

FREE COPY

# GUIDE TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION



HISTORY • CULTURE • TOURISM • GOVERNMENT



VISIT THE  
MUSCOGEE  
NATION

[MvskokeTourism.com](http://MvskokeTourism.com)





# THE TRIBE OF TVLSE



THE  
MUSCOGEE  
NATION

[MuscogeeNation.com](http://MuscogeeNation.com) | [MvskokeToursim.com](http://MvskokeToursim.com)



# HESCI



Welcome to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Let this official guide to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation be your ticket to discover our distinctive language, history and culture, as well as our diverse attractions and points of interest. As the Principal Chief and on behalf of the entire Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I welcome you to our home in Oklahoma and would like to extend the warmest greetings as you travel within our great Nation. We are honored to have you as our guest and look forward to our shared time together.

**David W. Hill**  
Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Welcome to the Mvskoke Reservation. Please use this guide as a glimpse into our Muscogee way of life and learn about our unique culture and history. We offer first-class hospitality and amenities while you stay on the reservation and enjoy everything we have to offer. We look forward to meeting you.

Mvto!

**Del Beaver**  
Second Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Article V, §1 (a)

The Executive power shall be vested in and shall be known as the Office of the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Principal Chief shall hold office during a term of four (4) years upon election by majority of the votes cast. The term of office shall begin the first Monday in the new calendar year (January). No person shall serve office of the Chief more than two (2) consecutive terms for which he/she is elected.

CULTURE  
HISTORY  
GAMING  
GOLFING  
SHOPPING  
DINING  
NATURE  
FESTIVALS  
FAMILY FUN



# Visit the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

## Encounter the limitless ways to explore and experience the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Experience the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Explore the tribe's truly unique culture and rich history. Discover the many historical sites and points of interest throughout the area including the Creek Nation Council House restored to its authentic 1878 appearance. Guests are able to educate themselves about the building's actual functions including serving as the Nation's capitol in post-removal Indian Territory. The historical interpretive center includes not only visual displays but also auditory and interactive exhibits focused on the history of the structure, Muscogee government, and tribal citizens. Find fun and exciting places and events within the tribe's eleven-county area. Get moving!

Gaming, live concerts, fun and relaxation await you at the reservation's premier destination, River Spirit Casino Resort®, located on the east bank of the Arkansas River in south Tulsa. The Nation's flagship casino boasts a Vegas-style atmosphere with one of the largest gaming floors in the state. A luxury hotel and spa, convention and meeting space, The Cove Showroom and Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville Casino are just some of the aspects of the well-appointed property that make this casino resort one of the most appealing and accommodating destinations in Oklahoma.

Just across the river from the casino resort, shop, dine, enjoy seasonal live music, or play at Golf Suites driving range and entertainment center at the Riverwalk family entertainment district. Perfect your swing at the 18-hole, par 72 Fountainhead Creek Golf Course located on the picturesque banks of Lake Eufaula in Checotah. Lake Eufaula, Okmulgee Lake and Dripping Springs State Parks are naturally beautiful recreational areas and worthwhile destinations on the reservation.

Visit the reservation's capital city of Okmulgee during the fourth weekend each June for the Muscogee Nation Festival. Festivities include a parade, live music, arts and crafts, food, culture, carnival rides, numerous sports tournaments. Enjoy all of this and more fun in a lively and family-friendly atmosphere throughout the weekend.

Let the following pages chart your course for a journey abounding with culture, history, education, and fun for the entire family.

---

Muscogee Nation Marketing & Tourism

P.O. Box 580 | Okmulgee, OK 74447

918.732.7992 | 800.482.1979

MvskokeTourism.com | MuscogeeNationFestival.com

📍/VisitTheMuscogeeNation 📷/VisitMuscogeeNation



# CONTENTS

## WELCOME

Principal Chief Hill	1
Second Chief Beaver	1
Visit the Muscogee (Creek) Nation	2

## HISTORY and CULTURE

Origins	4
Ceremony	8
Language	10

## TOURISM

Creek Nation Council House	12
Council House Timeline	13
Capitol Complex	14
Council Oak	16
River Spirit Casino Resort	18
Muscogee Nation Festival	20
Reservation Tour Itinerary	22
Night Life	23

## GOVERNMENT

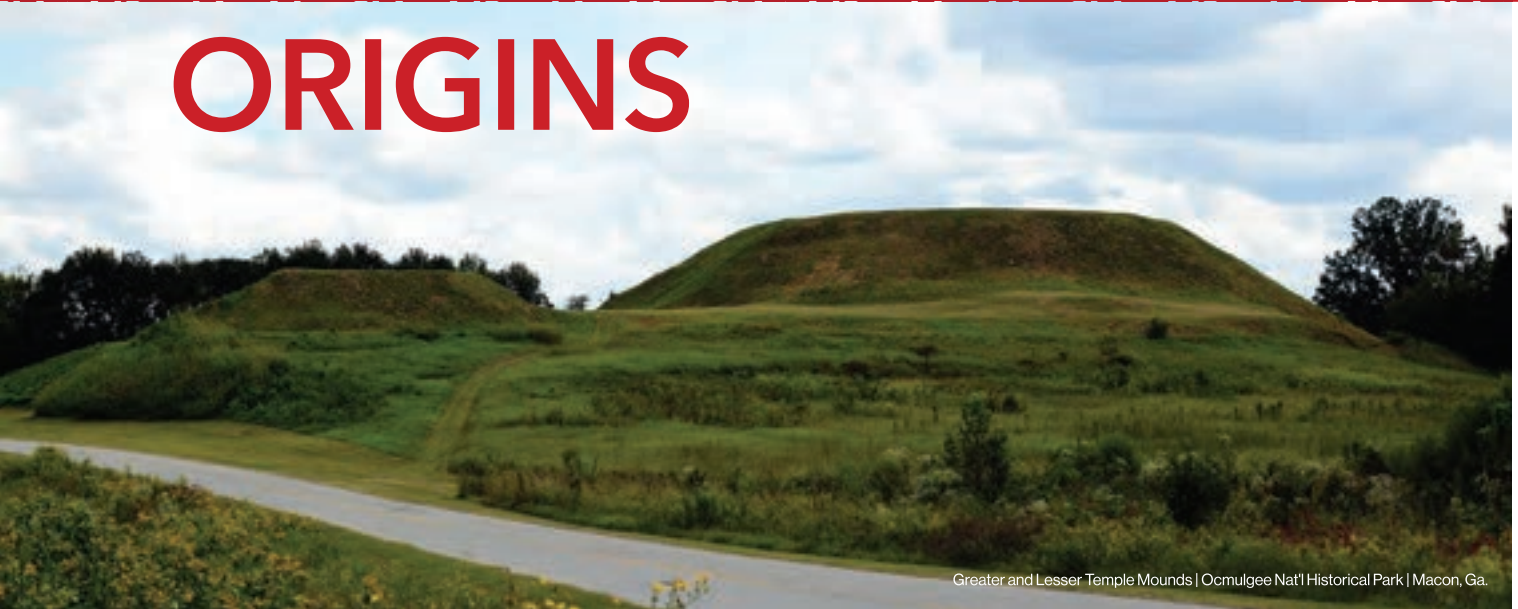
Tribal Government	24
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation	25
Progress and Growth	26

