

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians --- Language & Culture Division ---



**Semi Annual Report
July – December, 2026
Cody Jodoin, Director**



Division Mission

The Language & Culture Division provides programming for tribal members that promotes Anishinaabe Bimaadiziwin (lifeways) & Anishinaabemowin (language). In doing so, we protect & preserve what was handed down by our ancestors for future generations.





Language & Culture Staff Listing

Administrative Staff:

- **Cody Jodoin** – Director of Language & Culture
- **Michelle Bernier** – Administrative Assistant
- **Deb Pine** – Cultural Training Specialist

Cultural Activities Staff

- **Vacant** – Activities Coordinator (Unit 1)
- **Charlie Treleaven** – Activities Coordinator (Unit 2)
- **Caden Colegrove** – Activities Coordinator (Unit 3)
- **Kelly Tovar** – Activities Coordinator (Unit 4)
- **Stacie Chambers** - Activities Coordinator (Unit 5)
- **Scott Garcia** – Cultural Activities Assistant

Maintenance Staff

- **Brett Blackwood** – Maintenance Technician (MMCC)
- **Joe Ailing** – Maintenance Technician (Niigaanagiizhik)

Anishinaabemowin Instructors

- **Yvette Pitawanakwat** – Ojibwe Language Instructor
- **Cecil Pavlat** – Online Language Instructor
- **Susan Askwith** – Online Language Instructor
- **Larissa Beun** – In-person Language Instructor (Marquette)

Repatriation & Historic Preservation & Ojibwe Library

- **Emma Donmyer** – Historic Preservation & Repatriation Specialist
- **Nicole Maleport** – Library Aide





Division Events & Activities (July - September)

- Hand drum workshop (x3)
- Powwow Accessory Workshop
- Medicine Pouch Workshop (x2)
- Annual Chief's Feast
- Annual Summer Powwow
- Music in the Park
- Fall Ceremony & Jibay Feast
- Men's Retreat @ MMCC
- Veteran's Day Drum Social & Feast
- Black Ash Basket Workshop
- Bi-Weekly Craft Nights (St. Ignace)
- Zhishiigwaanike (Shaker/Rattle making) (x2)
- Cooking classes with Indigenous foods (x2)
- Wabeno Lodge Building teachings (x2)
- Ojibwe design leather belt workshop
- Powwow Dance Instruction for ladies & girls
- Language Conference & Gathering





Division Events & Activities (October – December)

Unit 1

October 17-19 – Men's Retreat @ MMCC

November 1– Fall Ceremony & Jibay Feast

November 8 – Veteran's Day Drum Social

December 31 – NYE Powwow

Unit 2

November 1 – Hessel Fall Ceremony & Jibay Feast

November 8-9 – Newberry Mitten Workshop

November 22-23 – Hessel Mitten Workshop

December 6-7 - Hessel Ribbon Workshop

December 13 - YEA Children's Christmas Party

December 19 - Newberry Elders Christmas Party

December 20 - Hessel Elders Christmas Party

Unit 3

Hosted bi-weekly craft nights (Nov. 4, 11 & 25)

Youth Detention Facility Teachings (Nov 1-8 & Nov 16-22)

November 9 – Foliage Basket Weaving

November 11 – Wequayoc Cemetery Ceremony

November 22-23 – Beading Fringe Earrings Workshop

Hosted bi-weekly craft nights (Dec. 6 & 20)

Youth Detention Facility Teachings (Dec 1-5 & 15-19)

December 7 – Women's talking circle event

December 14 – Paper Quilling Workshop

Unit 4

Created Unit 4 Sault Tribe Language & Culture FB page

Planning a community meet & greet event to occur January 16

Planning Ribbon Skirt workshop for January 24-25

Unit 5

No activities to report for Q4, cultural activities coordinator position for this unit was vacant until February, 2026

Cody Jodoin has given the directive that all cultural activities & events should be advertised at least 1-month prior to the event taking place. This directive aims to enhance community participation.



