

WHY IS TRIBAL REGALIA PERMITTED?

Arizona law (A.R.S. § 15-348) protects the right of eligible students to wear tribal regalia and objects of cultural significance at graduation ceremonies.

The recognition of tribal regalia is connected to the unique legal status of tribal nations and the longstanding relationship between tribal governments, states, and the federal government.

The purpose is not to provide a special privilege, but to recognize the political and legal status of tribal nations and the cultural traditions associated with tribal citizenship.

OTHER EXAMPLES OF TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY IN EDUCATION

- Native American/Indigenous Education Departments
- Johnson O'Malley Program
- Title VI Indian Education
- Native American Language Courses

FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT
TRIBAL REGALIA AT
GRADUATION VISIT OUR
WEBSITE



www.azed.gov/oie/tribal-regalia-graduations



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WHY CAN NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS WEAR TRIBAL REGALIA AT GRADUATION?

Understanding Tribal Sovereignty and
Graduation Traditions



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*An informational guide for students, families,
educators, and community members.*



WHAT IS TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY?

Tribal nations are sovereign governments.

Long before Arizona became a state, tribal nations governed their communities, lands, and citizens.

Today, federally recognized tribes continue to exercise governmental authority and maintain a government-to-government relationship with the United States.



WHAT DOES TRIBAL REGALIA REPRESENT?

Tribal regalia represents:

- Tribal identity & citizenship
- Family and community connections
- Cultural traditions
- Personal achievement

These items are comparable to symbols of membership, service, or affiliation like a passport, family crest, or military medal.

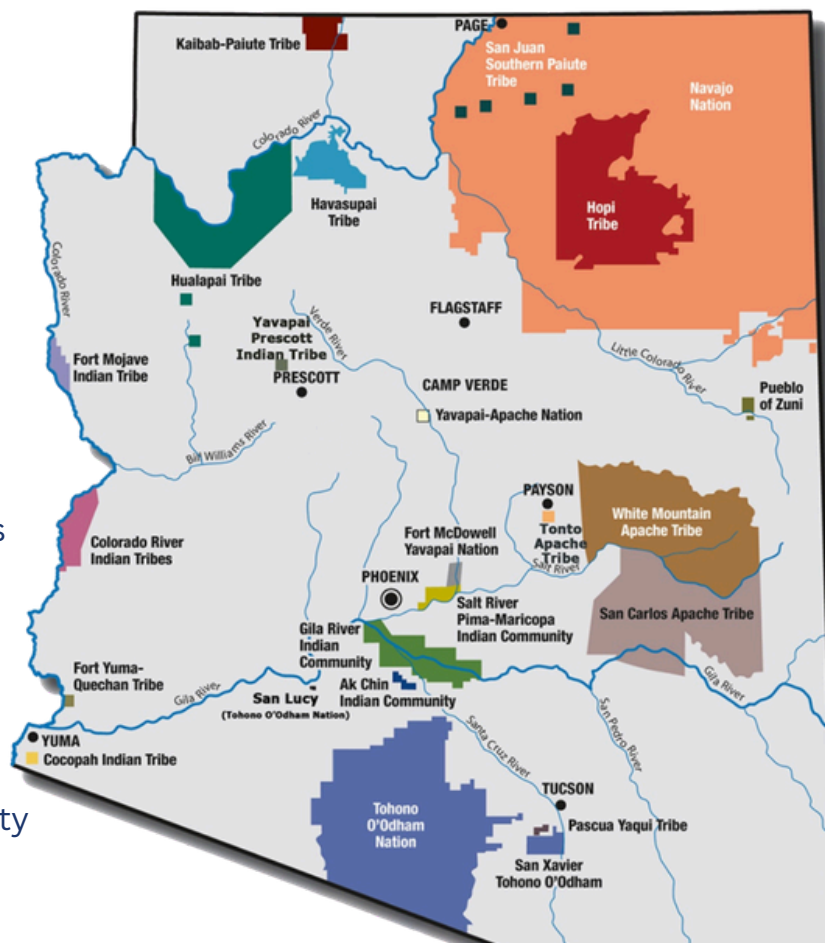
Tribal regalia reflects an individual's connection to a sovereign tribal nation and community traditions.

A Common Question

Many people ask:

"Why are Native American students allowed to wear items at graduation that other students might not be allowed to wear?"

The answer begins with understanding tribal sovereignty and tribal citizenship.



ARIZONA IS HOME TO 22 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL NATIONS