## QUICK FACTS 28

Muscogee /Mvskoke/ vs. Creek

It is important to note that “Muscogee” (spelled Mvskoke in the Muscogee language) and “Creek” are interchangeable and, although Muscogee is most proper, both are acceptable when speaking of the Nation, people, language or anything associated with them. The British coined the term “Creek” in the late 15th century and used it to identify entire groups of tribal towns living near them along Ocheese Creek in Georgia. Although the more traditional term “Muscogee” is slowly becoming more commonplace, the term “Creek” remains the most recognizable to the general public.

# ORIGINS



Greater and Lesser Temple Mounds | Ocmulgee Nat'l Historical Park | Macon, Ga.

The Muscogee People are descendants of the Mississippian culture that spanned the entire Mississippi River valley and floodplain. Ancestral Muscogee (800-1540 CE) constructed monumental earthen pyramids along the rivers of the area as part of their elaborate ceremonial complex extending regionally from the Macon plateau near present-day Macon, Georgia.

## 1540 EUROPEAN CONTACT

Chronicles of Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto's expedition in the 1540s write the first descriptions of the ancestors of the historic Creek and other Southeastern people. They note that many of the towns feature open plazas, earthen temple mounds, public buildings and homes constructed of upright logs, interwoven with vines or cane and plastered with clay (wattle and daub).

Upon the arrival of Europeans, disease and warfare lead to the decimation of populations. The indigenous people scatter among separate, related or allied "towns."

Population shifts, town survivors and refugees from other tribes, pressure from slave traders, and changes in trade practices lead to the combination of groups for stability. Member tribes are tribal towns, numbering at least fifty with a population of more than twenty thousand. Within this political structure, each

tribal town, having its own leader, maintains political autonomy and distinct land holdings; however, the language and the culture of the founding tribal towns becomes dominant. Collectively the towns consider themselves a confederacy consisting of distinct provincial groups.



Wattle and Daub House | Etowah Historical Site | Ga.

## 1690

### THE CREEKS

The British construct a trading post on Ocheese Creek (present Ocmulgee River, Ga.). The various towns located along the river are known, by the British, as the Ocheese Creek Nation."

**They refer to them as the "Creeks."**

## 1793

### ASSIMILATION

Indian Agent Benjamin Hawkins, appointed to the Creek people by President George Washington, initiates an assimilation policy. Eventually, the changes that became visible, like ownership of slaves, European clothing and lifestyle, and restructured government, lend the assumption and label "civilized" to the tribe.



## THE CREEK NATION WAS DIVIDED AMONG TWO GROUPS

The **Upper Creeks** occupied territory along the Coosa, Alabama, and Tallapoosa rivers in central Alabama, while the **Lower Creeks** occupied the areas along the lower Chattahoochee, Ocmulgee, and Flint rivers in southwestern Georgia.

Due, in part, to their proximity to the English, the Lower towns were substantially affected by intermarriage and its impact on their political and social order. The Upper towns remained far from European influence and, therefore, continued to maintain distinctly traditional political and social structure.

## 1812-1814 THE CREEK WAR

The **Upper Creeks or Red Sticks** (derived from their red-colored war clubs) strongly support traditional views of Creek society. Hostility toward the encroachment of white settlers combined with the influence of Shawnee leader Tecumseh instigates a rebellion against the pro-European Creeks and, ultimately, the U.S. military.

The "Red Stick War" or "Creek War" culminates in a battle at Horseshoe Bend, Alabama. More than 800 Muscogee perish. Andrew Jackson forces both factions to sign the Treaty of Fort Jackson, 1814, ceding 23 million acres.

## 1825 TREATY of INDIAN SPRINGS



William McIntosh | Lower Creek Leader

William McIntosh, a Lower Creek, along with a small contingency sign the Treaty of Indian Springs ceding all Lower Creek lands and a large tract of land in Alabama in exchange for a payment of \$200,000 and the same amount paid directly to McIntosh. According to a Muscogee law that McIntosh himself had supported, a sentence of execution awaits any Creek leader who cedes land to the U.S. without the full approval of the entire Creek Nation. The Muscogee National Council orders

the execution of William McIntosh and his co-conspirators.

The very next year, the U.S. Supreme Court nullifies the treaty marking the only time that a ratified treaty with an Indian nation was overturned. In return, Muscogee leaders sign the Treaty of Washington ceding all Creek lands in Georgia, saving Alabama/Upper Creek lands, in exchange for a one-time payment of \$217,600. All Georgia Creeks emigrate westward to Indian Territory (I.T.).

## 1836 REMOVAL

The Indian Removal Act, 1830, authorizes President Andrew Jackson to "negotiate" the removal of southern tribes to Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River, in exchange for their lands.

The Treaty of Cusseta, 1832, trades the Creeks' sovereign claim to their land in exchange for legal title to their land. This enables the legal sale of property or the ability to remain.

Despite land titles, settlers continue to encroach upon or swindle people who attempt sell their land. These situations create high

tension leading to violence, which, in 1836, erupts into the Second Creek War. The violence against whites provides Pres. Jackson justification to forcibly remove all Creeks remaining in the southeast to land in I.T.

Because of his status of possibly the most prominent Creek man, the government assigns Opothle Yahola to lead the first contingency. During the summer and winter of 1836 into early 1837, more than 20,000 Creek people make the journey from Alabama to Indian Territory.



Opothle Yahola | Upper Creek Leader

## LIFE IN INDIAN TERRITORY

Once the entirety of the people reached Indian Territory, Lower Creeks settled in the Three Forks area of the Arkansas River, and the Upper Creeks lived along the North Fork, Deep Fork, and Canadian river valleys. They still showed the ancient divisions of their old confederacy. The separate groups, now numbering approximately thirteen thousand, agreed, in 1840, to a new national government.

A new golden age of independent development ensued but was short lived. The Civil War destroyed much of the progress, but another new national government, with a bicameral legislative system emerged after 1866.

