



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How do I enroll in the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana?

The Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana does not use blood quantum, however, we do require that you are able to identify your relationship to the Tribe through lineal descendency. You must submit documentation that include an unbroken chain of birth and/or death certificates, or other legal documentation.

### 2. Can a DNA Test determine if I am Native American and a member of the Natchitoches Tribe?

DNA tests cannot determine whether you are a Tribal member. DNA tests are not an exact science, and one individual in the family may have different markers than another, thus creating inconsistencies in identification. DNA tests are helpful, however, in identifying paternity and family relations. Finding out if you have Native American ancestry through a DNA test does not mean that your Native American ancestry is Natchitoches. Keep in mind that DNA tests cannot conclusively say that you are Native American, they can only indicate that you have possible ancestry. The reasons for these discrepancies is based on the fact that each testing organization's database will have an incomplete sampling of Native American individuals. For these reasons, we recommend reading the National Congress of American Indian's comments, as well as reviewing their guidance in the [NCAI Genetics Resource Center](#). We also recommend Dr. Kim Tallbear's book [Native American DNA](#).

### **3. What benefits am I eligible for as an enrolled member of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana**

The Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana is a State-Recognized Tribe and thus not a Federally Recognized Tribe. For this reason, we are not eligible for many of the supports offered to Federally Recognized Tribes. As a Tribal member, the most important benefit is honoring our ancestors, contributing to the building of our community and working together to ensure that our history, culture, traditions and knowledge are sustained. As a State Recognized Tribe, however, we are eligible for the following benefits:

- (a) Scholarships: There are grant and scholarship opportunities available to members of State-Recognized Tribes, please check with the [American Indian College Fund](#). In addition, please check with your individual state as to whether Native American scholarships will apply for you. The Federal Indian Health Service offers [Indian Health Service preparatory and pre-graduate scholarships](#) for State Recognized Tribes, as well as terminated American Indian tribes or Alaska Native villages, please inquire through the appropriate agencies.
- (b) Health: In some states, the Indian Health Service will provide low cost or free health services to members of State-Recognized Tribes, however, this varies from state to state. Please check with your local Indian Health Service for more information.
- (c) Artwork: As defined by the [Indian Arts and Crafts Enforcement Act](#), State-Recognized Tribal members may sell their artwork as Indian made.
- (d) Language Preservation and Economic Development: State-Recognized Tribes along with Federally Recognized Tribes are eligible for Federal grant funding under the [Administration for Native Americans](#).
- (e) Four Federal agencies—the U.S. departments of Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services—have the statutory and regulatory authority to provide funding for State-Recognized Tribes.

### **4. How might I assist the Natchitoches Tribe in realizing community goals that benefit everyone in Natchitoches parish and beyond?**

- (a) Please join us as *Taysha*-Partners and allies in helping to build community by giving to the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana. Your gift will go a long way in seeing a forward future for everyone in Natchitoches and surrounding communities. To join hands with us please use this Link to gift the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana or mail your donation to Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana, P.O. Box 85 Campti, LA 71411

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