

# ***Tribal ID FAQs?***

## **Why do I need a Tribal ID?**

The purpose of your Tribal Identification Cards is to identify you as an enrolled citizen of Shinnecock Nation. Meaning, *instead of requesting a Verification Letter, you may use your Tribal I.D. as proof of residence and identification as a Shinnecock citizen—in most cases\**

### **Your Tribal ID is accepted as:**

- Proof of tribal identity for Indian Health Services (IHS)
- Proof of tribal identity and residency for Department of Social Services
- Proof of tribal identity to for tribal discounts offered by other Native tribes
- Acceptable proof of ID for federal I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification forms
- Acceptable proof of ID to fly domestically in the United States—*you do not need to upgrade to the new “Real License” because your Tribal ID meets TSA regulations*
- *NOT ALWAYS*, but sometimes, it is accepted when crossing the Canadian boarder
- *NOT ALWAYS*, but in most cases, it accepted as a form of secondary ID for any vendors that requests proof of age, residence or identification

### **Your Tribal ID is currently NOT accepted as:**

- Proof of ID to obtain a drivers/non-drivers license in the State of New York
- Proof of ID to fly internationally—*you still need a passport!*

## **Why can't I use my Tribal ID all the time?**

Please understand that not all outside agencies will recognize your Tribal ID. Acceptance is at their discretion. Still it is our responsibility as tribal citizens to educate outside municipalities and assert our Nation's sovereignty to identify its citizens, an authority which is supported by the Federal government and honored by Homeland Security.

## **Can my non-native spouse or adopted child/step child get a Tribal ID too?**

NO. Shinnecock is not a club that you join. We are a resilient community of blood related tribal people decedent from Algonquian ancestors who have lived on Shinnecock territory since time immemorial. ONLY individuals who have proven this lineage and are enrolled as a direct biological descendent will be issued a Tribal ID card.

# ***Verification Letters 101***

## **There are only three categories of Verification Letters:**

- Identity - residency, education, IHS/health/Medicaid, citizen or eligible descendent
- Allotment / Homeownership - proof of allotment/homeownership/transfer of homeownership for PSEG/utilities, section 8/HEAP and other homeowner services
- Residency - for renters who require proof for PSEG/utilities, section 8/HEAP, etc.

## **All verification letters will display:**

- The citizens name, enrollment number and their physical / mailing address
- *Meaning, other than the below circumstances, your Tribal ID is sufficient*
- *in verifying your Tribal citizenship and Shinnecock address to any outside agency!*

## **When do I ask for a Verification Letter?**

- For general proof of homeownership/allotment or transfer of homeownership/allotment; or to present to agencies that require such proof for homeowner services
- For proof to establish utilities in your name when you are a renter, not a homeowner
- For proof of Shinnecock decent for those eligible to be enrolled, but not yet enrolled
- When you do not have a Tribal ID or the information on your current ID is outdated

## **Other cases when you may request a Verification letter include:**

- To verify employment within a Shinnecock Nation department
- To verify to an employer special circumstances for participating in Tribal Holidays
- To verify that an incarcerated family member may participate in ceremonies reserved for Native American inmates

Verification letters never expire, unless your citizenship is revoked, in which cases all tribal service providers will be promptly notified. However, some agencies such as HEAP may require updated verification letters for renters who regularly request services.

**Should you have any issues using your Tribal ID or Verification Letter, call the Enrollment Office.**