## 1866 THE CIVIL WAR IN I.T.

During the U.S. Civil War, Muscogee citizens divide their support among the Union and Confederate sides. More than 100 battles occur in Indian Territory.

Because a portion of the tribes supported the Confederacy, the U.S. government requires the Nation to sign the **Reconstruction Treaty of 1866** renewing their allegiance. Proof of allegiance also costs the cession of the entire western half of the Muscogee domain, 3.2 million acres.

## 1867

### RECONSTRUCTION

The Muscogee Nation adopts a new national government along with a written constitution providing for a Principal Chief and Second Chief, judicial branch, and legislature. The Nation establishes the seat of government in the capital city of Okmulgee and constructs a log cabin capitol. The Muscogee Nation begins to experience a new period of prosperity and builds schools, public houses and churches.



Log Cabin Creek Nation Council House, 1878 | Okmulgee, I.T.

## 1898

### ALLOTMENT

In 1887, U.S. Congress passes the **Dawes Act** (General Allotment Act) to break up tribal landholdings and allot land to individuals; thus furthering assimilation by breaking up communal life and encouraging individualistic farming. The act does not include I.T. However, when the demand in I.T. increases, Congress passes the **Curtis Act, 1898**, an amendment to the Dawes Act, enabling the Allotment Act to apply to the "Five Tribes," which results in surplus land for white settlers.

In 1901, Creek Chief Pleasant Porter and the Muscogee National Council consent to the Curtis Act and cooperate with the allotment process of Creek land.



Chief Pleasant Porter

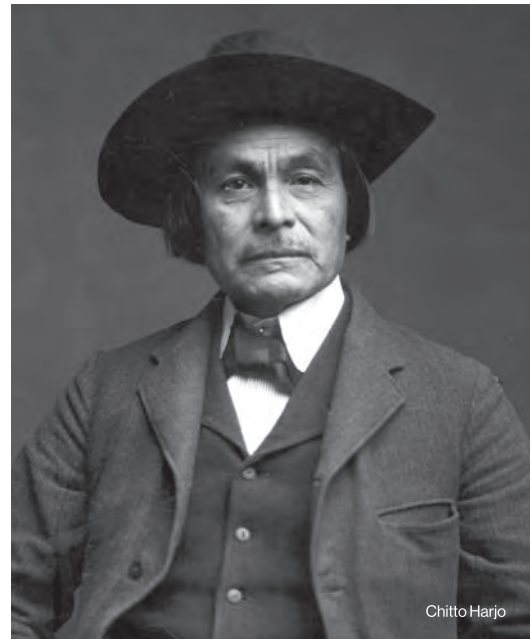


# 1901

## OPPOSITION TO ALLOTMENT

Noted Muscogee Statesman, **Chitto Harjo**, leads organized opposition to the Curtis Act and its dissolution of Muscogee National government and allotment of collectively-held lands. His efforts include lobbying President Theodore Roosevelt to stop the allotment process. He establishes an independent government at Hickory Ground Tribal Town in opposition to the Creek National Council. Harjo leads the rebellion along with supporters known as "Crazy Snakes" (Chitto Harjo, from the Muscogee language, loosely translates as "crazy snake.") until his death in, approximately, 1911.

Oklahoma's statehood (1907) brings the completion of the assimilation process and the partial dismantling of tribal government. The Nation loses more than two million acres of allotted domain.



Chitto Harjo

# REORGANIZATION



Chief Claude A. Cox

In 1934, U.S. Congress passes the **Indian Reorganization Act** and, in 1936, passes the **Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act** making the initial act relevant to tribes in Oklahoma. This reverses assimilation policy and becomes the basis for U.S. policies that recognize the right of self-determination for Native Americans. The law curtails the land allotment system, permits tribes to establish formal governments with limited powers and it established the former Creek tribal towns of Kialegee, Thlophlocco, and Alabama-Quassarte as sovereign nations.

The **Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968** makes many of the guarantees of the U.S. Bill of Rights applicable to tribes while also favoring tribal rights to self-determination. In 1971, with new rights in place, **Claude A. Cox** is the first Chief of the Muscogee Nation elected without Presidential approval. In 1979, the Nation ratifies a new constitution calling for a unicameral legislature, the National Council

# 1981

## CITIZENSHIP

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation opens enrollment. Descendants are allowed to enroll provided they are able to prove direct lineage to an ancestor listed on the 1906 Dawes Roll through the issuance of birth and/or death certificates as established by the Act of April 26, 1906. According to the current population count, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is the fourth largest in the U.S. with a population of more than **100,000 enrolled citizens**.

# 2020

## MCGIRT V. OKLAHOMA

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case confirms the sovereignty and territorial boundaries of the Muscogee Nation. The decision states that the Muscogee Nation Reservation, created through a treaty with Congress in 1833, remains intact and the Nation has the unrestricted right of self government with full jurisdiction over enrolled tribal members and their property.

# CEREMONY

Turtle shells are an integral and inseparable part of the traditional Muscogee ceremonial. The shells from female box turtles are filled with pebbles and other trinkets that will make a rattling noise. Several shells are then tied to the removed top of a boot or a piece of leather large enough to wrap around and cover the wearer's lower leg from below the knee to just above the ankle. The shells cover every part of the piece, save the area where the wearer strings leather or shoe laces bringing the two ends together to attach the shells to her leg.

Female participants wear the shells on both legs and make a stomping motion providing the "music" to which male participants sing in a call-and-response fashion. While the men sing and the women "shake shells," each participant falls in line in a male-female pattern trailing in a counter-clockwise motion forming a spiral around a central fire.

All of this is part of a ceremony that is a hopeful attempt to restore harmony on earth through prayer, song, dedication, sacrifice, and, most importantly, love.



Ceremonial Participant Wearing Turtle Shells

Today, **16** ceremonial grounds and approximately **100** historically Muscogee Christian churches remain active. Church congregations blend Christianity with Muscogee language and customs making worship and the church itself distinctly Muscogee.



Turtle Shells Used for Ceremony





The Town Center of Okmulgee since 1878.  
The original Capitol of the Muscogee Nation in  
I.T. now serves as the Historical Center for the  
Muscogee government and its people.

100 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street | Okmulgee, OK  
For Hours, Visit [CreekCouncilHouse.net](http://CreekCouncilHouse.net)  
or Call 539.286.4663

## REDSTICK GALLERY

Visit the Redstick Gallery across the street from  
the Historical Center for arts and crafts made  
by Muscogee people and items inspired by our  
people and culture.

105 S Grand Avenue | Okmulgee, OK  
For Hours, Visit [CreekNationGiftShop.com](http://CreekNationGiftShop.com)  
or Call 918-758-5557.



