

The 23 Native Nations

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
Cheyenne River Sioux
Crow Creek Sioux
Flandreau Santee Sioux
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Grand Portage Band of Chippewa
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Lower Brule Sioux
Lower Sioux Community
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Oglala Sioux
Prairie Island Indian Community
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
Rosebud Sioux
Shakopee-Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux
Spirit Lake Nation
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Three Affiliated Tribes – Mandan, Hidatsa,
& Arikara Nation
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
Upper Sioux Community
White Earth Band of Ojibwe
Yankton Sioux



Information Sheet

Native Nations Rebuilders Program

Next application deadline: Fall 2010

Program Background

The **Native Nations Rebuilders Program** is the Bush Foundation's response to a need expressed by leaders of the 23 Native nations the Foundation serves—those that share the same geography as Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

These elected leaders say that developing and support **emerging Native leaders**, as well as **existing community leaders**, will be crucial to their nation-building success over the long term.

In 2008, the Foundation committed itself to a 10-year effort to support the nation-building activities that each of the 23 Native nations chooses to pursue, understanding that each tribe knows best the ways in which nation-building will help its people.

In early 2009, Foundation staff began meeting with the elected leaders of these nations. Many of these leaders already had a strong commitment to nation-building and were leading tribes that had made significant progress in rebuilding their nations. It is through these meetings that the importance of building a cadre of Rebuilders emerged.

The Native Nations Rebuilders Program complements the nation-building work of elected tribal leaders. It offers up to 30 emerging leaders each year an opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills and nation-building knowledge so they may be instrumental in moving their nations, in cooperation with elected leadership, toward realization of their tribes' unique goals.

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How the Program Works

Each Rebuilder will participate in a two-year process. In the first year, the Foundation and its partner, the Native Nations Institute/Harvard Project, will support Rebuilders by providing access to ideas and information, expanded networks, leadership training and other resources for nation-building through in-person educational sessions, distance learning and web-based approaches.

In the second year, Rebuilders will implement the action plans created in the first year and engage in practical nation-building efforts within their communities. Each cohort of Rebuilders will also serve as mentors for subsequent Rebuilder cohorts.

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

The Foundation seeks candidates who are at least 18 years of age, an enrolled citizen of one of the 23 Native nations and living on or near his or her nation's lands. A selection committee composed of individuals knowledgeable about and sympathetic to the challenges of nation-building will evaluate each Rebuilder candidate according to the candidate's commitment to Native self-governance, knowledge of the issues facing his or her nation and current involvement with his or her nation.

The Rebuilder's Commitment

Each Rebuilder is asked to commit to participate consistently in ongoing Rebuilder activities throughout the two-year period, to actively share knowledge with peers and with his or her nation's government and to develop and implement nation-building action plans.

Financial Support

In addition to covering the cost of instruction, materials and facilitation for Rebuilder events, the Bush Foundation will also reimburse Rebuilders for the cost of transportation to and from events, as well as for the cost of meals and lodging while at events.

How to Apply

Applications will open for Rebuilders Cohort 2 at www.bushfoundation.org in Fall 2010. To be added to the Rebuilders mailing list and receive notification when applications open, email us at vpnativenations@bushfoundation.org.

Questions or Assistance

Please contact Jaime Pinkham or June Noronha of the Bush Foundation at (651) 227-0891 if you have questions or need assistance. Find complete details of the Native Nations Rebuilders Program at www.bushfoundation.org.

Important Dates in 2010

January 27	Rebuilders Cohort announced
February 10-12	First Rebuilder session
May 24-26	Second Rebuilder session
August 16-18	Third Rebuilder session
Fall	Applications open for Rebuilders Cohort 2
December 8-10	Fourth Rebuilder session

About the Bush Foundation

The Bush Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, and in the 23 sovereign tribal nations that share the same geography, by strengthening organizational, community and individual leadership.

The Foundation pursues this mission through its three *Goals for a Decade*:

- Develop courageous leaders and engage entire communities in solving problems
- Support the self-determination of Native nations
- Increase educational achievement

The Foundation's specific goal around supporting self-determination is that, by 2020, all 23 sovereign Native nations are exercising greater self-determination and actively rebuilding the infrastructure of nationhood.

www.bushfoundation.org