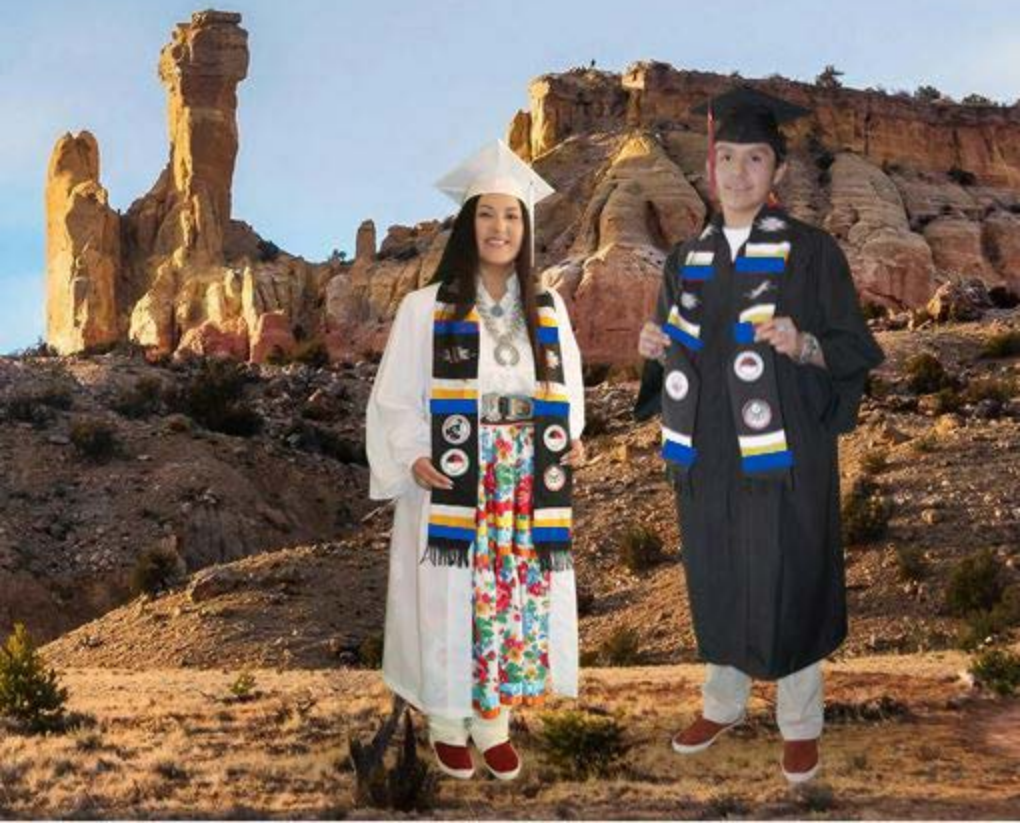
# Indian Education
## ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Native American Seals & Stole Award**
**2025-2026**



# Indian Education
## ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Hello Juniors & Seniors,**

On behalf of the APS Indian Education Department, we are so excited to challenge you during your junior and senior year. We encourage ALL Native American students to earn one or more of the seals so you can wear this special award at commencement your senior year. It is a VERY SPECIAL HONOR! Please feel free to call or email the Indian Education Department staff if you have any questions or would like additional support. We will guide you OR connect you to one of the Indian Education teachers to help offer encouragement and support. We wish you the best and want to see you succeed your senior year and help you achieve whatever dreams you have after you graduate.

Sincerely,

Indian Education Department Staff
(505) 884-6392

# Seals & Stole Award

**01** **Complete** online application

September 2 - December 12, 2025

**02** **Attend a Workshop**

Saturday November 15, 2025 from 10 am to noon OR December 2, 2025 (Tuesday) 6 pm to 8 pm . Both are at City Center.

**03** **Write Essay(s) and create a Google Slide presentation (s).**

Due date is different for each seal. Look in session for specific dates.

**04** **Submit** Recommendation Letters

Due date is different for each seal. Look for specific dates.

**05** **Complete in person** Presentations and Demonstrations

March 25, 26, 27, 2026 (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.) Scheduled presentations will be at City Center located at 6400 Uptown Blvd NE. (Sign ups will begin on March 9, 2026 .