THE  
MUSCOGEE  
NATION

[MuscogeeNation.com](http://MuscogeeNation.com)





# LANGUAGE

According to *A Dictionary of Creek/Muskogee* by Jack B. Martin and Margaret Mauldin, four hundred years ago, a single language was shared among a large number of tribal towns in Alabama and Georgia. It was the most widely spoken language in the regions used for diplomacy, medicine, and personal names even in towns where other languages were used for everyday speech. The language the townspeople shared was known as the language of the Mvskoke people; English settlers later called it Creek. Today, the English words "Creek" and "Muscogee" are used interchangeably by some.

Creek is a member of the Muskogean language family indigenous to the southeastern U.S. Other languages belonging to the Muskogean family include the languages of the Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole people.

The Mvskoke Language, in written form, uses the letters of the English alphabet. Through the work of many missionaries, the alphabet of the Creek language was adopted by many interpreters and chiefs of the Nation in 1853.

The Muskogee (Creek) Nation Language Preservation Program works to promote and protect the Mvskoke language. The program develops resources and provides language teachers to communities and schools throughout the Nation to increase use of the language.

## COMMON PHRASES

Hello! (All is well!)	Hesci! /his-JA/
How are you?	(E)stonko? /(i)-sdon-GO/
Very well.	Heremahe. /HI-thle-MAH-he/
And you?	Centv? /JIN-də
What is your name?	Naket cehocefkvte /NAH-git je-ho-JIF-gə-de/
My name is _____.	_____ cvhocefkvtos. /je-ho-JIF-gə-dos/
Thank you.	Mvto. /mə-DO/
I will see you again. (no word for "goodbye")	Hvtvm Cehecares. /hə-DəM je-he-JAH-thles
Come! (command to 3/more)	Awepvks! /ah-WI-bəks/
Eat! (command to 2/more)	Hompvks (Ce)! /HOM-bəks(JE)/ (Ce=spoken emphasis)



Board of Education Exhibit | Creek Nation Council House





**LOOPED SQUARE**  
Meat Co.

MEAT PROCESSING  
+ MARKET



**3300 U.S. 75 | Beggs | 918.549.2922**



# THE COUNCIL HOUSE



Creek Nation Council House | Okmulgee

In 2018, after a complete restoration under the guidance of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center & Archives Department, the Nation's original capitol in Indian Territory opened as an historical interpretive centre where visitors learn the history of the building, its daily operations, and the people it served during its active years from 1878 to 1906. The Creek Nation Council House, or "the door to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," is the hub of tribal history and was the center of all tribal government activity and a gathering place for citizens until it was removed from the Nation's possession in 1906 by the U.S. Department of the Interior. For anyone wanting to learn about the Muscogee people and tribal government, the Council House Interpretive Centre is the starting point.

The Interpretive Centre offers visitors the chance to experience the capitol as if it were 1878. Audio/visual displays and interactive exhibits tell the story of the building, the type of services it provided, the citizens it served, tribal government, and those that built and maintained the Muscogee people's government. Rooms, such as a replica classroom in the Board of Education exhibit, are complete with period furnishings and provide a sense of the daily operations of the Council House when it served as the capitol of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



House of Kings Exhibit | Creek Nation Council House | Okmulgee



Historical Interpretation Signage | Creek Nation Council House | Okmulgee

# COUNCIL HOUSE TIMELINE

The Nation arrives in I.T. and works to re-establish law and order.

1836

①

The Nation constructs a log cabin council house. The city of Okmulgee is established and opens a post office.

1869

③

The U.S. Department of the Interior takes possession of the Council House in accordance with the 5 Civilized Tribes Act.

1906

⑤

Formation of the Creek Indian Memorial Association (CIMA), the parent organization of the Creek Council House Museum.

1923

⑦

The Council House is listed on the Nat'l Register of Historic Sites and designated as a Nat'l Historic Landmark.

1961

⑨

The CIMA initiates a \$1 million drive for the historic restoration of the Council House.

1989

⑪

The Nation provides an annual appropriation for the support of the Council House Museum curator.

2000

⑬

After a complete historically accurate restoration, the Council House opens as an historical interpretive centre.

2018

⑮

1867

②

Following the Reconstruction period, the Nation chooses Okmulgee as their new capital and ratifies a new constitution.

1878

④

The log cabin burns and the Nation builds a stone capitol along with schools, churches and public houses.

1907

⑥

Oklahoma becomes a state. Okmulgee County leases the building for \$2,000/year to serve as the county courthouse.

30-60

⑧

Different uses of the building: Sheriff's office, Boy Scout meeting room, Red Cross and a YMCA

1971

⑩

The city of Okmulgee purchases the structure from the U.S. Dept. of the Interior and it becomes a Native American history and art museum.

1992

⑫

After a year-long restoration, the museum reopens and receives the Nat'l Preservation Award the following year.

2010

⑭

The city of Okmulgee sells the Council House to the Nation for \$3.2 million.



# THE CAPITOL COMPLEX

Located in Okmulgee, the Nation's capital, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex serves as the seat of tribal government. It houses the Executive Branch (Principal Chief, Second Chief, Support Staff), Legislative Branch (National Council), the Judicial Branch (District and Supreme Courts), and many support services essential to the function of tribal government including the Lighthorse Tribal Police Department.

A large memorial dedicated to tribal service men and women stands tall on the west end of the complex. The Complex also honors veterans in the Veterans' Affairs Services Office (VASO) Museum, which exhibits military artifacts, some dating as far back as World War I, on loan from Muscogee citizens who served in all branches of the U.S. Military. The Nation's judicial and legislative branches operate out of the "Mound Building." The building represents the large earthen mounds created by Muscogee ancestors of the Mississippian culture in what is now known as the Southeastern U.S.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex | Okmulgee



VASO Museum | Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex | Okmulgee



Veterans' Memorial | Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex | Okmulgee



Mound Building | Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex | Okmulgee



# 300+ GAMES

Take one for a spin!

High Stakes Area • Monthly Promotions • MazziosGO!™



creek nation  
**connect**

Your Connection to Better Rewards!

**ONE FIRE**  
**CASINO**

1901 N WOOD DR OKMULGEE, OK 74447 • 918.746.8400 • CREEKNATIONCASINO**ONEFIRE**.COM



# COUNCIL OAK

The Creek Nation Council Oak Park, created in the mid 1900's, lies just south of Tulsa's downtown amidst a mixture of houses and apartments. The park is home to a statue of soaring bronze flames, native plants, and the park's namesake and most prominent feature- The Council Oak. The tree, dubbed "Tulsa's first city hall," has witnessed the beginnings of a city starting with the area's first inhabitants. The Locvpokv (LO•jə•BO•gə) tribal town arrived in Indian Territory in 1836 carrying the coals and ash from their original fires in Alabama. In a ceremonial act proclaiming this their new home, they used the coals to rekindle the fire at the base of a towering oak on a hill overlooking, what is now, the Arkansas River. The Locvpokv people built their town around the tree and called it Tvlvhasse (də•ləHAH se) or, in English, Tallahassee.

