Protocol

Protocol is the set of societal rules that members and visitors of a community respectfully follow in order to maintain peace and harmony within a nation or territory. Just as we have etiquette when we enter another person's house, we also have protocol when entering or living on traditional Native Californian lands. Some examples of Native Californian protocol include:

- acknowledgement of original lands and peoples at events and institutions
- as a guest, to bring gifts to Indigenous leaders at events, gatherings, etc.
- consult with tribal leaders when organizing events for or writing about tribal groups, history, etc.

RESPECT: Listen and observe twice as much as you speak. Humbly ask if you do not understand something. Give elders top priority—food, seating, space to speak, etc.

ACTIVE EDUCATION: Familiarize yourself with the native communities of the place you reside. Learn their history, stay informed on current issues, and educate your community.

ACTIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING: Show up at Indigenous-organized events/gatherings and spread the word. Support Indigenous-led organizations, artists, educators, and activists.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIVE LANDS: A promise to amplify Indigenous voices, to stand in solidarity with the local Indigenous community, and to respect the local protocol. For more info, visit usdac.us/nativeland

Get Involved

Local & Indigenous-Led Organizations

- Sogorea Te’ Land Trust
  sogoreate-landtrust.org
- Indian People Organizing for Change
  ipochellmoundwalk.homestead.com
- Idle No More SF Bay
  http://www.idlenomoresfbay.org

For more organizations, please visit www.acorn.wiki/directory

Educational Resources

- Ohlone Curriculum
  ebparks.org/activities/educators/
- Contemporary Ohlone History
  sogoreate-landtrust.com/
  contemporary-ohlone-history/
- Book Recommendations:
  An American Genocide, Benjamin Madley
  California Through Native Eyes, William J. Bauer
  An Indigenous People’s History of the United States, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

For more resources, please visit www.acorn.wiki/resources

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wiki.acorn@gmail.com
You are looking at a map of original Ohlone and Coast Miwok village names. While the numbers can be fuzzy, there are a little over 100 Native Californian tribes that are federally recognized. There are even more tribes that are NOT federally recognized. Federally Recognized Tribes have rights to land, free or accessible health care, casinos, scholarships and other institutions that aid in protecting cultural aspects and practices such as language, religion, and arts. Federally Unrecognized Tribes, including all Ohlone tribes and language groups (and many Miwok), have none of the previously mentioned rights. That means that across all Ohlone land, the sacred sites, Native peoples, and their cultures do not have federal protections, leaving the communities to advocate for themselves.

**Timeline**

- **~13,000 BC**, first evidence of Native Californian (NC) presence, as well as trade with Hawaiian visitors
- **1769-1833** establishment of Spanish missions; first wave of genocide, displacement and enslavement of NC peoples
- **1848-1855** The Gold Rush; second wave of genocide, displacement and enslavement. During this time, the US gov. sanctioned and rewarded citizens to kill Native Californians.
- **1850-1900**, in 50 years of state-sanctioned murders and displacement, the population of NCs dropped from an estimated 150,000 to 16,000.
- **1870s-1950s**, NA children were sent to boarding schools, where they were forced to speak English and learn US culture, or else they would face severe and sometimes fatal punishment
- **1924**, the US gov. finally recognized NAs as US citizens (Indian Citizenship Act)
- **1950s and 60s**, the US Congress passed the California Ranchería Termination Acts, which took the federal rights and lands from around 45 different tribes
- **1969-1971** Occupation of Alcatraz by dozens of NA tribes to protest US gov's breaking of treaties
- **1978** American Indian Religious Freedom Act passed, allowing NAs to practice their own religion in their own lands
- **1990** NA Languages Act passed, which states that NAs have the right to preserve, protect, and promote the use, education, and development of their languages
- **2018** Federally Unrecognized Tribes continue to fight for their rights to ancient sacred lands