



2025 ISKN YEAR END GATHERINGS

# *Sponsorship Packet*







## *about NAFSA*

At the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance, our work is rooted in Indigenous values, ancestral knowledge, and the pursuit of food sovereignty. We exist to support the rights of Native communities to grow, gather, hunt, fish, and trade food in ways that are culturally grounded, environmentally sound, and economically just.

We believe in empowering communities as they foster traditional, Indigenous food practices to ensure sustained well being for our future generations.

## *about ISKN*

The Indigenous Seed Keepers Network (ISKN) supports Indigenous communities in protecting, rematriating, and cultivating our seed relatives. We build power across a national network of growers, seed keepers, and advocates working to revitalize Indigenous seed systems and foodways.

The mission of the Indigenous Seed Keepers Network (ISKN) is to nourish and assist the growing Seed Sovereignty Movement across Turtle Island (North America). In the Upper Midwest, ISKN brings together Native seed growers and land stewards for virtual quarterly regional meetings and regular talking circles. ISKN provides regular technical assistance, community outreach, site visits, event support, seedkeeping resources, workshops, and accessible granting programs.



The title 'good relative' is written in a large, orange, serif font. Above the letters, there are several small orange icons: a crescent moon, a star, and several birds in flight. The text is centered on the page.

# good relative

In our teachings, being a good relative is about how we show up for our community. Our community includes our seed relatives, and the land. It's about responsibility, reciprocity, and right relationship.

This campaign honors that teaching.

We look to the butterfly, who pollinates as it travels, transforms, and persists. We honor the hummingbird, whose small body carries messages of blessing, and movement between plants and lifeways. We follow the dragonfly, who reminds us of adaptability, clarity, and the balance between water and air.

Being a Good Relative is to tend, share, protect, and return.

It means honoring seeds not as commodities, but as relatives with memory, purpose, and future. Through this campaign, we're inviting our network and supporters into this teaching. Not as a slogan, but as a commitment.





## *our gatherings*

Indigenous Seed Keepers Network is working with partners in the region to host an in-person gathering this fall for relationship building, skill sharing, and visioning the future of ISKN. Seedkeeping is generations-long work that requires intention, reciprocity, and intertribal trade and knowledge sharing.

With the current funding environment, including deep cuts to federal support for tribal food sovereignty work, ISKN is working creatively to exercise our culturally-based values and gather in person with the Upper Midwest and the Southwest ISKN networks. Our goal is to leverage our network of resources and remove barriers for ISKN members to attend our gatherings as well, even amidst unprecedented challenges.

### **EVENT DETAILS**

#### **Upper Midwest Year End Gathering**

Dates: September 30 – October 1, 2025

Location: Intertribal Agriculture Council Regional Summit,  
Ho-Chunk Nation Wisconsin Dells in Baraboo, WI

#### **Southwest Year End Gathering**

Date: November 8, 2025

Location: Tunlil Community Center in Camp Verde, AZ

**LEARN MORE**





# *featured hosts*

## **IAC REGIONAL SUMMIT (HO-CHUNK NATION)**

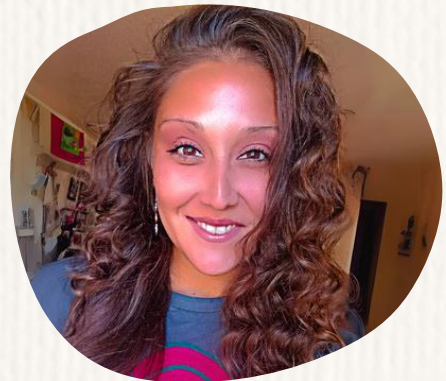
The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) hosts annual regional summits to offer resources for Tribes and producers focused on conserving and developing agricultural resources in Indian Country. Established in 1987 by federally recognized Tribes, IAC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting land-based agriculture essential for the economic and social well-being of Native American and Alaskan Native communities.



## **ANGEL MARTINEZ**

Angel Martinez, Yavapai-Apache Tribal Member, is a member of the ISKN Southwest Network and will be hosting this event with NAFSA in Camp Verde, Arizona.

Angel is also the founder of the Garden of Life Organization. The Garden of Life reconnects the Yavapai-Apache Nation to their ancestral lands, cultural traditions, and Indigenous foodways through community-driven food sovereignty and education. The organization strengthens access to traditional foods, medicines, and cultural knowledge essential to the health and well-being of the Nation.





## *our team*



Trena Bizardi brings more than 15 years of experience in community development, health equity, and economic empowerment within tribal nations. Her work has a focus on building sustainable, culturally rooted solutions.

*Trena Bizardi, Diné*  
**Senior Program Officer**



Mereya Blanco works alongside communities to uplift food sovereignty, cultural resilience, mental health, and intergenerational knowledge.

*Mereya Blanco, Mexican-Indigenous (Apache-Raramuri)*  
**Southwest ISKN Coordinator**



Kaitlyn Walsh, direct descendant of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. As an emerging farmer and seedkeeper, Kaitlyn brings both technical knowledge and cultural responsibility to her role.

*Kaitlyn Walsh, Anishinaabe*  
**Upper Midwest ISKN Coordinator**



# *our work*

Our work is guided by our Theory of Change that maps how our activities lead to improved access to traditional foods and strengthening food and seed systems. Sponsorship enables us to turn our vision into action.