Once settled in IT., the confederated towns of the Muscogee Nation held council at the tree to re-establish their government. The tree was host to governmental discussions as well as tribal gatherings, ceremonies, games and feasts. With the contribution of the Reconstruction period, following the U.S. Civil War, change and urban development smothered the original town. Even the town's name, mostly due to settlers' inability to pronounce it, changed to Tallasi and, eventually, Tulsey. In 1897, Tulsa became the city's official name. Disturbance from the city's population and industrial growth brought an end to the activity around the oak. Tribal town members scattered and joined other towns.

Although the development of Tulsa drove the people away from the oak, Muscogee influence remained. Families operated their own businesses or maintained large tracts of land and others were highly involved in establishing the city. George Perryman, a Muscogee citizen, established the first official post office in his house and his brother, Josiah, became the city's first postmaster. George was also a signer of the original charter for the Town of Tulsa in 1898.

Every October, the leaders of Muscogee and Euchee ceremonial grounds, tribal government and city officials along with the public, gather at the Creek Nation Council Oak Park for the Council Oak Ceremony. The event commemorates the arrival and contributions of Locvpokv. The ceremony includes retelling the history of Council Oak, Locvpokv tribal town, Muscogee culture and traditions, and the city that Muscogee people created.



Morning Prayer | Dan Brook, Artist | Creek Nation Council Oak Park | Tulsa



# *That* **ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN** *Feeling*



## **ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCES AWAIT YOU**

### *Endless gaming excitement*

Two casinos under one roof—  
River Spirit® & Margaritaville®

### *Fine-dining excellence*

The only Ruth's Chris® Steak House  
in Oklahoma

### *Luxurious Spa & Salon*

Pamper yourself in our relaxing retreat

### *Beautiful river views*

Luxurious resort hotel

### *Caribbean-style pool*

Soak up some sun

### *Awesome live music*

5 o'Clock Somewhere® Bar,  
Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville®,  
The Cove Theater



**RIVER SPIRIT®**  
CASINO RESORT

8330 RIVERSIDE PARKWAY TULSA, OK 74137  
888-748-3731 • RIVERSPIRITTULSA.COM



PROUD RECIPIENT OF *Four Diamond Award*



# RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT

Open since 2016 on the banks of the Arkansas River in Tulsa, River Spirit Casino Resort has brought a little slice of paradise to Tulsa with Margaritaville Casino & Restaurant. River Spirit has two casinos in one, each with its own distinctive atmosphere and décor. With over 3,000 high-tech electronic machines, numerous poker tables and table games, River Spirit Casino and Margaritaville Casino are the destination of choice for casino excitement.

Guests can enjoy several dining and entertainment venues including Fireside Grill, Scoreboard Sports Bar, 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar, Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville restaurant and Ruth's Chris Steak House.

River Spirit Casino Resort features a luxurious 27-story, 483-room hotel, Margaritaville Retail Store, River Spirit Casino Resort gift shop, coffee shop, 30,000 square foot convention and meeting center and the Cove Theater, a 2,500+ seat showroom theater for live entertainment and sporting events.

Additional casino amenities include a poker room, high-stakes room and designated smoke-free areas. As an active community partner, River Spirit Casino Resort provides a positive economic impact for Tulsa and surrounding towns. River Spirit, along with Muscogee (Creek) Nation's eight other casinos, pays millions of dollars in exclusivity fees to the state of Oklahoma to help fund the state's Education Reform Revolving Fund, the General Revenue Fund and the Oklahoma State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Other proceeds from gaming operations help to fund a variety of Muscogee (Creek) Nation service programs such as housing, education, elderly assistance and health care.









# MUSCOGEE NATION FESTIVAL

Held annually in June, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival is a celebration of the living culture and contemporary life of Muscogee people. Since 1974, the Muscogee Nation Festival has been a treasured and time-honored experience.

Festival events include sports tournaments, an all Indian rodeo, a parade through downtown Okmulgee, Junior Olympics, horseshoes, live entertainment, a 5K run, children's activities, senior activities, a fun fair, art festival, stomp dance, cultural exhibitions, and fireworks. With an estimated attendance of 40,000 plus, all of more than 26 events are free to attend and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. The festival's goal is to be the premier event in northeastern Oklahoma, providing entertainment and free, family fun for everyone.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation began in 1973 with an all-Indian rodeo. The following year, the Nation added a softball tournament to the rodeo, and the festival was born. Fifty years later, the festival consists of more than 26 events, including the festival's biggest draw, live entertainment, and requires the help of nearly 1,000 volunteers.

Festival attendance has dramatically increased in recent years thanks to the addition of some of the music industry's most well-known stars. Some recognizable names include Smokey Robinson, Eli Young Band, Kool & The Gang, and Bret Michaels. The acquisition of top musical acts has garnered the Nation's premier event greater attention and has created a much larger festival. All subsequent festivals must now be bigger and better.



Concert Crowd | Muscogee Nation Festival | Okmulgee



Fun Fair | Muscogee Nation Festival | Okmulgee

The increased awareness of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival has also heightened participation and attendance of all other events including a momentous celebration of traditional Muscogee culture to open the festival each year, with the public invited to a Muscogee stomp dance. Everyone is welcome to attend and immerse themselves into a single but vital part of the living Muscogee culture that has been entrusted from generation to generation since time immemorial.

While visiting the festival, make sure to check out some of the largest sporting events in Oklahoma including fast pitch and slow pitch softball tournaments that attract more than 100 teams, volleyball, horseshoes, basketball, as well as a tennis tournament, and the second largest All-Indian Rodeo in the U.S. Children and adults alike enjoy a great parade and the festival parade is not one to be missed. Each year the festival parade amasses an excess

of 100 entries. The parade is always pleasurable to view as it passes in front of the historical Creek Nation Council House on Main Street in historic downtown Okmulgee, the capital of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

While some events occur in other locations throughout the Nation and throughout the entire month of June, the majority of events are held at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claude Cox Omniplex during the fourth weekend in June. The Claude Cox Omniplex is located on the north end of the city of Okmulgee and west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 75 and OK State Highway 56, Loop Route. Check the festival website, [MuscogeeNationFestival.com](http://MuscogeeNationFestival.com), for a full schedule and list of locations.



