

Orange Shirt Day Memorial

This display shows the great number of Indigenous Boarding and Residential Schools that have operated in the United States and Canada. We have listed the following information:

Name of the School, Location, Years of operation, and the known number of deaths or gravesites

There is more data and research that has been completed in Canada thanks to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. United States Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo Citizen) announced in June 2021 the implementation of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiatives. The objective of the entity is to identify all boarding schools facilities and sites, the location of known and possible student burial sites at or near schools, and the identities and Tribal affiliations of children interred at these locations. On May 11, 2022, Secretary Haaland released the first volume of their report.

Find out more about the report here: <https://www.bia.gov/service/federal-indian-boarding-school-initiative>

We look forward to hearing the reports from this initiative and being able to bring healing to the lost children, survivors and their descendants through uncovering the truth of the abuse and oppression of Indigenous children through the boarding school system.

United States:

- Indigenous children were forced, stolen, and coerced from their home and families
- Children were forbidden to speak their native language or religion, they were renamed with English names, their hair was cut
- Extensive military drills and manual labor.
- Abusive discipline included withholding food, solitary confinement, and physical punishment
- The government run schools were centered on the line “Kill the Indian...and save the man” a phrase coined by General Richard Pratt, the architect of the school system and founder of the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania.
- Between 1819 and 1969 there were 408 schools across 37 states. There were over 1,000 other institutions that involved assimilation disguised as education for Native American children.
- 53 burial sites were identified, with more expected to be uncovered in the investigation.
- 367 Boarding Schools operated in 29 states
- By 1926, 83% of Indian school-age children were attending boarding schools

*Data from the [National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#)

Data from the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#):

- Indigenous Children were forcibly taken from their homes by RCMP
- 150,000 Indigenous Children were taken from their families
- Approximately 80,000 survivors of residential school currently
- 90-100% suffered severe physical, emotional, and sexual abuse
- There was a 40-60% mortality rate in Indian Residential Schools
 - Majority of death related to disease, Tuberculosis
 - Department of Indian Affairs reported that school conditions contributed to rapid spread of disease.
- Residential Schools date back to the 1870s
- Over 130 residential schools were located across Canada
- The last school closed in 1996

US Government Goals:

- Seize Native American Land. After forced removal and the creation of Reservations, the government developed an assimilation policy to continue their efforts of Manifest Destiny.
- Economic reliance on US capitalist systems for food and goods. Forcing tribes to purchase goods on credit to assimilate to western agricultural lifestyle creating a debt to the US and forcing tribes to cede lands to cover payment, channeling that money into funding the US boarding school system

Truth and Healing with Accountability and Reconciliation

- Papal Apology July 29th, 2022
 - Pope Francis comes to Canada on “Pilgrimage of Penance” to apologize to Indigenous peoples for the role of the Catholic Church in the residential/boarding school system.
 - This apology was demanded by First Nation survivors
 - The Catholic Church has paid nearly \$50 million in settlement and intends to pay an additional \$30 million over the next few years.
- Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act (S.2907/HR.5444)
 - In Subcommittee Stage
 - No Ohio Representatives have Co-sponsored the bill
- Ohio Boarding School: Shawnee Friends (Quaker) Mission School
 - Located in Wapakoneta in 1821 for the purposes of teaching English and European farming methods.(
https://ohiohistorycentral.org/index.php?title=Society_of_Friends&mobileaction=toggle_view_desktop)

What is Orange Shirt Day?

- Annual awareness event on September 30th
- Also known as The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- A day dedicated to bringing awareness to the Government boarding school systems in the US and Canada.
- Bringing awareness and honoring Indigenous residential and boarding school survivors, descendants and deceased students.
- Started by Phyllis Webstad (Northern Secwepemc) from Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation and Canadian residential school survivor.
- When Phyllis was sent to residential school in 1973 at six years old. Her grandmother sent her in a new special beautiful orange shirt. Upon arrival her clothes and shirt were taken and never returned.
- Orange Shirt Day uses the tagline "Every Child Matters" to remember that every child has worth, from those that survived, those that were abused, those that died, and those that were left in unmarked graves.
- This is a day of opportunity for all to learn and come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for the future of Indigenous children.

Donation Collection:

To receive your Student Life Center for Belonging and Social Change Orange Shirt this year we will be collecting donations of school supplies for current Indigenous K-12 students. Accepted donations include: backpacks, spiral notebook, construction paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils, pens, #2 pencils, erasers, glue sticks, 3 ring binders, composition book, pens, rulers, folders, highlighters, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, tissues, ziplock bags, headphones, printer paper, dry erase markers. We have a limited supply of shirts so they will be distributed in the order that donations are received.

Thank you for your support in bringing awareness to Orange Shirt Day and helping support current Indigenous students in their classrooms.

Learn More: <https://go.osu.edu/orangeshirtday>

If you have any questions please reach out to Madison Eagle (eagle.41@osu.edu).