

Miss *Indigenous*
WISCONSIN



— P A G E A N T —

2026-27

She Walks in Two Worlds

CULTURE  LEADERSHIP  COMMUNITY  EMPOWERMENT

PROGRAM

MISS INDIGENOUS WISCONSIN PAGEANT

September 26-27, 2026
Waukesha County Fairgrounds
1000 Northview Rd., Waukesha WI 53188

Saturday, September 26, 2026

5:00 PM – Miss Indigenous Wisconsin Pageant

- ✦ Contestant Introductions
- ✦ Miss & Junior Miss Traditional Talent
- ✦ Lil Miss Question
- ✦ Miss & Junior Miss Impromptu Question

Sunday, September 27, 2026

12:00 PM – Grand Entry

Following Grand Entry

- ✦ Two Contest Songs
- ✦ Contestants will then relocate to the hall for the Crowning Ceremony

Return to hall for crowning

A MESSAGE FROM THE *Pageant Organizer & Co-Founder*



*She Walks
in Two Worlds*

Shekoli,

It is my honor to welcome you to the inaugural Miss Indigenous Wisconsin Pageant.

My name is Tana Aguirre. My Oneida name is Yako?neka'kw^, meaning, She picks up water, and I am a citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin.

Tonight, we celebrate these brave young women as they step into the spotlight and proudly represent their Nations, cultures, families, and communities. It takes courage to stand before others, share who you are, and embrace the responsibility of representing your people. I am incredibly grateful to each of our contestants and their families for taking that step and for making this inaugural pageant possible.

To our supporters, volunteers, and sponsors, thank you. Your generosity, encouragement, and commitment to our program and mission have been invaluable. Your support allows us to celebrate Wisconsin's Indigenous communities and the resilience of our people.

As we crown our first titleholders, my hope is that this pageant becomes much more than a single weekend or a crown. I hope it becomes a place where young Indigenous women are encouraged to find their voices, strengthen their connection to culture, serve their communities, and recognize the power they carry within themselves.

Tonight is only the beginning. May our contestants walk forward with confidence, carry their cultures with pride, lead with purpose, and inspire the generations who will follow them.

Yaw^ko

Tana Aguirre
Organizer & Co-Founder
Miss Indigenous Wisconsin Pageant



Miss Indigenous WISCONSIN

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We are proud to partner with Indian Summer Festival to bring the Miss Indigenous Wisconsin Pageant to the Waukesha County Fairgrounds and to continue celebrating Indigenous culture, community, and tradition.

 SHE WALKS IN TWO WORLDS

CONTESTANTS



MUÑECA ARACELY DANFORTH

MISS DIVISION

Age: 18

Nation: Oneida Nation

Clan: Wolf Clan

Skekoli! My name is Muñeca Aracely Danforth. I am 18 years old and a proud member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Wolf Clan. I am grateful for my family, my community, and the strong foundation they have given me.

My Oneida heritage is a huge part of who I am. I am proud of my culture and want to continue sharing it with others. I've always wanted to inspire Indigenous youth to be proud of where they come from, and to know they can accomplish anything.

I'm very passionate about healthcare. I became a CNA in 2024 and have gained experienced working in hospitals. Caring for people changed my perspective on life, and it showed me to always be grateful for being willing and able. I plan to continue my education at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay, following a traditional RN-BSN route. My end goal is to specialize in pediatric oncology.

Outside of school and work, I have a lot of things I love. I'm interested in modeling, fashion, photography. I love being able to express myself, and essentially inspire the younger generations.

I'm still figuring out who I am and what I want my future to look like. I do know I want to make my community and the people I love proud. I want to be successful, help people, and inspire Indigenous youth.



TALIANA WEBSTER

JUNIOR MISS DIVISION

Age: 17

Nation: Oneida Nation

Clan: Wolf Clan

Hello everyone! My name is Kahwa'ses, which translates to "long corn leaves," and my English name is Taliana Webster. I am a proud member of the Wolf Clan and a citizen of the Oneida Nation. I come from the People of the Standing Stone, whose land and earth have shaped who I am and where I come from. I also have Menominee and Lakota ancestry, which are important parts of my family and cultural identity.

I am 17 years old and currently a senior at Oneida Nation High School. I have the opportunity to serve my school through Student Council while also attending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTTC) as a dual-credit student. Being involved in my school and community has taught me the importance of leadership, responsibility, and using my voice to make a positive difference.

I am the eldest daughter of seven children, and being a sister is something that means so much to me. My younger siblings are not only my parents' children, but they are also a part of my responsibility and my heart. Growing up as the oldest has taught me patience, leadership, compassion, and the importance of being someone my siblings can look up to.

Our ancestors have left us with so many gifts, including our art, traditions, stories, language, and ways of connecting with one another and the land. I believe it is our responsibility as the next generation to carry these teachings forward and make sure they continue to live on.

One of my greatest passions is creating opportunities for youth to learn about and experience Indigenous arts and traditions. I want to help keep these traditions alive by giving young people opportunities to learn, create, ask questions, and discover the beauty within their own cultures. Art is more than something we create; it can carry stories, teachings, history, identity, and connections to our ancestors.

I also believe that every community carries its own unique knowledge, traditions, stories, and creative practices. I would be honored to learn from different communities and the people who carry those teachings. By learning from others, I hope to share that knowledge respectfully with other youth and encourage them to explore their own creativity, culture, and identity.