**06** **Attend Senior Awards Banquet**

Friday ,May 8, 2026 at Isleta Resort Banquet at 6 PM. All Indian Education graduating Seniors are allowed to bring two guests over the age of 12. RSVP required.

**Proudly Wear Your Native APS Stole on Graduation Day!**

# IMPORTANT DATES

| September | October | November | December |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Application opens:** September 2, 2025 | **Senior information night** for parents and students at City Center on Tuesday, October 21 from 6 to 8 PM. | **Workshop:** Saturday November 15, 2025 from 10 AM - noon | **Workshop:** Tuesday, December 2, 2025 from 6 to 8 PM **Application closes:** December 12, 2025 **Introduction due** for students applying for the APS Bilingual Seal on December 19, 2025l |
| **January** | **February** | **March** | **April** |
| **Tribal Seal** Essay, Google slide presentation, and recommendation letter due on January 30, 2026. | **Distinguished Learning Seal** Essay, Google slide presentation, and recommendation letter due on February 27, 2026. | **Sign up for presentations** begin on March 9, 2026. **Presentations** will be on March 25, 26, 27 at City Center. Students will sign up for 30 minute time slots depending upon how many seals they are applying for: 1 seal = 30 minutes, 2 seals = 60 minutes, 3 seals - 90 minutes. | RSVP by April 17, 2026 for Senior Banquet |
| **May** | | | |
| **Senior Banquet** is on Friday, May 8, 2026 at Isleta Resort & Casino. Graduates can bring 2 guests. | | | |

*Earning Your*

# TRIBAL SEAL

**The purpose of a Tribal Seal is to represent your knowledge and to share your unique lived experiences as a Native student.**

- You must submit a Seals & Stole Application between Tuesday **September 2, 2025 and December 12, 2025** .
- This initial Seals & Stole Application will give you access to APS Indian Education Google Classroom.
- **Only one** Seals & Stole Application is requested. All students need to indicate which particular seal they are applying for.

**Step 1:**

Write a 2-3 page essay using the reflective prompts.

**Step 2:**

Create a Google Slide presentation using photos and/or video using the prompts. Plan your Tribal demonstration.

**Step 3:**

Formally present your Google slide presentation and your Tribal demonstration in front of judges. .

Both the Tribal Seal Essay and Google Slide Presentation are **Due Friday January 30, 2026 in the Seals & Stole** Google Classroom.

# STEP #1: REFLECTIVE ESSAY
# DUE FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2026

## REFLECTION ESSAY PROMPT: EXPLORING TRIBAL IDENTITY

### WHAT DOES TRIBAL IDENTITY MEAN TO YOU NOW? HOW HAS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF IT CHANGED OR DEEPENED? RELATE THE IMPORTANCE TO YOUR GOOGLE SLIDE PRESENTATION.

This reflective essay, will explore the theme of tribal identity—how it is formed, preserved, challenged, and celebrated—through the lens of your learning, experiences, and personal growth. As you reflect also consider how cultural traditions, community, language, history, and resilience shape your sense of identity and how your exploration of these ideas has impacted your future pathway. This is not just an academic essay—it's a personal reflection on what you've learned and how it has shaped you.

Your essay should address:

1. Tribal clans, where you come from, family recognition's, personal hobbies/interest/ activities.
2. One clear example or story (tribe, tradition, individual, or issue) that helped shape your understanding.
3. How this learning affected your own thinking, beliefs, or assumptions.
4. The importance of honoring and preserving Indigenous identities by explaining your cultural demonstration.
5. A personal reflection on how this connects to your own identity, community, or sense of belonging.
6. Support your reflection with specific examples (from class readings, research, presentations, or personal experience).
7. End with a thoughtful conclusion about how this topic will stay with you and guide you beyond high school.