Pony Express | Muscogee Nation Festival Rodeo | Okmulgee



# RESERVATION TOUR ITINERARY

**8:00 AM: Depart from River Spirit Casino Resort**  
8330 Riverside Parkway | Tulsa

**9:00 AM: Arrive at Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House and Redstick Gallery**

100 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street | 105 South Grand Avenue | Okmulgee

The Creek Nation Council House, in Okmulgee, stands as the hub of tribal history and is where the present-day tribal government was formerly established and where Muscogee people founded the present-day city of Okmulgee in 1868. Redstick Gallery provides the opportunity to shop and purchase Muscogee-made arts and crafts.

**10:00 AM: Depart the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House and Redstick Gallery**

**10:15 AM: Arrive at Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex**

U.S. 75 & OK 52 Loop | Okmulgee

Tour the modern-day Muscogee government and Mound building that houses the tribe's Legislative and Judicial branches of government. Explore the Veterans' building to honor and pay tribute to Muscogee Veterans who proudly served in the United States armed services from WWI to present day. Visit the College of the Muscogee Nation. The next stop, Claude Cox Omniplex, is a recreational site and home to the annual Muscogee Nation Festival.

**11:15 AM: Depart Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex**

**11:30 AM Arrive at Looped Square Meat Company**

3300 U.S. 75 | Beggs

Retail/Grocery store. The beef, processed on site, is raised on the Reservation at the Nation's Ranch. Remember to check out Looped Square merchandise.

**12:30 PM: Depart Looped Square Meat Company**

**1:00 PM: Arrive at Jenks Riverwalk**

300-1100 Riverwalk Terrace | Jenks

Eateries at the Jenks Riverwalk include everything from Barbecue to Mexican to Pizza, Ice Cream, and so much more! After lunch, take a walk to see all of the eye-catching murals by Muscogee artists.

**3:00 PM: Depart Jenks Riverwalk**

**3:15: Arrive at Council Oak Healthcare Center**

10109 East 79th Street | Tulsa

The Tulsa location is key to providing convenient care to

Muscogee people and the community. The center is able to specialize in areas that are more specific to the needs of indigenous people.

**3:30 PM: Depart Council Oak Healthcare Center**

**4:00 PM: Arrive at Creek Nation Council Oak Park**

1750 South Cheyenne Avenue | Tulsa

The Locvpokv tribal town claimed this area as their new home. They carried coal and ashes from their original fires in Alabama and held a ceremony placing the ashes at the base of a towering oak tree on a hill overlooking what is now the Arkansas River.

**4:30 PM: Depart Creek Nation Council Oak Park**

**5:00 PM: Arrive at River Spirit Casino Resort**

Dinner at Fireside Grill, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Rain Bay Café, Margaritaville, or Mazzio's Go.

## HOURS of OPERATION

River Spirit Casino Resort  
Mon–Sun 24 Hours

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House  
Fall/Winter, Mon–Fri 10:00AM–4:00 PM  
Spring/Summer, Tues–Sat 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Redstick Gallery  
Tues–Fri 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Government Complex  
Mon–Fri 8:00 AM–5:00 PM

Looped Square Meat Company  
Mon–Fri 10:00 AM–6:30 PM | Sat 8:30 AM–4:00 PM

Jenks Riverwalk  
Open Mon–Sun 11:00 AM–12:00 AM  
(Individual Restaurant, Shop, and Golf Suite Hours May Vary)

Council Oak Healthcare Center  
Mon–Fri 7:00 AM–7:00 PM | Sat–Sun 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Creek Nation Council Oak Park  
Mon–Sun 7:00 AM–10:00 PM

