About Us

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) gained federal recognition as a tribe in 1935. We are proud of the legacy our forefathers built for us in the areas of self-governance, self-determination, and tribal administration.

More than 31,000 tribal citizens are enrolled with Tlingit & Haida and we employ over 200 staff. The Tribe administers over 65 grants, operates an annual budget of approximately 28 million dollars and has a solid track record of political stability and self-governance.

Our headquarters are in Juneau, Alaska, but our commitment to serving the Tlingit & Haida people extends throughout the United States.

Southeast Alaska

The Tlingit & Haida people as a whole are among the largest, most isolated, and most geographically dispersed tribal populations nationwide.

Our sacred homeland encompasses over 43,000 square miles of Southeast Alaska coastline, also known as the “panhandle,” which is bordered by Canada on the north, east, and south, and the Gulf of Alaska on the west.

Southeast Alaska is a temperate rainforest that consists of thousands of islands known as the Alexander Archipelago and a thin strip of mainland. The many sounds, channels, bays, coves, and natural harbors create a maze of waterways between the islands and mainland.

Spectacular views exist throughout our homeland, with a wealth of natural resources including rugged mountains and rocky slopes, massive trees, and the breathtaking glaciers and ice fields along our coastline. Clear streams and quiet bays are the spawning grounds for many types of fish vital to our people.

Our rich cultural history is built on a solid foundation of respect for culture, elders, clans, the bounty of the land and waters, and the land itself.

Tlingit and Haida nations have occupied Southeast Alaska from time immemorial; they are the foundation of our tribal sovereignty.

Specific protocols vital to the Tlingit and Haida tribal societies govern ceremonies including potlatches, celebration of a birth, marriage, giving a clan name, raising a totem pole, honoring a leader on the departed, and other occasions.

Our History

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Our Mission

Preserve our sovereignty, enhance our economic and cultural resources, and promote self-sufficiency and self-governance for our citizens.

Southeast Traditional Tribal Values

• Discipline and Obedience to the Traditions of Our Ancestors
• Respect for Self, Elders and Others
• Respect for Nature and Property
• Patience
• Pride in Family, Clan and Traditions

• Be Strong in Mind, Body and Spirit
• Humor
• Hold Each Other Up
• Listen Well and with Respect
• Speak with Care
• We are Stewards of the Air, Land and Sea
• Reverence for Our Creator
• Live in Peace and Harmony
• Be Strong and Have Courage

“Our Way of Life”

• Discipline and Obedience to the Traditions of Our Ancestors
• Respect for Self, Elders and Others
• Respect for Nature and Property
• Patience
• Pride in Family, Clan and Traditions

• Be Strong in Mind, Body and Spirit
• Humor
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• Listen Well and with Respect
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