Veterans Day Drum Dance Social

November 8th at Niigaanagiizhik

First song at 1pm

Thanksgiving Feast at 5pm

Honorarium for Drums

Giveaways

Spot Dances

Honoring all who served

For more information please contact Scott at
Sgarcia@saulttribe.net or Call 906 635 6510

Fall Mens Retreat

October 17th - 19th 2025

Location: Mary Murray Culture Camp
266 Homestead Rd, Sugar Island MI

- talking circles
- pipestone carvings
- rattle making
- nightly sweat lodges
- fire teachings

For registration email tbouschor@saulttribe.net or
call 906-203-6382



Fall Ceremony/Jiibay Feast

Saturday November 1st 2025

Niigaanagiizhik Cultural

Building

- Sunrise Ceremony at 8 AM
- Spiritual Gathering at 11 AM
- Jiibay Feast will start at

sundown

For any information contact Tyler Bouschor

@906-203-6382

FOLIAGE BASKET WEAVING

UNIT 3
LANGUAGE &
CULTURE



DATE & TIME
09 NOV 2025
FROM 11 AM - 3 PM

LOCATION
ENJI MAAWANJI' IDING
(MCCANN SCHOOL)
399 MCCANN STREET

DETAILS
SUPPLIES AND
SNACKS PROVIDED,
COME LAUGH AND
LEARN A NEW SKILL

CONTACT CADEN TO REGISTER:
CCOLEGROVE@SAULTTRIBE.NET OR 906 379 8820

Let's craft together!

COMMUNITY Craft Night

Please join us for a Night of Crafting!

**DECEMBER 9
and
DECEMBER 16**

Enji Maawanji'iding
399 McCann St.
5:00 - 8:00pm

Music / Festive food / Crafts

Sault Tribe Language and Culture - Unit 3

BI-WEEKLY EVENT:

STORYTELLING, CRAFTING, AND
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Enji Maawanji' Iding
(McCann School)
399 McCann Street, St. Ignace

Join us every other week to connect with
our community. Chat with friends and
family, play a game, eat some good food,
learn a new craft, or help someone else on
theirs! Refreshments provided.

NOVEMBER 4, 11, 25 | 5 - 8PM

For more details, contact Caden Colegrove:
ccolegrove@saulttribe.net
(906) 379 8820

NEW YEARS EVE SOBRIETY POWWOW

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS
DECEMBER 31, 2025

BIG BEAR ARENA - 2 ICE CIRCLE DR (SAULT, MI)

Head Staff
Emcee - Joe Medicine
Head Veteran - Nick VanAlstine
Arena Director - Les Alling
Host Drum - Big River
Invited Drums - Ice Circle & Frog Hills
Head Male Dancer - Jessy Farley
Head Female Dancer - Melissa Causley

Schedule of Events
Vendor Set Up - 12:00pm
Doors Open to Public - 3:00pm
Dinner @ Niigaanigiizhik - 4:00pm
Sobriety Recognition - 5:00pm
Grand Entry - 6:00pm
Traveling Song - 10:00pm

Drum Split for all other drums (must have 4 singers)
Honorarium for first 50 dancers in regalia
Spot Dances & Giveaway
Drug & Alcohol Free - No Pets - No Politics

Vendors Free (Must be Tribal)
contact Scott Garcia
sgarcia@saulttribe.net

Powwow Information
contact Cody Jodoin
cjodoin@saulttribe.net

Hosted by the Sault Tribe Language & Culture Department

Sault Tribe Language and Culture
Unit 3

Beading Workshop

Fringe Earrings

November 22 & 23
11 am - 4 pm

Enji Maawanji' Iding (McCann School)
399 McCann Street, St. Ignace

Limited supplies available,
please register with Caden
Colegrove via email
ccolegrove@saulttribe.net or
phone (906) 379-8820



Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building – Sault Ste. Marie

July – December Activities

- Funerals – 11 (1-4 days in duration)
- Community Fundraisers – 3
- Craft Workshops - 8
- Meetings – (tribal departments, planning committees, in-service training) - 16
- Gatherings & Ceremony – 15
- Community Usage (Baby Showers, Wedding/Bridal Showers, Graduation Parties – 14