Essay criteria:

- Write 2-3 pages, double-spaced, New Romans 12-point font, header, right corner: full name, tribe(s), school, bottom right corner page numbers,
- Use a first-person voice ("I learned," "I felt," "I now understand…")
- Cite your sources: interviews, books, websites, class, family discussions, news

- After you have written your essay, you should use the "Spelling and Grammar" check under the "Tool" tab.
- Students MUST have a teacher proofread the essay and make changes, prior to submitting the essay.
- At the end of your essay, write the teacher's name who proofread your essay.

# STEP #2: COMPLETE A GOOGLE SLIDE PRESENTATION
# DUE FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2025
## USE PHOTOS!

**Slide 1: Title Slide**
- Presentation title
- Your name
- Name of the tribe you're focusing on

**Slide 2: Introduction**
- Basic background on the tribe (location, language, any historical facts that matter)
- Why you chose this specific demonstration or tradition

**Slide 3–4: The Tribal Demonstration**
- Describe the tradition or practice
- Explain what it looks like, sounds like, or feels like (include photos or video clips if appropriate)
- How is it performed, used, or passed down?

**Slide 5: Cultural Meaning**
- What does this tradition mean to the tribe?
- How does it reflect their values, beliefs, or way of life?
- Is it spiritual, social, artistic, or practical?

**Slide 6: History and Change**
- Is this tradition ancient or more recent?
- Has it changed over time?
- How has colonization or modern life affected it?
- Are there efforts today to preserve or revive it?

**Slide 7: Personal Reflection**
- What did you learn that stuck with you?
- Did anything surprise you or change your thinking?
- Why do you think it's important that traditions like this are remembered and respected?

**Slide 8: Sources**
- List the resources you used (websites, books, videos, interviews)
- Use a clear and respectful format—MLA, APA, or bullet points with links/titles

🗣️ **Presentation Guidelines:**
Time: 5–7 minutes
Speak clearly and confidently—don't read every word on the slides
Make eye contact and engage your audience
Use visuals—images, art, maps, or short video clips to help judges understand
**Practice ahead of time!**

# **STEP #3:** PREPARE A CULTURAL DEMONSTRATION THIS WILL BE DONE IN MARCH DURING YOUR SCHEDULED PRESENTATION TIME

Prepare a tribal demonstration
(i.e., dance, music, food, quilt work, tying a hair bun, storytelling, history, clan system.) Students are encouraged to wear regalia for demonstration.

🧠 **Tips for a Strong Project:**

- Choose a tradition you truly find interesting
- Be respectful in how you represent the tribe and culture
- Think about why this matters—not just to the tribe, but to you and the world

*You are welcome to create and use a video, but you need to upload it to YouTube. (You can make it private). You can use the YouTube link to show it to the judges.*
*Note: Students had problems showing videos when they were embedded in the presentations.*

**Step #4: Recommendation letter OR form**

- Have someone write a recommendation letter or complete a recommendation form (back of this booklet or on Indian Education website).
- Upload it into the google classroom by January 30, 2026

Recomendation letters can be from teachers, counselors, employers, tribal leaders, etc. It cannot be from a family member.

*Earning Your*

# DISTINGUISHED LEARNING SEAL

The purpose of a Tribal Seal is to volunteer at least 30 hours at one or more organizations and relate your experience to your culture. Choose at least one Native American value from the rubric and discuss fully in an essay and Google Slide presentation.

- You must submit a Seals & Stole Application between Tuesday **September 2, 2025 and December 12, 2025.**
- This initial Seals & Stole Application will give you access to APS Indian Education Google Classroom.
- **Only one** Seals & Stole Application is requested. All students need to inicate which seals they are applying for.

**Step 1:**

Write a write a 2-3 page essay about your volunteer experience using the reflective prompts.

**Step 2:**

Create a Google Slide presentation using photos and/or video using the prompts. Practice your presentation.

**Step 3:**

Formally present your Google slide presentation in front of judges. .

Both the Distinguished Learning Seal Essay and Google Slide Presentation are **Due Friday February 20, 2026 in the Seals & Stole** Google Classroom.

## STEP #1: COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF 30 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK

Complete a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer work starting in January of your junior year through January of your senior year.

Students are encouraged to find opportunities that are culturally relevant.

Note: Students receiving a stipend or credit by another course, or being used for another award may not use the hours they are paid.