As I continue growing as a young leader, I hope to use my voice and experiences to inspire other youth to be proud of who they are and where they come from. I want to help create spaces where young people feel encouraged to learn from their elders, connect with their communities, express themselves through art, and carry our traditions forward for the generations yet to come.

MARIE DECORA

LIL MISS DIVISION

Age: 11

Nation: Oneida, Ho-Chunk, and
Bad River Ojibwe

Clan: Wolf Clan

I am eleven years old. I was born on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th and I live in Milwaukee, WI! I am Oneida from my mom, Kayla Christjohn. I am Winnebago Ho-Chunk from my dad, Joseph DeCora. I am also Bad River Ojibwe from both of my grandmothers, Jolene DeCora and Lori Best. My parents named and baptized me NAC ways through the Native American Church. My spirit name in Ho-Chunk is Hose-gi-jainga, Eagle landing.

I attend Indian Community School, and I am in the sixth grade. In school I love to do art, drawing, crocheting, painting, clay work, sewing, beading and making corn husk dolls. In school, I have learned to dance and be around the drum in the powwow circle. My style of dance is Jingle. I attend powwows and round dances and through dancing I have been honored with holding head dancer positions. I was honored with head dancer for Indian Community School, the Gerald L. Ignace Mental Health powwow in Milwaukee, Northwestern University powwow, and the St. Kateri Center in Chicago, IL, powwow.

In January 2026 I applied and was chosen to represent the state of Wisconsin through PBS America's Awesome Kids! I was able to show who I am and represent my Indigenous culture and language through art and dance. On June 23rd, 2026, my episode aired on tv for everyone to see. I am so very thankful for my culture and way of life.

Yaw*ko, Pinagigi, Miigwech!



ATIIYAH KELLEY

LIL MISS DIVISION

Age: 12

Nation: Menominee, Stockbridge Munsee,
and Oneida

Clan: Bear Clan

My name is Atiyah Kelley, I am 12 years old and in the sixth grade at St. James Lutheran School in Shawano, WI. I am the daughter of Elizabeth Creapeau and daughter of Michael Kelley. My spirit name is Weelulihaanat which means "One who is good hearted." I am an enrolled member of the Menominee Indian Tribe of WI and descendant of the Stockbridge Munsee Tribe band of Mohicans and Oneida Indian Tribe of WI. I am bear clan. I have been Lil Miss Mahikaniw'in 2019/2020. I was Jr. Miss Mahikaniw'in 2025/2026, attending 15 PowWows.

I enjoy participating in extracurricular activities, at my previous school I was on student council. I like to participate in sports, cross-country and basketball.

I like attending cultural gatherings and community events like: certified babysitting course, community walks for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Relatives, I wore my ribbon skirts during the months of September and May to bring awareness and education for Every Child Matters and MMIR to my peers, Nicanak 4-H Club & Wisconsin Native Vote, Future Generation of Back-up Singers, and Annual Recovery Walks.

I am learning how to make traditional regalia and ribbon skirts. Most recently for my out-going Jr. Miss Mahikaniw'in spot dance special, three spot winners each won a ribbon skirt I helped make, with the help of family members and community elders. I am a good listener, good friend, and I believe in being nice and accepting of everyone.



AUDREY NELIS-STONE

LIL MISS DIVISION

Age: 11

Nation: Bad River

Clan: Bear Clan

Ozhaawashkogizhigookwe, Audrey Nelis-Stone, is an 11-year-old Bad River Tribal member. She is currently in 6th grade at the Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute, where she has been enrolled in the Ojibwe immersion program since kindergarten. She is a fluent Ojibwe language speaker, and she leads her siblings and others to prioritize their language and culture too.

Audrey is the eldest daughter of 8 children, and lives in a healthy, heavily involved family. She has maintained continuous honor roll and takes pride in her education and learning.

Outside of school she is part of the Midewewin society, participates in Anishinaabe-Niimi'iding, and cultural ceremonies. She is currently on her berry fast, and learning her responsibilities as a young Anishinaabe girl.

She is an active athlete, she currently holds her Junior Black Belt in Taekwondo, she trains in martial arts and wrestling, plays in football, and takes part in gymnastics and dance.

She is a student Midwife, and has attended 8 home births, and was the Midwife for her youngest sibling in 2025. Audrey has just finished her title of Jr. Miss Mashkizibii 2025-2026 and has been a superior role model in many northern communities.

She takes pride in her language and involvement and has offered prayers and openings at many different events, and her language has created many leadership opportunities. She is currently continuing her education outside of school, by attending trainings, sitting with knowledge keepers, and learning about traditional medicines.

She has goals of being an Ojibwe Educator and Midwife.



WITH GRATITUDE

MISS INDIGENOUS WISCONSIN PAGEANT

The Miss Indigenous Wisconsin Pageant extends our heartfelt appreciation to the individuals who helped make our inaugural pageant possible.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

RILEY AGUIRRE

for serving as our Mistress of Ceremonies and guiding us through this special celebration. Your presence, warmth, and leadership helped make the evening memorable for our contestants, families, and guests.

WITH APPRECIATION TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Jason Aguirre
Tina Skenandore
Lariah Penass

Thank you for generously giving your time, energy, and support. Your willingness to help behind the scenes played an important role in bringing this pageant to life.

TO OUR JUDGES

Thank you for sharing your time, experience, and thoughtful consideration as you evaluated each contestant. We deeply appreciate the care and respect you brought to this important responsibility.