



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

DECEMBER 4, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESIDENT BEGAYE AND VICE PRESIDENT NEZ SIGN PROCLAMATION DECLARING THIRD WEEK OF DECEMBER AS SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK



WINDOW ROCK, AZ-On Friday, Dec. 4, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez signed a proclamation declaring the third week in December as Suicide Prevention Week.

The proclamation serves to provide impetus for Navajo Nation departments and communities to promote dialogue and awareness about suicide prevention and the prevention resources available throughout local communities.

“It is our goal to empower individuals, families and communities to make positive choices while restoring hope, self-sufficiency and determination,” said President Russell Begaye. “The loss of one life is one too many.”

During the week of December 14 - 19, 2015, President Begaye and Vice President Nez will begin the Communities of Hope tour addressing suicide prevention and awareness across the Navajo Nation. The tour is scheduled to stop at twelve Navajo high schools and a youth center.

For Native Americans of all age groups, suicide is the 8th leading cause of death. Realizing that public awareness forums are key in addressing suicide prevention, The Office of the President and Vice President (OPVP) signed an Executive Order on Nov. 30, launching an initiative instructing all tribal departments to coordinate resources to address suicide prevention, response, and post-vention.



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This effort is a comprehensive strategy to educate Navajo communities on suicide prevention services that exist on the Nation through a direct interface with the Navajo people.

OPVP alongside tribal departments and programs will be visiting schools and communities addressing Navajo youth with educational messages about prevention measures. The tour will focus on sharing messages of hope, encouragement and supportive resources. These resources will include on-site clinical specialists, motivational speakers and resource information.

"We need to let the youth know they have self-worth and that their lives are valuable," said Vice President Nez. "By reaching out and visiting high schools across the Navajo Nation, we hope to provide a positive influence on Navajo youth while reinforcing the serious nature of suicide prevention."

The Communities of Hope tour scheduled is listed below. For more information about the tour, please contact either Christopher Bahe or Yvonne Kee-Billison at 928-871-7000, Office of the President and Vice President.

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COMMUNITIES OF HOPE TOUR SCHEDULE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015

5:30 PM CROWNPOINT HIGH SCHOOL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015

9:00 AM SANDERS HIGH SCHOOL

1:30 PM WINSLOW HIGH SCHOOL

5:30 PM LEUPP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015

9:00 AM ANETH HIGH SCHOOL

5:30 PM MONUMENT VALLEY SAC AUDITORIUM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015

9:00 AM WHITEHORSE (MONTEZUMA CREEK) HIGH SCHOOL

1:30 PM SHIPROCK HIGH SCHOOL

5:30 PM NEWCOMB HIGH SCHOOL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015

9:00 AM NAVAJO PINE HIGH SCHOOL

1:30 PM GANADO HIGH SCHOOL

5:30 PM OFFICE OF DINÉ YOUTH, FORT DEFIANCE, AZ

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2015

5:30 PM COCA COLA CLASSIC, WILDCAT DEN, CHINLE, AZ