Attend Seals & Stole Workshop on Saturday, November 15 from 10 AM to noon OR or Tuesday, December, 2, 2025. from 6 to 8 PM.

## STEP #2: WRITE A 2-3 PAGE ESSAY DUE FEBRUARY 20, 2026

1. Identify the place(s) that you volunteered.
2. Describe:
    - Yourself.
    - The activities that you helped with.
    - Why you chose the place(s)
    - What you learned
    - What you would do different
    - How the experience affected you.
    - Choose one of the Native American values and describe how it relates to your service learning.

## STEP #3: CREATE A GOOGLE SLIDE PRESENTATION DUE FEBRUARY 20, 2026. USE PHOTOS!

- Describe yourself.
- Share the place(s) you volunteered and what you did.
- Explain why you chose the place(s) to volunteer.
- Describe what you learned.
- How did your volunteer service affect you?
- Choose one of the Native American values and how it relates to your volunteer experience.

## Step #4: Recommendation letter OR form

- Have someone write a recommendation letter or complete a recommendation form (back of this booklet or on Indian Education website).
- Upload it into the google classroom by February 20, 2026.

Recomendation letters can be from teachers, counselors, employers, tribal leaders, etc. It cannot be from a family member.

# Native American Values

## OHIYESA

### Generosity
*(sharing, show kindness, friendliness)*

How have you been nice to others?

How do you include others in what you do?

Have you spent time with someone who is in need?

How do you help during cultural activities?

How have you put other's needs first?

### Belonging
*(to greet, compliment, include, & share)*

Name your tribe or tribes.

Name your clan.

How do you introduce yourself?

What is the proper way to greeting others?

How can you show you are Native?

WISDOM

How can you come ready to learn?

In what cultural events have you participated?

How have you kept a promise?

How do you show leadership?

How do you care for Mother Earth?

### Independence
*(doing it on your own)*

Name a skill you have taught someone.

Name the values you have learned.

Name the four elements of the earth.

Name the four directions.

Name the four seasons.

### Mastery
*(able, knowing, skills, proficient)*

**Progress Statements:**

Generosity: _____

Belonging: _____

Mastery: _____

Independence: _____

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# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISTINGUISHED LEARNING SEAL

| Name of Organization | Activities / Location | Website / Contact Info |
|---|---|---|
| Kiva Club | Help with Nizhoni Days Pow Wow. | |
| NM Volunteers for the Outdoors | Work outside on trails, administrative support, cleaning tools.<br>Various areas in New Mexico | https://nmvfo.org/ |
| Locker 505 Clothing Bank OR APS clothing Bank | Promoting a clothing drive, helping with sorting, cleaning, and organizing clothing items and accessories. | https://locker505.org/ |
| Bling Show Fundraiser for Shine Program a collaboration with APS | Sort donated jewelry, learn how to identify gold and silver, help promote and/or set up jewelry show | Teddi Stella<br>stella4blingshow@yahoo.com<br>832-969-0897 |
| Enchanted Equine Adventures, LLC | Work with horses, riding lessons, and classes.<br>South Valley | https://enchantedequinenm.com/<br>Kendra Loring / (505) 501-4650<br>kjl818@msn.com |
| Indian Pueblo Cultural Center | Gardening<br>2401 12th Street NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104 | https://indianpueblo.org/<br>2401 12th Street NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104 |
| UNM Dream Makers OR FACES for the future Coalition: | Opportunities for students to learn about various healthcare professions. | https://hsc.unm.edu/news/2021/03/dream-makers.html<br>https://facesforthefuture.org/ |
| Make a Wish | Fundraising for families who have a family member who is dealing with a medical issue. | https://wish.org/ |
| I Repair NM | Fix phones, tablets, laptops, desktops and game controllers. Two locations: Coors and Rio Bravo or I-40 and Carlisle. | Irepairnm.com<br>(505) 610-0226 |

The above are suggestions. You can choose any place you want to volunteer. There will be more opportunities posted in the Google Seals & Stole classroom after you apply. Document the days and hours you volunteer and take photos for your Google slide presentation.

