



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:
Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2021

Niagara Rockbridge crowned Miss Navajo Nation 2021-2022



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Saturday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, First Lady Phefelia Nez, Second Lady Dottie Lizer, and Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne joined Miss Navajo Nation 2019-2021 Shaandiin Parrish as she crowned the 2021 - 2022 Miss Navajo Nation, Niagara Rockbridge of Tselani/Cottonwood and Pinon communities, during a live virtual coronation ceremony at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Ariz.

Niagara Rockbridge is Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House), born for Hashk'ąą hadzohi (Yucca Fruit-Strung-Out-In-A-Line), her maternal grandparents are Naakai dine'é (Mexican Clan), and her paternal grandparents are Tó'áhani (Near the Water Clan). Her parents are Deborah and Gary Rockbridge.

"On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we congratulate each of the three contestants for completing the most prestigious cultural pageant in the world. They all showed compassion, love, and the

teaching of T'áá Hwó Ají Téego, or self-reliance and self-determination, during the week. We appreciate each of them for their bravery and confidence in sharing their values, beliefs, and teachings," said President Nez. "Congratulations to the new Miss Navajo Nation, Niagara Rockbridge, her family, and everyone who supported her through the competition. We are confident that you will serve and represent our Diné people with great honor, strength, and compassion. We also congratulate the communities of Tselani/Cottonwood and Pinon, Arizona, for raising a strong and resilient young Diné woman, Niagara Rockbridge."



Shandiin Hiosik Yazzie, of St. Michaels, Ariz., was honored as the Miss Navajo Nation 2021-2022 1st runner-up. Oshkaillah Lakota IronShell, of St. Michaels, Ariz., was also recognized as the 2nd runner-up.

During the week, the contestants competed in the following categories, sheep butchering contest, traditional foods competition, essay, business and traditional knowledge interview, and traditional and contemporary skills and talents competition.

"We commend each of the contestants and their families for participating in the pageant, and they all earned the title. Most importantly, we appreciate Shaandiin Parrish for her outstanding service for two years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she served as Miss Navajo Nation for two years. She was on the frontlines during the height of the pandemic, helping to get food, water, and other essential supplies to families in each of the 110 chapters on the Navajo Nation. She also spent much of her time visiting and encouraging elders and sharing her knowledge with our youth about elders' teachings, said First Lady Nez.

Parrish is currently enrolled with the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. She anticipates graduating with a master's degree in May 2022. She will also return to her work with the Arizona State Treasurer's Office.

"On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we honor and thank Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish, her family, and everyone who provided support and encouragement during her reign. We wish her the very best and continued success as she pursues the next milestone in her educational endeavors. Thank you for all of the wonderful work and contributions to our Navajo people. May you be blessed many times in return. Ahe'hee'," added President Nez.

"Shaandiin has been heartwarming and provided hope for many families, children, and elders during the pandemic. Her smile, love, and faith shined on the frontlines. She will always be a leader to the Navajo Nation. We pray for her success and health," said Vice President Myron Lizer.

During the coronation ceremony, the Office of Miss Navajo Nation and the Office of the President and Vice President also unveiled the new Miss Navajo Nation crown, made by Navajo silversmith Matthew Charley, of Bread Springs, N.M. The crown was designed to signify the resiliency and strength of a Diné woman. It is deep stamped and inlaid with white shell and turquoise.

On behalf of the Office of President and Vice President, we appreciate Miss Navajo Nation 2019-2021 Shaandiin Parrish, the Office of Miss Navajo Nation, staff members, sponsors, judges, and volunteers for making the 69th Annual Miss Navajo Nation pageant successful.

###

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.