



INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS

WEAR ORANGE FOR NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Recognizing September 30th

On behalf of BGCA Native Services and the Indigenous Connections Movement Resource Group, we would like to recognize the “**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**” on September 30th, a day to remember Indigenous boarding school survivors, descendants and deceased students.

First recognized in 2013, this day has been annually declared in recognition of the harm that the Native American boarding school system did to generations of Native families and communities.

These boarding schools were created by the Federal government and missionaries to assimilate Native children and forced the removal of traditional practices, clothing, hair, personal belongings and behaviors reflective of their culture.

Please join us in standing in solidarity by wearing orange shirts or ribbons, which commemorate the day and raise awareness for the children that were affected – including those who were never reunited with their families – as well as those who have experienced the enduring impact of historical trauma.

THE FACTS:

- Starting in 1879, Native American children were forcibly removed from their families and **sent to Indigenous boarding schools hundreds of miles away**. At these facilities, **they were beaten, starved or abused when they spoke their Native languages or engaged in their culture**.
- By 1926, nearly 83% of Indigenous school-age children were attending boarding schools.
- Overall, **there were more than 523 government-funded and often church-run, Indigenous boarding schools** across the United States and Canada in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Even with the 1978 passing of the Indian Child Welfare Act, some schools **continued to operate into the 1970s**, with the last government run boarding school closing in the 1990s.
- Today, **Tribal Nations have worked hard to have oversight of their Native youths’ education** with the Bureau of Indian Education in controlling the remaining boarding schools open today.