Facility is also used weekly for drum practice (Tuesday) & weekly for cultural craft night (Wednesday) – both are organized by community members





Mary Murray Culture Camp – Sugar Island, MI

Activities & Projects

- Sugar Island Powwow Prep & Lodging
- Fall fasting camp with Traditional Medicine
- Men's Retreat
- Traditional Funeral
- 11/26/25 - Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan utilized facility for filming a project with community elder Bud Biron

On the Horizon

- The division will look to start hosting more community events at MMCC into 2026. Future camps we hope to host include Ogiichidaa & Ogiichidaa-kwe camp, smoked fish camp, fall fasting camp, etc.





Anishinaabemowin Language Program

Our Anishinaabemowin language program currently offers a mix of both online & in-person options:

Online/Virtual

- Wednesdays from 6-8pm (Susan & Paul)
- Thursdays from 10am -12 noon (Cecil)

In-Person

- Host annual language conference in September
- Afterschool program with YEA students

Into the future the language program is looking to expand its reach by offering more in-person immersion events & camps. We are also exploring ways to enhance our online language archives so that language recordings are more accessible for those learning Anishinaabemowin from home.

SAULT TRIBE
(ONLINE)
ANISHINAABEMOWIN
CLASSES

Wednesdays
6pm-8pm

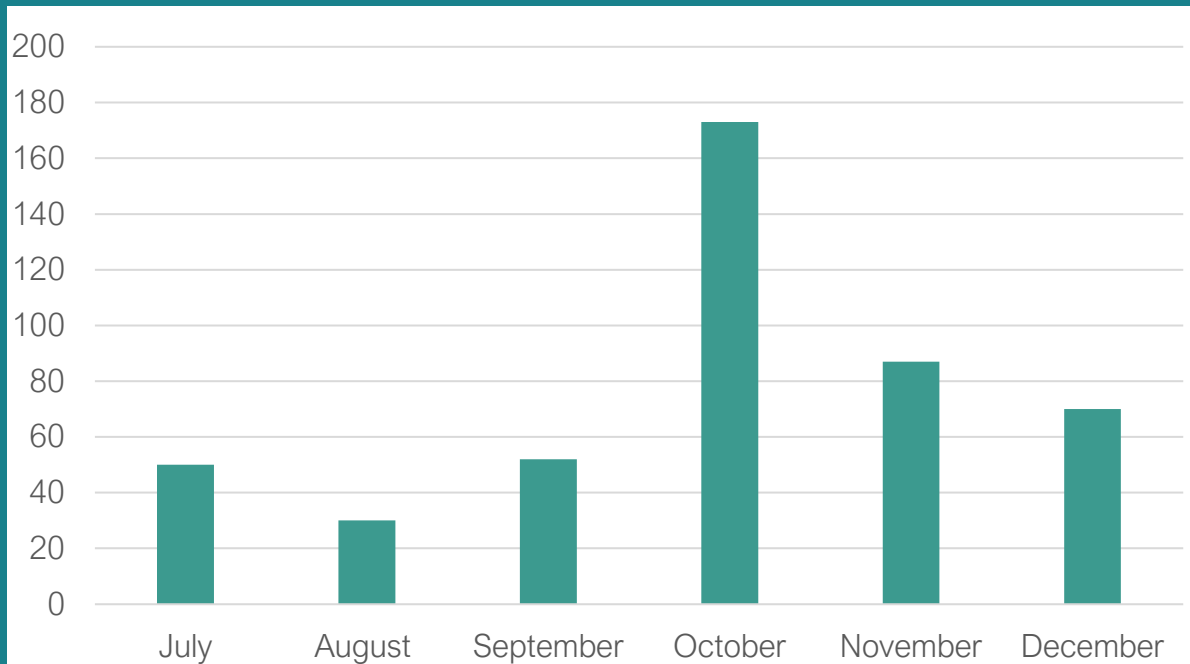
With Susan Askwith & Paul Blondeau
www.tinyurl.com/susanpaul
or join by phone at 1-312-626-6799
(Meeting ID: 926 5838 7956 passcode: 631691)

