



**United Keetoowah Band
Of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
Office of Historic Preservation**

P.O. Box 746 • Tahlequah, OK 74465
4547 S Whitmore Lane • Tahlequah, OK 74464
Phone: (918) 871-2852 • Fax: (918) 414-4038
awatt@ukb-nsn.gov | ukbthpo@ukb-nsn.gov



04/20/2023

Bi-Regional United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma

Indian Youth Service Corps

The UKB And Forest Service Regions 8 and 9 have collaborated on the creation of a bi-regional workforce development program to allow tribal youth to take an active role in the co-stewardship process of Cherokee ancestral homelands over the course of two 4-week programs this summer, **06/05/2023 to 06/30/2023** at the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois, and **07/10/2023 to 08/04/2023** at the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee. This program is managed by UKB's Historic Preservation & Education departments.

The UKB crews will be supported by the Heritage Program Managers & Tribal Liaisons of each forest who work to provide a diverse range of career exploration across program areas. Participants will also receive natural & cultural resource enrichment & conservation education.

Tribal youth will gain Public Land Corps (PLC) hours which will be used by the Forest Service hiring authorities to give tribal youth participants an advantage in career opportunities within the Forest Service. The initial Indian Youth Service Corps is planned for 4 years (8 trips total) with trips annually over the summers for an opportunity to earn the maximum amount (640) of PLC hours.

PLC crews will be exposed to careers and trainings within the USDA Forest Service through hands-on experience. In addition, focused projects on reforestation work are identified as follows:

- Cultural surveys for reforestation and stand improvement projects and archaeological activities.
- Stocking surveys (Identification of trees and vegetation)
- Non-native invasive plant treatments (requires ability to use herbicide under the direction of USFS certified employee)
- Nursery services to support growing seedlings (seed viability surveys, seed collecting, planting, and tending plantation seedlings)
- Reforestation needs assessments (project planning and implementation, and monitoring)
- Tree Improvement area maintenance, measurements, data collection, and capacity
- NEPA and Tribal consultation processes
- Collaboration with the Southern Research Station to further advance reforestation on culturally significant tree species.

- Identification of Bald Eagle nests
- Rivercane restoration and conservation
- Tribal monitoring of partner reforestation efforts
- Identification and protection of eligible heritage sites
- Internship opportunities (virtual and in person)

Crew members (tribal youth participants) **will be paid** up to 40 hours per week for up to 160 hours per program at a rate of \$15 an hour. Room and board will be provided by the forest service as will three meals per day. UKB and veteran preference but all tribal youth are encouraged to apply. **Ages 18 to 30 are eligible (35 if you are a veteran).**

Things to consider if you're interested:

Please pack a good pair of boots with ankle support and other outdoor wear such as long socks and pants to help protect you from bugs and vegetation. Terrain will be difficult at times and unfortunately in the summer bugs and vegetation will be out in full force. Bug spray will be provided as will poison ivy kits and whatnot.

Other gear such as PPE, hard hats, vests, tools, etc will be provided but if you have personal preference you are allowed to bring your own. For example, I usually like to use my own safety vest, briar cutters, and compass over the provided ones.

Travel will be provided from UKB Campus (Tahlequah, OK) to the Shawnee (IL) and Cherokee Forests (TN). Date, time, and google map location/address of the departure point will be made known in advance.

There will be recreational activities available (canoeing and hiking were popular in the past). Other activities include museum tours, scenic sites, local amenities, and much more.

You may attend/apply for both programs per summer and are not limited to one. Prior participants will have preference for future summers to help build up total PLC hours.

A valid Driver's License is required. A W9 will need to be filled out plus a liability waiver. These forms will be provided once the application packets are completed and released. Application packets are anticipated to go out around the first week of May.

If you have any additional questions or wish to be emailed when applications go out, please contact:

Acee Watt
Acting THPO
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
Office of Historic Preservation
awatt@ukb-nsn.gov
918-871-2852



**United Keetoowah Band
Of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
Office of Historic Preservation**

P.O. Box 746 • Tahlequah, OK 74465
4547 S Whitmore Lane • Tahlequah, OK 74464
Phone: (918) 871-2852 • Fax: (918) 414-4038
awatt@ukb-nsn.gov | ukbthpo@ukb-nsn.gov



If you are interested in applying please fill out the questions below and get them to me either in person at the UKB Education Building or via email at awatt@ukb-nsn.gov or jwatson@ukb-nsn.gov

Name:

Age:

Tribe:

Email and/or Phone:

Will you be interested in attending both programs this summer (2023)? 4 weeks in the Shawnee Forest and 4 weeks in the Cherokee Forest?

If you only wish to attend one program, could you please specify your preference of Shawnee or Cherokee Forest?

Do you have a specific background in Environmental Science or Historic Preservation (prior experience either professionally or academically for example) or a specific field that you are interested in pursuing?