

# Danielle Smith

## Selected Audio Transcript

I'm not sure if people know, but the Onondaga Nation, that's part of the Six Nations as a whole. We're the central, basically, nation. We're the Firekeepers. That means that we hold the Central Fire, so that's where Grand Council, which is our form of government, meets, and that's where our Tadodaho is from, here in Onondaga. And what I was going to say was, what's really significant about this area, and especially the land where Syracuse is situated, is that it's Onondaga Nation ancestral land, and that land is unceded. That means that the land was never given up, it was never sold, it was illegally taken from my ancestors, and that is also another reason why a statue such as Columbus being in a public space, such as Syracuse right downtown near the court, is really problematic for a lot of Indigenous people, and specifically Onondaga people.

## Biography

My name is Danielle Smith, and I am part of the Onondaga Nation, and I am Hawk Clan. Because we're a matrilineal society, I get my clan from my mother. So she's Hawk clan; her mom's Hawk clan. And I also have a Onkwehonwe name, which is basically just a name in Onondaga that represents what clan you're from. I grew up here on the Onondaga Nation. I'm 35 years old. I have a 10-year-old daughter. And I currently live here. I had moved off at different points in my life, and lived in different states and areas. But for the majority, I've been here, home, on the Onondaga Nation, and I have this deep connection to the land itself, and also to the people, my family.