation represents the unity of the two distinct groups of people who form the nation, and symbolizes national pride, ties to the landscape, and religious values. Learn more at <https://yavapai-apache.org/>



Tonto Apache Tribe

The Tonto Apache Tribe is located adjacent to the town of Payson (originally named Te-go-suk, Place of the Yellow Water), in northwestern Gila County approximately 95 miles northeast of Phoenix and 100 miles southeast of Flagstaff, Arizona. The Tonto Apache are the direct descendants of the Tontos who lived in the Payson vicinity long before the advent of the Anglo. Learn more at <https://itcaonline.com/member-tribes/tonto-apache-tribe/>



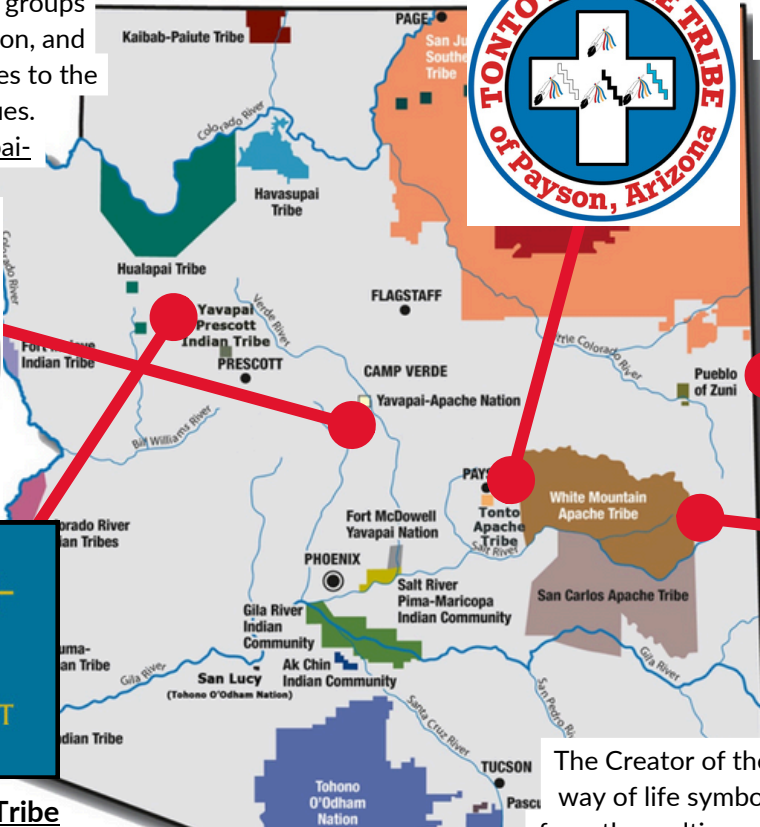
Pueblo of Zuni

The Zuni Tribe is located in a rural, isolated reservation in West Central New Mexico, in McKinley and Cibola Counties as well as in Apache County in Arizona. The land base is comprised of over 723.87 square miles in New Mexico and Apache County Arizona. Zuni is one of the most remote, traditional pueblos and the largest (11,363 total population) of the 19 New Mexico pueblos. Learn more at <http://www.ashiwi.org/>



Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

The color blue represents that the Yavapai are "from the sky." It also represents water and Komwidamapokwia, the mother of this generation of Yavapai, who was the only survivor of the world flood. The seal represents the 4 worlds of the Yavapai and is illustrated using yellow for the petals of the sun and the story of Skatakaamcha, the cultural hero of the Yavapai, whose father is the sun. The crosses represent the most important symbol- Komwidamapokwia and Skatakaamcha. Spaniards gave the Yavapai the name Cruzados because they wore crosses in their hair. It also represents Venus, which appears both as the Morning Star and the Evening Star, where they are now residing. Many Yavapai women are given a name including "star" (hamsi). Komwidamapokwia gave the Yavapai 4 stones for medicine and directions. The stones were white, turquoise, red and black. Learn more at https://www.ypit.com/about_ypit.htm



White Mountain Apache Tribe

The Creator of the Apaches has blessed them with a beautiful way of life symbolized by the life sustaining waters flowing from the melting snows of the White Mountain - a mountain of Sacredness. Its' ridges abound with deer and elk and many animals which have been provided for the Apache's to hunt. The rainbow brilliantly ovals the crest of the White Mountains adding a crown to the beauty of the land; the rainbow is a symbol of peace. The tree symbolizes the predominant forests growing on the lands; a resource that is providing a livelihood for Apache's today. The wicki-up is an ancient and unique Apache habitat; as is the tus (pronounced toose), a water container made from native reeds and coated with pitch from the pinon trees. Only the Apaches have maintained the ancient craft in the making of the tus. The four Sacred colors, black, blue, yellow and white have guided prayers to the Great Creator - from the universe to the creations; from night to daylight. Learn more at <http://www.wmat.us/index.html>



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