



SHINNECOCK INDIAN NATION

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For Immediate Release

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Shinnecock Indian Nation To Participate in Grand Opening of National Museum of the American Indian

Washington, D.C., September 14, 2004 - More than 50 tribal members of the Shinnecock Indian Nation will arrive in Washington next week to celebrate the grand opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). The Shinnecock will participate in the *Native Nations Procession* on Tuesday September 21, which will represent the formal kick-off of a six-day festival. The Shinnecock, along with other distinguished and established tribes and nations, will take part in the symbolic walk from the Washington Monument to the NMAI. Shinnecock tribal members will join over 100,000 other American Indians in a historic cultural expression celebrating the grand opening -- the most comprehensive gathering of native and indigenous people in recent history.

"The Shinnecock Nation proudly supports the opening of the Museum and is pleased to be able to represent our culture and our people by marching in the Native Nations Procession," said tribal trustee Lance Gumbs. "This week's celebration is only one expression of the resilience and beauty of the Native American people. The Museum is a showcase of our culture, a symbol of our long standing place in history, and an emblem our continued importance in the future of the American people."

The Trustees will be available to provide comments to the press while in Washington, D.C. Contact Beverly Jensen at 631-745-9176 or Sue Zoldak at 202-293-5870

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The Shinnecock Indian Nation is one of the largest, continuously self-governing tribes in the country. There are more than 1300-members of the State recognized Tribe. For more information, please visit our Web Site at Shinnecocknation.com or call our communications team at 631-204-9301 or 631-745-9176.