



**VERMONT
YOUTH
CONSERVATION
CORPS**

Abenaki Land Use Statement

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) recognizes and respects the Abenaki people as the original stewards of ndakinna (a portion of which is now known as Vermont), and the enduring relationship that exists between the Abenaki, as individuals and in communities, and their homelands.

VYCC wants to affirm to citizens of the Abenaki community that they are welcome to continue in relationship with the places in ndakinna that VYCC currently owns and manages. The Abenaki people are encouraged and welcome to use these lands for community and cultural purposes, and for gathering food, medicine and/or materials. We do ask that, for safety reasons, Abenaki people obtain permission before hunting at VYCC.

VYCC values indigenous practices and welcomes input and collaboration with Abenaki people on the stewardship of these lands.

VYCC asks that use shall occur within the following parameters.

1. All gathering shall occur in a sustainable manner that ensures populations are the same size or larger the year following each harvest.
2. Only hand tools will be used during gathering activities.
3. No species on federal or state endangered, threatened or species of special concern lists may be collected on VYCC Lands. Lists should be checked before each harvest to ensure that these species are not harvested.
4. The Vermont Abenaki Tribes covenant that their use of VYCC Lands will comply with all applicable laws.
5. For safety reasons, Abenaki people wishing to hunt do need to obtain permission. This helps us know where people are on the land so we can coordinate this activity with our programs and other visitors in mind.

We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship that allows Abenaki people to gather food, medicine, and/or materials that support Abenakis' long history and cultural traditions from lands currently owned and stewarded by VYCC.

Breck Knauft

Executive Director

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

Chief Donald Stevens

Chief

Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk-Abenaki Nation