



PATHKEEPERS *for* INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

P.O. Box 463

Culpeper, Virginia 22701

(202) 957-2696 ph.

[www.pathkeepers.org](http://www.pathkeepers.org)

[info@pathkeepers.org](mailto:info@pathkeepers.org)

## **PATHKEEPERS 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP** **UPDATE: CHANGES DUE TO CORONAVIRUS**

Pathkeepers 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Youth Leadership Camp will be offered as a “Virtual Camp” for the already scheduled dates of Monday, July 20, 2020, to Friday, July 24, 2020. After lengthy deliberation, Pathkeepers Board members and staff agreed that we want to honor those who have lost their lives and those who continue to serve on the front lines of fighting this virus by offering Camp in way that captures this important moment in time and that meets health and safety recommendations.

Our Virtual Camp will offer a safe space for campers to express how you, your families, and your communities have been impacted by the coronavirus. We want to use this Virtual Camp as a place of healing, reflection, and creative expression. This year’s Camp will also focus on how we can use traditional knowledge, resources, and foods to heal and focus on the uniqueness and beauty of our lives as Native people during these very difficult times.

The coronavirus has exposed how vulnerable Indian Country is to a pandemic because many of our communities do not have access to proper healthcare and food resources. The coronavirus has caused significant strain on our young people, our elders and communities, and some of our members have passed on due to the virus. Social distancing has stopped our ability to share resources and visit extended families, and many ceremonies, powwows, and cultural events have been canceled.

To address these issues, we will offer activities like the following at our Virtual Camp:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live News Reporting and Current Events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative Native Writing and Storytelling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healing Dialogue and Meditation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual Arts &amp; Design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singing and Drumming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Flute</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooking, Traditional Foods &amp; Healing Teas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional &amp; Powwow Dances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Day</li> </ul>

We understand that this is a change to prior Pathkeepers Annual Camps and are therefore issuing a new Virtual Camp Application for those who are interested in participating this year. The new Virtual Camp Application is now available on our website at [www.pathkeepers.org/youth-camp-2020](http://www.pathkeepers.org/youth-camp-2020). **The new due date will be May 15, 2020, 5:00 p.m. (EST).**

Once accepted as a Virtual Camper, we will send out a package of Camp supplies to each of you to use during Camp. In addition, Campers will need to download the free “Zoom” app onto your computer, tablet or cell phone to participate in Camp. If you do not have access to Internet applications, please contact us about alternative arrangements. If you have any questions, you may contact Angelina Okuda-Jacobs at 202-957-2696, or [info@pathkeepers.org](mailto:info@pathkeepers.org).

Thank you and please everyone stay safe and healthy. --Pathkeepers Board of Directors