# NIGHTLIFE OPTIONS

Distance from River Spirit Casino Resort

## TULSA ARTS DISTRICT 11.1 miles

### Valkyrie

Tuesday–Sunday 4:00 PM–2:00 AM

### Inner Circle Vodka Bar

Wednesday–Thursday 4:00 PM–12:00 AM

Friday–Saturday 4:00 PM–2:00 AM

### Club Majestic

Thursday–Sunday 9:00 PM–2:00 AM

---

## PEARL DISTRICT 8.9 miles

### Pearl Beach Brew Pub

Sunday 2:00 PM–12:00 AM

Monday–Friday 5:00 PM–12:00 AM

Saturday 2:00 PM–9:00 PM

### Dead Armadillo Craft Brewing

Sunday 1:00 PM–8:00 PM

Monday–Thursday 2:00 PM–9:00 PM

Friday 2:00 PM–11:00 PM

Saturday 12:00 PM–11:00 PM

### Nothing's Left Brewing Co.

Sunday 1:00 PM–8:00 PM

Tuesday–Thursday 3:00 PM–9:00 PM

Friday 1:00 PM–11 PM

Saturday 1:00 PM–7:00 PM

---

## BLUE DOME DISTRICT 11.4 miles

### Arnie's Bar

Sunday–Saturday 12:00 PM–2:00 AM

### The Max Retropub

Sunday 12:00 PM–12:00 AM

Monday–Saturday 4:00 PM–2:00 AM

### Fassler Hall

Sunday–Thursday 11:00 AM–12:00 AM

Friday–Saturday 11:00 AM–2:00 AM

### Dust Bowl Lanes and Lounge

Sunday 12:00 PM–10:00 PM

Tuesday–Thursday 4:00 PM–10:00 PM

Friday 4:00 PM–1:00 AM

Saturday 12:00 PM–1:00 AM

### St. Vitus

Thursday–Sunday 8:00 PM–2:00 AM

### Whiskey 918

Friday–Saturday 9:00 PM–2:00 AM

## CHERRY STREET DISTRICT 7.3 miles

### Kilkenny's Irish Pub

Monday–Friday 11:00 AM–2:00 AM

Saturday–Sunday 9:00 AM–2:00 AM

### Roosevelt's Gastropub

Sunday 10:00 AM–9:00 PM

Monday–Thursday 11:00 AM–10:00 PM

Friday 11:00 AM–12:00 AM

Saturday 10:00 AM–12:00 AM

### Sidecar Barley & Wine Bar

Sunday 11:00 AM–12:00 AM

Monday–Thursday 11:00 AM–1:00 AM

Friday–Saturday 11:00 AM–2:00 AM

---

## Main Event 4.7 miles

Sunday 11:00 AM–12:00 AM

Monday 11:00 AM–1:00 AM

Tuesday–Thursday 11:00 AM–12:00 AM

Friday 11:00 AM–2:00 AM

Saturday 9:00 AM–2:00 AM

### Andy B's 1.4 miles

Sunday 10:00 AM–10:00 PM

Monday–Tuesday 2:00 PM–11:00 PM

Wednesday 12:00 PM–11:00 PM

Thursday 2:00 PM–11:00 PM

Friday 2:00 PM–12:00 AM

Saturday 10:00 AM–12:00 AM

---

## JENKS 2 miles

### Maggie's Music Box

Monday–Friday 3:00 PM–2:00 AM

Saturday–Sunday 11:00 AM–2:00 AM

### George's Pub

Sunday 12:00 PM–2:00 AM

Monday–Saturday 11:00 AM–2:00 AM

### Letterman's Lounge

Monday–Thursday 3:00 PM–1:00 AM

Friday 3:00 PM–2:00 AM

Saturday–Sunday 11:00 AM–2:00 AM

### Golf Suites

Sunday 10:00 AM–10:00 PM

Monday–Thursday 11:00 AM–10:00 PM

Friday 11:00 AM–12:00 AM

Saturday 10:00 AM–12:00 AM



# TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

**The Muscogee (Creek) Nation operates as a self-determined visionary government, designing, developing, and managing an advanced service system for its citizens and communities while maintaining the traditions, culture, and respect of the Muscogee people.**

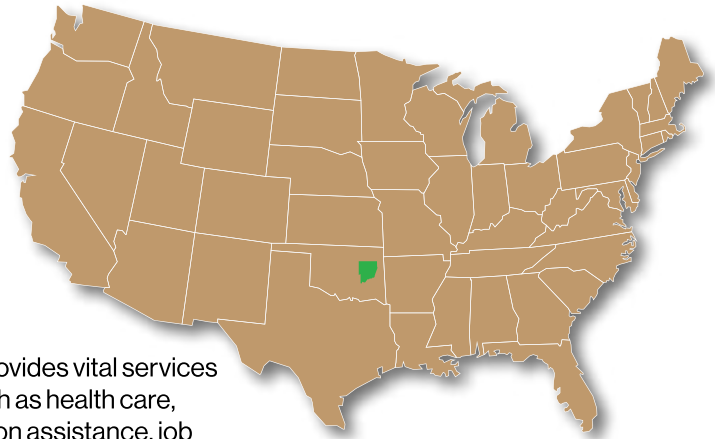
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is one of 38 federally-recognized, sovereign tribal governments in Oklahoma and 573 in the U.S. The Nation's enrollment consists of more than 100,000 citizens\* (numbers change daily) making this nation the third largest tribe in Oklahoma and the fourth largest in the United States. Tribal citizens and governments have inherent rights and a political relationship with the U.S. government. Tribal citizens are citizens of three sovereigns: their tribe, the United States, and the state in which they reside; they are also individuals in an international context with the rights afforded to any other individual.

Located in Okmulgee, the Nation's capital, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex serves as the seat of tribal government and houses the Executive (Principal Chief, Second Chief, Support Staff) Legislative (National Council), and Judicial (District and Supreme Courts) branches as well as many support services essential to the function of tribal government.

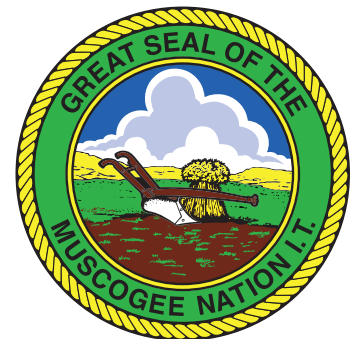
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation employs over 5,000 people; builds and maintains governmental

infrastructure; provides vital services to its citizens such as health care, housing, education assistance, job training and placement, financial assistance and support services, foster care and adoption; provides law and order (Lighthorse Tribal Police Force); and operates many other programs including culture and language preservation and natural resource management. While some of the Nation's programs and departments operate on an annual budget granted from the Federal Government, the Nation subsidizes some and creates others solely with tribally-generated funds.

The Nation generates revenues from its many business ventures and its tribal tax commission. Monies generated from these sources not only allow the Nation to provide more jobs by funding more operations, but also to give back to state and local governments, schools, communities, businesses, and Muscogee (Creek) citizens. The Nation's revenue, combined with the number of employees and the payroll, grant the Nation the ability to have an \$874 million impact on the state of Oklahoma's economy.

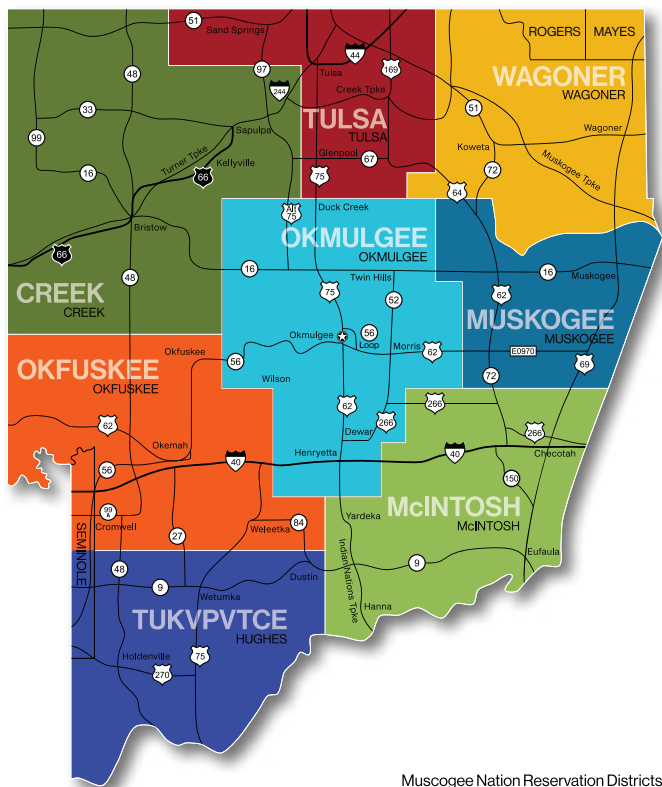


Muscogee Nation Reservation within the U.S.



Muscogee citizen: any person granted citizenship in the tribe following a process including, but not limited to, proof of lineage to a Muscogee ancestor(s) listed on the final rolls by issuance of birth and/or death certificates as established by the Act of April 26, 1906.

# THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION RESERVATION



Muscogee Nation Reservation Districts

**The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation, which includes trust land and fee land owned by the tribe as well as other lands within the boundaries, calls for a high level of coordination and the development of cooperative agreements between tribal, state, and local officials.**

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation consists of an area within boundaries established in treaties between the tribe and the Federal Government following the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Prior to statehood, both Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory contained suzerain Indian Nations that had legally established boundaries.

