Congratulations! Thank you for joining the Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) National Native Youth Network! The Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) and Gen-I are excited to work with you to help elevate your voice, provide you with pathways to opportunity, and connect you with other Native youth. This packet includes information about the Generation Indigenous initiative, especially regarding the National Native Youth Network (or “Gen-I Network”). You can visit the Gen-I Network Map to see other youth in the Gen-I Network, Gen-I Challenge Takers, and Gen-I Ambassadors in your area.

If you are on social media, connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat @GenIndigenous and by using the hashtag #IAmGenI.

We hope you are excited about becoming a member of the Gen-I Network. If you have any questions about the Gen-I Network, Gen-I Challenge, or Gen-I Ambassador program, have ideas to share about Gen-I, or want to get more involved, please feel free to reach out to CNAY by emailing generationindigenous@gmail.com or call at (202) 721-3505.

Sincerely,

CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH
www.cnay.org | @Center4Native | #NativeYouth
The Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) initiative focuses on improving the lives of Native youth through new investments and increased engagement. This initiative takes a comprehensive, culturally-responsive approach to ensure all young Native people can reach their full potential. Gen-I helps improve the lives of Native youth by promoting a national dialogue, and policies and programs to mobilize and cultivate the next generation of Native leaders.

"[NATIVE YOUTH] HAVE SO MUCH PROMISE - AND WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE EVERY TOOL, EVERY OPPORTUNITY THEY NEED TO FULFILL THAT PROMISE."

First Lady Michelle Obama

FOR NATIVE YOUTH. BY NATIVE YOUTH.

Gen-I was launched on the heels of President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama’s visit to the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Nation in North Dakota in 2014 where they had the privilege to meet local youth who shared their struggles — and their inspiring stories of hope and determination. Upon their return to the White House, the President told his staff to “find new avenues of opportunity for our Native youth . . . [because] if we do, there’s no question of the great things they can achieve – not just for their own families but for their nation and for the United States.”
The Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) manages the National Native Youth Network of Gen-I or “Gen-I Network” to provide a sustainable platform to connect, engage, and develop opportunities for Native youth. The network enables the exchange of resources ranging from attainment of higher education to career opportunities, professional network-building, peer-to-peer mentorship, and community initiative development. It also provides a platform to elevate Native youth voices and stories into the national dialogue.

To join the growing Gen-I Network, simply create an account on the new Gen-I Network online portal. If you are looking to expand your opportunities, youth can take the Gen-I Challenge. The Challenge is a pledge to create positive change in Indian Country by initiating positive change in your community.
CREATING YOUR ACCOUNT & PROFILE

To create an account and join the Gen-I Network, you can connect via e-mail, Facebook, or LinkedIn. Start by clicking ‘Create New Account’ and provide your name, email, and affiliation (i.e. are you a student - native youth, staff - working with native youth, alumni - involved in the network before).

Click here!

Enter your information here!

Welcome to the Gen-I Network!

If you’ve taken the Gen-I Challenge, create your account here to join the Gen-I Network. If you haven’t taken the Challenge, go back to find our more or take the Challenge today!
KEEP US UPDATED, SHARE YOUR STORY, & ENGAGE

When you login to the Network you can update your profile and let us know your most current contact information, how you would best like to be contacted, your educational/professional history, interests, how you got involved, and so much more! By keeping us updated, you help us better support the work you are and hope to do.

Share your story! There are many ways to share your voice and story on the Network. You can directly share on the Share Your Story Tab, or if you've taken the Challenge you can fill out the Challenge Taker story form.

You can also take advantage of the Network directory and search for other Gen-I Network members on the map, ask questions of your peers (and us), have quick access to News & Updates, and upload photos to the gallery. Whether they are pictures from your Gen-I Challenge, time as an Ambassador, or out doing positive change work. How you use the Network is totally up to you!

Share your story here.

Learn more about the Gen-I Challenge on Page 8.

Click to learn more about the 2018 Movement Builders Fellows project to develop & share narratives.

Want to take the next step in your leadership & advocacy development? Learn more on Page 9.

Reclaiming Our Narrative

Share Your Story

Take the Gen-I Challenge

Become an Ambassador!
The Gen-I Challenge is a pledge for Native youth to do something positive for their communities. This can include organizing a community event, being active as a youth group or council, or simply serving as a mentor and positive role model – anything that creates a positive impact! The Gen-I Challenge is for Indigenous youth between the ages of 14 and 24 years old. Tribes, non-profits, educational institutions, after-school programs, etc; can also accept the Challenge by sharing how they plan to support Native youth Challenge Takers.

**Step 1: Accept the Challenge**
Tell us what issues you want to address and how you plan to tackle them.

**Step 2: Act within 30 Days**
Work with your community or other youth to plan something positive.

**Step 3: Capture & Document**
Jot down a short summary (3-4 sentences) and take photos/videos.

**Step 4: Share Your Story**
Share on your social media, tag us @genindigenous & use #IAmGenI, and share on the network.

**Step 5: Engage!**
Keep your profile updated, connect with peers, answer/ask questions.
**LEADERS AMONG LEADERS: GEN-I AMBASSADORS**

Ambassadors are Native youth who have accepted and completed the Gen-I Challenge and elected to become an Ambassador. These leaders have volunteered to share their perspectives on Native youth priorities—like culture and language revitalization, sacred lands, health and wellness, etc.—through writing op-eds, attending community gatherings, social media campaigns, twitterchats, and potentially representing a youth perspective at meetings with the Administration, members of Congress, and other important decision-makers - at all levels of government.

