



Arizona Office of Tourism Tribal Consultation Policy
Amended: May 19, 2017
Created: March 31, 2006

This Consultation Policy statement is advisory only. A consultation policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the **Arizona Administrative Procedure Act**. If you believe that this policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under **Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1033** for a review of the statement.

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PURPOSE

This policy establishes the basic principles governing the Arizona Office of Tourism's (AOT) relations with and process for engaging Tribal governments in the State of Arizona.

INTRODUCTION

The mission of AOT is to strengthen and grow Arizona's economy through travel and tourism promotion. There are twenty-two Tribal governments within the State of Arizona that have jurisdiction over approximately 28 percent of the land base. The State of Arizona and Tribes share the recognition that tourism is an important means of economic development.

POLICY

AOT recognizes the sovereignty of Tribal governments and their jurisdiction over lands within Indian Country as defined by federal law. (The definition in federal law includes all lands within reservation boundaries [18 U.S.C.A. §1151].)

AOT's support to Tribes will be provided in the interest of the State and will not be used as the basis for assertion of State authority within Indian Country.

AOT is committed to developing cooperative relationships with Tribes, and will respect the cultural concerns of Tribes.

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for the enforcement of this policy lies with the director of the Agency, executive management, division directors, and the Tribal Tourism Relations Manager. Transmission of information shall be the responsibility of all AOT staff.

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PROCEDURES

1. AOT will designate a staff member to assume responsibility for the agency's implementation of Tribal consultation policies, to act as the principal point of contact for Tribal affairs, and to help build rapport and communications with the Tribes.
2. AOT will establish, staff and rely on the Tribal Tourism Advisory Committee as an important method of communication with Tribes, to the extent that resources allow.
3. AOT will work with the Tribes for the mutual benefit of promoting and marketing American Indian heritage and culture within AOT powers and duties as defined in ARS 41-2305.
4. AOT will assist Tribal governments in product development by providing technical assistance, sharing data, encouraging participation in AOT programs and resources, and participating in joint Tribal-State projects to the extent resources allow.
5. AOT will invite Tribal representatives to participate in its training programs such as, industry webinars, roundtables, etc.
6. Tribal issues, including requests from Tribes for assistance, will be directed to the Director or Deputy Director of AOT and/or Tribal Tourism Relations Manger on a weekly basis.
7. AOT may enter into Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) or Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) when considered mutually appropriate by AOT and an interested Tribal Government.
8. AOT will continue to recommend Tribal representation, when appropriate, for consideration for appointment by the Governor's Office of Boards & Commissions to the Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) to advise the agency Director in preparation of budget and in the establishment of policies and programs which promote and develop tourism throughout the state.

APPROVED BY:

Arizona Office of Tourism



Debbie Johnson
Director

5/23/17

Date