The reservation includes trust lands and fee lands owned by the tribe as well as other lands not belonging to or owned by the tribe. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation includes 11 counties, wholly or in part, in east central Oklahoma. The 11 counties make up 8 voting districts, originally for political representation, but now for the sole purpose of administering elections. These districts are Creek (Creek County entirely), Tulsa (Southern portion and western reach of Tulsa County), Wagoner (majority of Wagoner County and a small portion of the southern regions of Rogers and Mayes Counties), Okfuskee (Okfuskee County entirely and a portion of Seminole County), Okmulgee (Okmulgee County entirely), Muskogee (western portion of Muskogee County), Tukvptce (northern portion of Hughes County and a portion of Seminole County), and McIntosh (majority of McIntosh County).



Muscogee Nation Reservation within the State of Oklahoma



# PROGRESS and GROWTH

## 1984

The Nation opens Creek Nation Tulsa Bingo on the east bank of the Arkansas River. Gaming creates jobs and revenue funds government operations and programs, provides for the general welfare of citizens, promotes economic development, enhances communities and helps fund operations of local government agencies.

## 1993

The Nation begins providing citizens, living in the jurisdiction, the option to register their vehicles with the Nation's Tax Commission. Revenues fund construction and improvement of roads and public parking lots, and to improve public safety on the Reservation.

## 2004



College of Muscogee Nation | Okmulgee

The Nation opens the College of the Muscogee Nation. Its purpose is to provide native and non-native students an institution of higher education emphasizing native culture, values, language and self determination. As a member of the American Indian Education Consortium, the college is accredited to provide associate-level degrees.

## 2008



Fountainhead Creek Golf Course | Checotah

The Nation begins leasing and operating the Fountainhead Golf Course, now the Fountainhead Creek Golf Course, from the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Nation holds a Constitutional Convention, the first since 1979, to update and propose amendments to the Nation's constitution. One of the amendments proposed and ratified decreases the amount of representatives on the National Council to two per district for a total of 16 and also makes them, essentially, at large representatives.

## 2009

River Spirit Casino opens and replace the Creek Nation Casino. River Spirit is home to one of Oklahoma's largest gaming floors and the state's largest buffet.

## 2010

After purchasing it from the City of Okmulgee, the Nation regains ownership of the Creek Nation Council House.

# History on the RESERVATION

## 2012



Riverwalk | Arkansas River | Jenks

Remaining in line with the vision for economic development, the Nation purchases Tulsa's pioneering commercial Arkansas River development. The waterfront property, located on the west bank of the Arkansas River, is home to several restaurants, shopping, office space, and FlyingTee golf, which is a dining and entertainment complex.

## 2013

The University of Oklahoma transfers ownership of the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center to the Nation.

The Nation acquires the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital and operates it as a community hospital serving tribal and nontribal citizens.

## 2016

A partnership with Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, enables River Spirit Casino, now a Casino Resort, to add a Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant. Along with many other attractive amenities, the casino resort is truly a destination complete with a 27 story, 483 room luxury hotel adjacent to River Spirit Casino.

## 2018



Okemah Community Hospital | Okemah

After operating the Okemah Hospital since the 70s, the Nation opens the Okemah Community Hospital, a 110,000 sq foot replacement facility, to serve tribal and non-tribal citizens.

The Nation's Citizenship Board begins to issue Enhanced Tribal Identification Cards as an option to current citizenship cards. The cards, compliant with the Real ID Act, enable tribal citizens to carry a Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative to be used for domestic air travel and land/sea-border crossings within the Western Hemisphere.

## 2021

The Nation purchases the former Tulsa Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) facility in Tulsa. Outpatient services include urgent care and an HIV and Hepatitis clinic. Inpatient services began in 2022. The new campus brings much needed specialty care closer to Muscogee citizens. The 20-acre campus features 336,385 square feet of inpatient and outpatient accommodations, a medical office building and 153 hotel rooms for family members and patients.



Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare Center



# QUICK FACTS

1

The official name of the tribe, as noted in the Nation's constitution, is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Creek, when used with Muscogee, appears in parenthesis because it is, essentially, a pseudonym or alias.

2

Languages spoken:  
Mvskoke (mə-SKO-ge), Euchee, English

3

The U.S. government forcibly relocated the Muscogee people to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) from their ancestral lands in Georgia and Alabama as a directive of the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Removal was complete in 1837.

4

Third largest tribe in Oklahoma and fourth in the U.S, with 100,000+ enrolled citizens. Numbers change daily.

5

Citizenship requirements: Applicant must be a lineal descendant of a Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood whose name appears on the final Dawes Rolls as provided by the act of April 26, 1906, and is not an enrolled member of another tribe, nation, or pueblo...

6

Enrolled citizens hold dual citizenship: tribal and federal (or foreign country).

7

Citizens pay state and federal taxes along with tribal tax if choosing to register a vehicle(s) with the tribe. Similar to state and federal elections, citizens 18 and over are eligible to register and vote in tribal elections.

8

The reservation consists of 11 counties in east central Oklahoma. The area is further divided into 8 districts: Creek, Tulsa, Wagoner, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Muskogee, Tukvptce, and McIntosh.

9

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation government, Okmulgee being the capital and the seat of the government, consists of 3 branches.  
Executive Branch: Chief and Second Chief  
Legislative Branch: National Council consisting of 16 representatives  
Judicial: District and Supreme Courts

10

The Nation maintains a \$200 million operating budget, employs more than 4,000 people, and provides vital services to its citizens such as health care, housing and education assistance, job training and placement, social services and operates many other programs including culture and language preservation.

11

\$13.4 million, from the Nation's nine casinos collectively, in exclusivity fees were paid to the state of Oklahoma via the Oklahoma State-Tribal Gaming Act, according to the Oklahoma Gaming Compliance Unit Annual Report FY 2022, compiled by the Oklahoma Office of Management & Enterprise Services.

CREEKNATIONCASINODUCKCREEK.COM

# Your Hometown Casino!

creek nation  
connect

YOUR CONNECTION TO BETTER REWARDS

DUCK CREEK  
**CASINO**

10085 Ferguson Road  
Beggs, Oklahoma 74421  
**918.267.3468**



FREE COPY



VISIT THE  
MUSCOGEE  
NATION



U.S. Hwy 75 & OK State Hwy 56, Loop  
Okmulgee, OK



918.732.7992 | 800.482.1979



MvskokeTourism.com  
MuscogeeNationFestival.com  
MuscogeeNation.com



/VisitMuscogeeNation



/VisitTheMuscogeeNation



## GUIDE TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Visit The Muscogee Nation | Muscogee Nation Marketing & Tourism  
P.O. Box 580 | Okmulgee, OK 74447