

# Leadership Camp

## Sovereign Native Youth Leadership

*November 2-4, 2013*

*Located at Mahoney State Park near Ashland, Nebraska, the Sovereign Native Youth Leadership Camp presented by the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs will offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Native Junior High and High School students from around Nebraska to attend this camp featuring an outstanding array of speakers from around the country.*

**NCIA**

*Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs*

# Sovereign Native Youth Leadership Camp

Our 2013 Sovereign Native Youth Leadership Camp is scheduled for November 2 through November 4 at Mahoney State Park just off of Interstate 80 near Ashland, Nebraska. It will bring the best and brightest Native and non-Native presenters together to lead and inspire Native junior high and high school students



Mahoney State Park

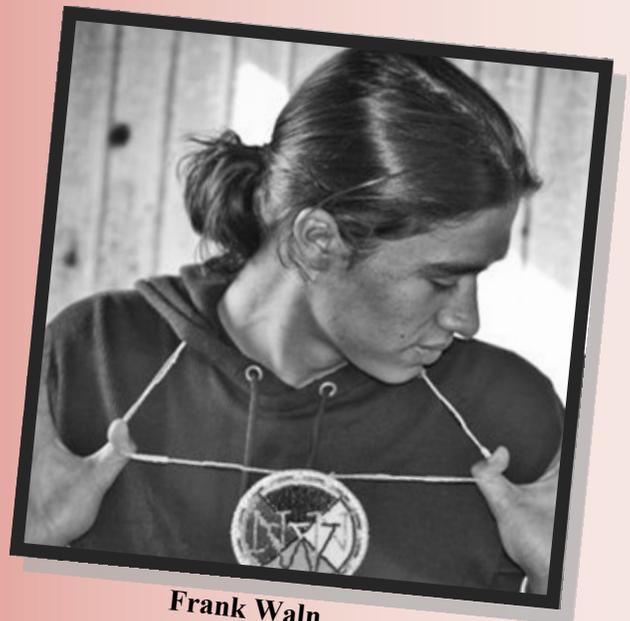


1491's

*The first day of the camp will start off with a bang with members of the high energy Native film group the 1491's. This group produces a variety of video pieces ranging from biting cultural satire, serious political statements to just plain goofiness. They will work with the youth to help them produce their own unique video piece giving voice to their personal experiences, hopes and dreams.*

*The camp will feature an outstanding group of camp counselors, including Native attorneys, teachers, college students and others with a very high counselor to student ratio allowing for a great deal of support and involvement with all student participants.*

*The first day's presentations will conclude with Frank Waln an award winning Hip/Hop artist/producer / performer and Gates Millennium Scholar. Frank stands for media that speaks truth to power and works toward Indigenous peoples being happy, healthy, and respected.*



Frank Waln

*Day two* will pick up with completion of work with the 1491's followed by a trip to the Opera!

*Carmen* is the story of a femme fatale gypsy, and Don José, a soldier with a past. Witness their fated – and fatal – collision in this gripping production shown in true verismo style. Given its unrivaled procession of operatic greatest hits and immense cast of soldiers, gypsies, smugglers, and Toreadors, *Carmen* is a perennial favorite, beloved by opera devotees and newcomers alike. As a special treat, opera conductor Hal France will meet with the students the evening before the opera to talk to the students and explain the opera and what to expect at this performance.

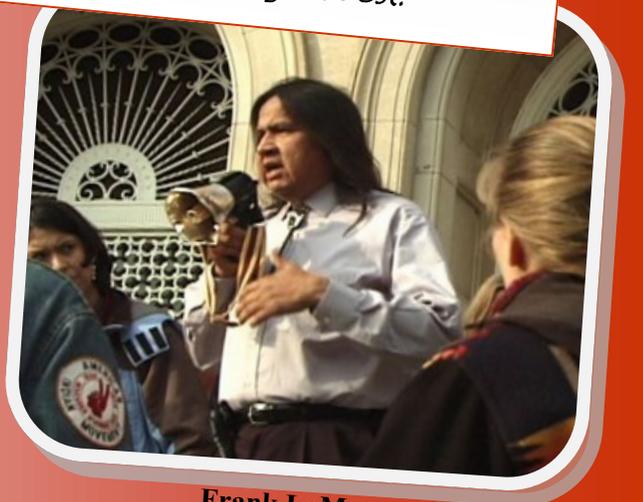


Frank LaMere, will open *the last day of the leadership camp*. He is a member of the Winnebago Tribe, and is a noted social and political activist from South Sioux City, Nebraska. He has served on numerous boards and commissions and has been honored for his efforts on many fronts. He was the recipient of the 2001 Peacemaker of the Year award given by the Nebraskans For Peace, the 2011 War Eagle Human Rights Award from the City of Sioux City and is noted for his efforts combatting the illegal flow of alcohol from Whiteclay, Nebraska onto the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Keynote speaker Gyasi Ross, is a member of the Blackfeet Tribe. He is a father, a writer, an entrepreneur and an attorney. He is a graduate of Columbia Law School, and currently practices law representing tribes for Crowell Law Offices-Tribal Advocacy Group and is co-owner and Vice-President of Red Vinyl Records. His first book of short stories and poems, *Don't Know Much About Indians (but I wrote a book about us anyways)* was published in August 2011 and is in its second printing. The book has made an impact in Indian Country and beyond. Gyasi is also a frequent contributor to Indian Country Today Media Network, and has contributed to other publications including *The Seattle Times* and *The Huffington Post*.



Gyasi Ross



Frank LaMere

What was one important learning experience that impacted you during the camp?

*“Never ever let an opportunity pass you by, and always volunteer because one opportunity can change your perspective on what you want to do in life.”*



How can you use the learning experiences in your future pathway?

*“I can use these experiences to never let anything stop me from my dream!”*

How can you use the learning experiences in your future pathway?

*It shows me that no matter how many hardships I endure, or how small my window of opportunity, I can succeed!”*

Many of the leadership type things that our students have attended in the past seem to flow around a patch-work, made-up system of “traditional Native values” applied to the world we live in today. And the students don’t believe, so it doesn’t work. This weekend was refreshing and has the potential for greater impact because it was full of practical advice and is much more relevant to the world that the students actually live in.”



For more information about the project or to attend the camp check out our website at: [www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us/leaders](http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us/leaders) or contact our office at 402-471-3475 or e-mail: [scott.w.shafer@nebraska.gov](mailto:scott.w.shafer@nebraska.gov)

*Sovereign Native Youth Leadership Camp funding courtesy of Claire M. Hubbard Foundation*