Thursdays
10am-12pm

With Cecil E.Pavlat Sr.
www.tinyurl.com/shirleycecil
or join by phone at 1-646-558-8656
(Meeting ID: 951 9196 1173 passcode: 346018)

FREE!! ONLINE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ojibwe Learning Center and Library



✦ Highlights

- 462 Visitors July- December
- Jiiman Build funded through IMLS Art Grant October 9th-12th in Escanaba
- Repatriation Stories Recorded with Cecil Pavlat
- Cataloged Library Collections that had been lost

✦ Library Visitor Count

- July- 50
- August-30
- September-52
- October- 173
- November- 87
- December-70

Repatriation July-Sept

✦ *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Designee and Michigan Repatriation and Cultural Preservation Alliance (MACPRA) Representative for Sault Tribe*

✦ July

- ✦ Repatriation of Funerary Items from Mackinac Island State Parks
- ✦ Quarterly MACPRA Meeting in Ann Arbor, MI
- ✦ Repatriation Specialist Certified in Human Remains Identification through Northern Michigan University.

✦ August

- ✦ Repatriation of Ancestral Human Remains from Oklahoma State University
- ✦ Monthly MACPRA Meeting

✦ September

- ✦ Reburial Ceremony of Ancestral Human Remains and Funerary Items
- ✦ Consultation with Michigan State University
- ✦ Monthly MACPRA Meeting (September 17th)



Repatriation Oct-Dec

✦ Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

✦ October

- ✦ Repatriation of Ancestral Human Remains from Private Individual in Ann Arbor, MI (October 15th)
- ✦ Reburial Ceremony of Ancestral Human Remains and Funerary Items on (October 31st)

✦ November

- ✦ MACPRA Monthly Meeting

✦ December

- ✦ Consultation on Hair Ancestors at the Field Museum with the Ojibwe Culture Foundation
- ✦ Monthly MACPRA Meeting



Historic Preservation July-Aug

- ✦ *Functions as Tribal Historic Preservation Office for regulatory review and compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106*
 - ✦ **July**
 - ✦ Enbridge Section 106 Consultation
 - ✦ **August**
 - ✦ Continued Enbridge Section 106 Consultations
 - ✦ Consultation on Obelisk Removal Project with Bay Mills Indian Community and USACE
 - ✦ Consultation with the US Forest Service on the Inadvertent Discoveries Plan
 - ✦ **September**
 - ✦ Continued Consultation on Brady Park Obelisk Removal with Bay Mills Indian Community and USACE
 - ✦ Continued Enbridge Section 106 Consultation Meeting



Historic Preservation Oct-Dec

★ October

- ★ Continued Consultation on Obelisk Removal with Bay Mills Indian Community and USACE
- ★ Monitoring for Obelisk Removal at Wadjiwong
- ★ Continued Enbridge Section 106 Consultation Meeting

★ November

- ★ Obelisk is removed from Wadjiwong on November 4th 2025
- ★ Continued Enbridge Section 106 Consultation Meeting

★ December

- ★ Presentation Given to EGLE on Cultural Resources in the Straits Area
- ★ Submitted Comments to USACE on Handling on Human Remains, Funerary Items, and Archeological Collections
- ★ Obelisk Story Published in the Sault Tribe Newspaper





Tactical Plan for 2026

- Division-wide three-month rolling calendar (first will feature May, June & July)
- Monthly cultural teachings series (June – December @ Niigaanagiizhik)
- Cultural Training Curriculum (establishing topics & training dates)
- Inaugural “West End” Culture Camp – July 24-26 @ Clear Lake Education Center
- Return of culture camps at Mary Murray Culture Camp
- Cultural Activities in outlying units are in full swing – reach out to your coordinators
- Collaboration with other internal departments (Traditional Medicine, Natural Resources, Community Health, YEA, Education, Recreation, Communications, etc.)
- Community collaboration (Bay Mills Indian Community, BMCC, Sault Schools)
- In-person language & immersion events
- IMLS, ANA & GLITEC Grant Applications to expand/enhance programming