Ambassadors also help share information about resources with their peers, and serve as representatives of their communities, Gen-I, and CNAY. Gen-I Ambassadors come to CNAY through various channels, including as Gen-I Challenge Takers, from Gen-I programs (such as Creative Native and Fresh Tracks), and through the Champions for Change program. We work with Ambassadors to develop their leadership and advocacy skills, and provide national platforms for them to share their stories.

"GEN-I GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOT ONLY GROW AS A PERSON, BUT HELP OTHERS GROW AS WELL."

*Hamilton Seymour, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Gen-I Ambassador*
AMBASSADOR ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, & EXPECTATIONS

ROLES

Gen-I Ambassadors will serve as spokespersons for their communities, provide perspectives on Native youth priorities, and connect with other Native youth.

More specifically, Ambassadors will be engaged in the following ways:

- **Elevate Youth Voices.** Ambassadors will become recognized leaders by CNAY. CNAY and other Gen-I partners regularly invite Ambassadors to speak publicly, assist with visits to communities, and join communications efforts (op-eds, blog posts, social media campaigns) to elevate the youth perspective and priorities into media outlets.

- **Pathways to Opportunity.** Ambassadors will have incredible opportunities to develop and practice leadership skills, as well as receive up-to-date information about scholarships, internships, job announcements etc.

- **Connect to other Native Youth.** Building cross-cultural and inter-tribal connections between Native youth is an important element of the Ambassador network. Ambassadors will receive the tools to develop lasting relationships and create a strong foundation of young advocates across Indian Country. As well as the tools and resources to use the Network portal to help foster building the peer-to-peer community both virtually and in person.
RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure continued and active engagement in the Network, Ambassadors should plan for the following responsibilities:

- **Actively recruit** other Native youth leaders who you believe would make great Youth Ambassadors and invite them to join the Network.
- **Keep profile updated** in order to keep partners up to date with your involvement in your community and the Ambassador program. Updates and stories from Ambassadors are regularly shared on CNAY’s blog and social media.
- **Stay engaged** in communications strategies that might include drafting op-eds, articles, and blog posts on issues they are passionate about and participating in Gen-I’s social media campaigns.
- **Represent** Generation Indigenous and its mission to empower Native youth during events and programs when invited by CNAY or partners.
- **Keep up to date** with Gen-I programming and share opportunities widely with youth in your network and communities. Make sure to sign up for the Gen-I Native Opportunities Weekly (NOW) emails to receive updates about opportunities and resources.

EXPECTATIONS

As Ambassadors for the National Native Youth Network, participating youth agree to adhere to the following expectations:

- **Be Proactive.** Provide insight and ideas about how Gen-I Ambassadors can work with the Gen-I Network and partners, including CNAY. Share ideas about youth resources, events or community efforts that relate to Gen-I. You can contact CNAY at any point to share your thoughts and ideas at cnayinfo@aspeninstitute.org or (202) 736-2905.
- **Be Engaged & Stay Active.** Stay involved on the Gen-I Network portal, provide updates about your work, and follow Gen-I social media outlets to stay engaged and informed in Gen-I’s work. Ambassadors are expected to communicate with and encourage one another to ensure peer-to-peer accountability.
EXPECTATIONS

- **Be a Positive Role Model.** Represent Gen-I, the National Native Youth Network, and your community in a respectful manner.
- **Be a Community Liaison.** Share information about resources and youth opportunities with your community and peers to spread the word about important and timely updates and opportunities for Native youth.
USEFUL LINKS

THE BASICS
About the Gen-I Network
https://www.cnay.org/generation-indigenous/
Take the Gen-I Challenge
https://alumni.generationindigenous.org/forms/detail/gen-i-challenge
Create Your Gen-I Account
https://alumni.generationindigenous.org/login
Share Your Story
https://alumni.generationindigenous.org/forms/detail/share-your-story-challenge-taker

CONNECT
Join the Network
https://alumni.generationindigenous.org/
Update Your Profile
https://alumni.generationindigenous.org/register?via=email
Sign-Up for Native Opportunities Weekly
https://www.cnay.org/action-hub/get-updates/
Follow Gen-I on Social Media
Facebook  Twitter  Instagram

IN THE NEWS
Generation Indigenous
https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/nativeamericans/generation-indigenous
Native Now
Teen Vogue
https://www.teenvogue.com/search?q=native+youth
MTV: Generation Indigenous Rising
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4rsD7iXHAw
QUESTIONS? COMMENTS. IDEAS!

CONTACT CNAY AT
GENERATIONINDIGENOUS@GMAIL.COM
OR
CNAYINFO@ASPENINSTITUTE.ORG
OR
CALL 202-736-3554