*Earning Your*

# APS NATIVE AMERICAN BILINGUAL SEAL

## The purpose of a APS Bilingual Seal is to show that you have a basic understanding of the Navajo or Zuni language.

- You must submit a Seals & Stole Application between Tuesday **September 2, 2025 and December 12, 2025**
- This initial Seals & Stole Application will give you access to APS Indian Education Google Classroom.
- **Only one** Seals & Stole Application is requested.

## STEP #1: SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE NAVAJO I AND II OR ZUNI I AND II

Coursework from other schools that are equivalent are accepted as well.
Transcripts must be submitted for verification

## STEP #2: SUBMIT AN INTRODUCTION IN YOUR TRIBAL LANGUAGE BY DECEMBER 19, 2025 IN GOOGLE CLASSROOM.

This can be written or it can be a short video of yourself and will be uploaded into the Google classroom. Introductions should include: clans, grandparents, parents, siblings, age, school, and where you are originally from. Note: Accommodations will be made for tribes that have cultural protocols that do not allow recordings or written language.

## STEP #3: PRESENT LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE TO AN AUDIENCE OF JUDGES FROM THE COMMUNITY (MARCH 2026)

This demonstration will include your introduction in your home language, ability to Identify objects in language, and be Answer various questions in language.

# NEW MEXICO STATE SEAL OF BILINGUALISM-BILITERACY

**The purpose of the New Mexico state Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy is to show PROFICIENCY OF THE LANGUAGE AS DETERMINED BY THE TRIBE.**
The Navajo Nation is the only tribe currently offering this.

Definition of Navajo Language Proficiency: Student must be able to speak accurately, easily, conjugate verbs correctly, convey meaning through complex sentences, and communicate effectively and competently.

**Seal of Navajo Bilingualism:**

- Proficiency assessment for graduating high school seniors only.
- A form is sent to each school district to collect the names of the students, and their contact info and school names.
- Seniors must complete the assessment at one of scheduled locations and dates.
- Seniors have the option of retaking the assessment.
- Only those students who successfully pass the proficiency assessment will be recommended by their school official(s) to the State.

**Content of Bilingual Seal Assessment:**

- Appropriate introduction of self, clan, born for, maternal grandfathers, paternal grandfathers, where their mother's home area is, their parents and grandparents, related clans, personal interests, hobbies, goals, etc... ).
- Oral presentation on a given topic. Topics provided by Office of Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment Development (OSCAD)
- Answer a set of questions. (Questions provided by OSCAD)
- Summary/analysis of a video clip on a cultural topic.
- Entire assessment must be performed in Navajo.

**Scoring Criteria:**

- Scoring will be based on a language proficiency rubric in the following categories:
- Introduction
- Oral Presentation
- Answering Questions

**RECOMMENDATION FORM**

**Student's Name _____**

**Person completing evaluations name _____**

**Relationship (i.e. teacher, supervisor, pastor, etc.) _____**
**Recommendations should not be from family members.**

**As part of the application process, please rate the student by circling the category that best describes the student in the following areas:**

**ACADEMICS:**

**Excellent Good Average Poor**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Excellent Good Average Poor**

**ATTITUDE:**

**Excellent Good Average Poor**

**LEADERSHIP:**

**Excellent Good Average Poor**

**CHARACTER:**

**Excellent Good Average Poor**

**If more space is needed, please attach another sheet to this recommendation form.**

_____ _____

**Signature Date**



**Blank forms available on the APS Indian Education website.**

# VERIFICATION FORM FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS

**NAME** _____ **DATE** _____

| Date | Time In | Time Out | Total Hours | Place Volunteer/ | Supervisor Signature |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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**NOTE: YOU CAN USE ONE FORM FOR MULTIPLE PLACES.**
**MAKE ADDITIONAL COPIES AS NEEDED.**
**BLANK FORM ON INDIAN EDUCATION WEBSITE.**

The Native American Seals & Stole Award began in 2011 as a way to honor and recognize Native American students in Albuquerque Public Schools.

For more information visit www.aps.edu/indian-education/programs-and-activities/recognitions-and-awards/seals-and-stole-award

OR email sara.money@aps.edu