Language & Culture Division Contact Information

Email Contacts:

- Cody Jodoin (Director) – cjodoin@saulttribe.net
- Division Admin – mberner1@saulttribe.net
- Language Questions – language@saulttribe.net
- Cultural Training – dpine@saulttribe.net
- Niigaanagiizhik – niigaanagiizhik@saulttribe.net
- Cultural Leave – culturalleave@saulttribe.net
- Repatriation – edonmyer1@saulttribe.net
- Ojibwe Library – nmaleport@saulttribe.net
- **Unit 2** Cultural Activities - ctreleaven1@saulttribe.net
- **Unit 3** Cultural Activities - ccolegrove@saulttribe.net
- **Unit 4** Cultural Activities – ktovar@saulttribe.net
- **Unit 5** Cultural Activities – schambers1@saulttribe.net

Phone Contact:

- Main office – (906) 635-6510

Social Media:

- **Facebook** – search Sault Tribe Language & Culture
- **YouTube** – search, Sault Tribe Language & Culture





Questions?

Sault Tribe Language & Culture Upcoming Activities Calendar

- Traditional Medicine's Spring Fasting Camp at MMCC (April 29-May 3)
- Mshkmat "Bandolier Style" Bag Workshop (May 16-17)
- Sacred Fire Teachings @ Niigaanagiizhik (June 8)
- Community Powwow Grounds Clean Up (June 11 & 25)
- Summer Ceremony & Spiritual Gathering (July 2)
- 44th Annual Bahweting Summer Powwow (July 3-5)
- Moccasin Workshop (July 10-11)
- Cultural Teaching Series (July 13)
- Sugar Island Powwow (July 18-19)

Unit 1
May, June & July
(2026)

Unit 2
May, June & July
(2026)

- Spring Feast (May 30)
- Advanced Beading Workshop (May 31)
- Advanced Beading Workshop (June 14, 21, 28)
- Newberry Powwow (June 13)

- Crafting Club at Enji Mawaanji'Iding (May 5 & 24)
- Wequayoc Cemetary Clean-up (May 16)
- Moccasin Workshop (May 16 & 17)
- Elder Talking Circle at Elders' Complex in St. Ignace (May 29)
- Porcupine Quill Medallion Workshop (June 6-7)
- Crafting Club at Enji Mawaanji'Iding (June 9)
- Hand Drum Workshop (June 27-28)
- Cultural Teachings on Fasting & Feasting (date TBD)
- Feast Bag Workshop (date TBD)
- Crafting Club at Enji Mawaanji'Iding (July 14)

Unit 3
May, June & July
(2026)

Unit 4
May, June & July
(2026)

- Black Ash Basket Workshop - Manistique (May 16)
- Traditional Girls / Woman's Teachings - Escanaba (May 23)
- Niiwiin Noodin Powwow - Manistique (June 6)
- Traditional Boys / Men's Teachings - Escanaba (June 24)
- Traditional Teaching / Craft - Manistique (June 26)
- Traditional Teaching/Craft - Manistique (July 11)
- Traditional Teaching/Craft - Escanaba (July 12)
- West End Culture Camp @ Clearlake Education Center - Manistique (July 24 - 26)

- Ribbon Skirt Workshop - Marquette (May 2-3)
- 7 Generations Teachings & Talking Circle - Munising (May 6)
- Culture Night - Marquette (May 7 & 21)
- Name/Clan/Color Teachings - Munising (May 16)
- Cradle Board Workshop - Marquette (May 23)
- Community Hand Drum Gathering - Munising (May 27)
- Ribbon Skirt Workshop - Marquette (June 2-3)
- Culture Night - Marquette (June 11 & 25)
- Bird Watching in Anishinaabemowin (date tbd)
- Medicine Gathering (June & July - date tbd)
- Culture Night - Marquette (July 9 & 23)
- Grand Island Nature Hike (date tbd)
- Porcupine processing workshop (date tbd)

Unit 5
May, June & July
(2026)