## INPUTS

Sponsor funding and in-kind contributions (Mobilized Resources)

## ACTIVITIES

Regional end-of-year gatherings that bring together Indigenous seed keepers, youth, and growers in the Southwest and Upper Midwest (Facilitate Community Connection)

## OUTPUTS

- 100 attendees at each gathering
- 50+ seed exchanges between growers & families
- 10 facilitated discussions around seed & farming challenges
- Distribution of ISKN resources
- Direction on the future of ISKN
- New ISKN members
- Sponsorship of established ISKN members

## OUTCOMES

Improved access to traditional foods and strengthening local foods and seed systems (Immediate):

- Improved seed diversity in local communities
- Increase seeds returning to their original stewards
- Increased traditional growing practices & cultural sharing

## IMPACT

Sustained Indigenous food and seed sovereignty, rooted in cultural identity and self-determination

*If NAFSA restores ancestral knowledge, affirms community initiative, and reclaims resources and space for Indigenous food systems to thrive, we can achieve access to resources, stronger local food systems, and empowered communities.*



# *Sponsor Levels*

The Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance (NAFSA) invites partnerships to empower Indigenous growers and food leaders. Your support helps host impactful events promoting food justice and cultural preservation. Explore our sponsorship levels and benefits below:

## *Hummingbird Sponsor*

\$10,000+



- Logo Placement on Event Webpage
- Digital Ad on NAFSA Webpage for 1 Year
- Digital Ad\* on NAFSA Social Media (4 Campaign Runs)
- Acknowledgment in NAFSA E-Communications & Social Media
- Booth Space at Event
- Verbal Recognition During the Event
- Opportunity to Distribute Approved Company Gear
- Opportunity to Present at Event (Upon Approval)
- Logo Featured on Event Agenda & Other Event Material
- Recognition in NAFSA's 2025 Impact Report

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## *Dragonfly Sponsor*

\$5,000–\$9,999



- Logo Placement on Event Webpage
- Digital Ad on NAFSA Webpage for 1 Year
- Digital Ad\* on NAFSA Social Media (4 Campaign Runs)
- Acknowledgment in NAFSA E-Communications & Social Media
- Booth Space at Event
- Verbal Recognition During the Event
- Opportunity to Distribute Approved Company Gear
- Logo Featured on Event Material
- Recognition in NAFSA's 2025 Impact Report

\*Ad content is subject to approval and must align with NAFSA's values and visual standards. Sponsors will coordinate with the Communications Director to finalize materials.





## *Butterfly Sponsor*

\$1,000– \$4,999



- Logo Placement on Event Webpage
  - Acknowledgement in NAFSA E-Communications & Social Media
  - Logo Featured on Event Material
  - Opportunity to Distribute Approved Company Gear
  - Verbal Recognition During Event
  - Booth Space
  - Recognition in NAFSA's 2025 Impact Report
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## *Seed Sponsor*

\$50–\$999



- Logo Featured on Event Material
- Acknowledgement in NAFSA E-Communications & Social Media
- Verbal Recognition During Event
- Recognition in NAFSA's 2025 Impact Report



## *Pledge Today*

Scan the QR code or contact Trena Bizardi at [trena@nativefoodalliance.org](mailto:trena@nativefoodalliance.org) to pledge your sponsorship! We look forward to collaborating with you to make this a impactful event.



## *special sponsorship opportunities*

If your organization would like to sponsor a specific element of the gathering — such as meals, travel for youth and elders, seed bundles, or cultural activities — we welcome your support!

Please contact Trena Bizardi at [trena@nativefoodalliance.org](mailto:trena@nativefoodalliance.org) to explore custom sponsorship options aligned with your values and interests.

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Your sponsorship directly supports Indigenous seedkeepers and food leaders. It helps cover essential costs such as travel, speaker honoraria, meals, and meaningful community engagement during the event.

Whether participants are attending the Southwest ISKN Gathering or the Upper Midwest Gathering, your support ensures these gatherings continue to advance NAFSA's mission and uphold the values of the Indigenous Seed Keepers Network.

Help us ensure greater access, engagement, and representation by increasing your sponsorship today!

*Pledge Today*





Ahéhee'! Ahi'yéh! Aise Aise!  
Askwali! Ashóog! Dá'wá'éh!  
Hawu<sup>h</sup>! Hankyu! Kenah! Kenah  
Netap! Ku'na'ah! Kwa'kwai!  
Miigwech! Nia:wen'koa!  
Pidamaya! Pilamiyaye! Wliwni!  
*In Gratitude*

The strength of our food systems lies in the hands of Indigenous farmers, seed keepers, wild-crafters, fishers, hunters, ranchers, and eaters. Thank you for your dedication to preserving, cultivating, and protecting the foods that nourish our communities. Your work sustains not only our bodies but also our cultures, histories, and future generations.

To our partners, funders, and community members—your support ensures that this vital work continues. By investing in Indigenous leadership and self-determination, you help create a future where our foodways remain strong and sovereign.

As we move forward, we remain committed to this shared vision—one rooted in tradition, strengthened by community, and carried forward for generations to come.





good relative