

On the Road with AIFI's Tribal Touring Program: Empowering and Educating Native Youth through Film

San Francisco, CA – The American Indian Film Institute (AIFI) is proud to announce the summer dates for the 2011 Tribal Touring Program. The **Tribal Touring Program** is designed to expand AIFI's media services to tribal and rural communities across the United States. The Tribal Touring Program, presented in the summer, uses media as a tool for cultural and economic development. It is structured around **media empowerment & literacy, digital training workshops, community film festival** and, months later, **youth-to-media maker dialogue** at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco.

"The Tribal Touring Program is a bridge to our communities—especially bringing media technology to our reservation/rancheria youth. Our youth retain their tribal stories—by placing digital video cameras, sound, lighting equipment and computers/Final Cut 5 in their hands—we empower youth to embrace media and continue to create a wider perspective, content, and marketplace for shaping and defining our contemporary Indian lifeways." AIFI Founder/ Director Michael Smith.

AIFI Host-Partners during the Tribal Touring Program's 2001-2002 pilot phase included **Robinson Rancheria, Santa Rosa Rancheria, Sycuan Reservation, Soboba Reservation and Bishop Paiute Tribe** in California, and the **Yakama Nation** in Washington. Among the Host-Partners for programs in Summer 2003 were **Soboba**

Reservation, Susanville Rancheria, and Hoopa Reservation; Host-Partners in 2004:Hoopa Reservation, CA, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, CA, and Quechan Reservation, AZ; Host-Partners in 2005: United Auburn Indian Community, CA and Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, NV. Host tribes for Summer 2006: Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, AZ; Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation,CT; Washoe Native TANF Program, CA; Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, NV; and United Auburn Indian Community, CA. Host-partners in 2007: Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, AZ; Hoopa Tribe, CA; and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, CA. More recently, Host-partners in 2008: Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians, CA; Stop the Violence Coalition, CA; Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, CA; Host-partners in 2009: Stop the Violence Coalition, Hoopa, CA, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Brooks, CA, United Auburn Indian Community,Auburn, CA; Host-partners in 2010: Yocha Dehe Band of Wintun Nation, Brooks,CA; Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Rohert Park, CA; Nisqually IndianTribe, Olympia, WA.

The Tribal Touring Program has traveled to California, Arizona, Connecticut, Washington, and Nevada reservations offering Native youths, ages 13-20, the opportunity to participate in this intensive 10 –day media academy.

The 2011 Tribal Touring Program will be traveling to three communities, including: Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Brooks, CA; Nisqually Indian Tribe, Olympia, WA; and Lummi Nation, Bellingham, WA. Three tour dates are available for this summer program. If interested please contact the American Indian Film Institute.

AIFI TRIBAL TOURING PROGRAM

PROPOSED DATES - SUMMER 2011

June 9 - June 18: Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Brooks, CA

June 23 - July 2: Open TTP dates

July 7 - July 16: Open TTP dates

July 21 - July 30: Nisqually Indian Tribe, Olympia, WA;

August 4 - August 13: Open TTP dates

August 17 - August 27: Lummi Nation, Bellingham, WA

The 2011 Tribal Touring Program promises to be an educational, fun, and career-directed experience for all Native youth participants who are taught by award- winning Indian media professionals experienced in digital video production. At each tour-stop, 4-6 short films (5 – 10 minutes each) are scripted, shot, edited, and premiered at each tribal host site. A 3-Nite “Best of the American Indian Film Festival” precedes the premiere of youth films. All youth films created at each Tribal Touring Program community will also be screened in a special program at the 2011 – 36th annual American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco.

For further information regarding AIFI’s Tribal Touring Program or annual Film Festival please contact the American Indian Film Institute (AIFI) at 415-554-0525, or email: mls@aifisf.com

The American Indian Film Institute (AIFI) is a non-profit media arts center founded in 1979 to foster understanding of the culture, traditions and issues of contemporary Native Americans.

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