Priorities:
- Domestic Violence
- Life Skills
- Tobacco Prevention
- Underage Drinking
- Physical Health
- Meth Prevention

About Us...

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO), a federally recognized Indian tribe, whose nations boarders include 10 ½ counties in southeastern Oklahoma. This unique service area covers 15,000 square miles of rugged, mountainous terrain as well as some of the most picturesque areas of the state. According to the Choctaw Nation membership department, there are currently 179,000 registered Choctaws.

In the fall of 2001, with the dramatic increase in diabetes in native Americans, Chief Greg Pyle recognizing this as a threat to the Choctaw people as well with the epidemic rise in obesity (directly related to diabetes) among his tribal nation, created the Diabetes Multi-Resource Task Force.

With the focus of preventing diabetes among Choctaws, the Task Force assembled members of the health care profession as well as, Choctaw Nation program directors, a representative of the Choctaw Nation tribal council, and Chief Gregory E. Pyle to deal with this urgent issue. In 2003, the task force changed its name to the Healthy Lifestyles Task Force and expanded their focus to encompass all the health problems facing Choctaw people, with special emphasis on the Youth. After engaging the “Youth of the Nation” a voice was born, which now is recognized on the local, state and national level as the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board. In 2004, the Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyle Division was institutionalized within the Community Health Division of the Choctaw Nation. To date, this program facilitates and fosters the best practices to promote Healthy Lifestyles at the local grassroots level within the Choctaw Nation. Many local and state partnerships have been developed and have joined the Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles Program to improve the health of the Choctaw Nation and citizens residing in SE Oklahoma. Due to this collaborative effort, many preventive health services within the Choctaw Nation Health Services has proven extremely successful as well as expanded supportive community based initiatives. One of the greatest achievements of this effort has been the creation of the he Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board. This organization serves as the cornerstone of the Healthy Lifestyles program and empowers local citizens and youth to take action in promoting and improving health where they live.

With a unique and diverse membership with over 150 members, they continue to serve as a model for youth led and youth involved programs, initiatives and projects throughout the state. This initiative of the Choctaw Nation truly lives up to their motto: “Healthy Living = Longer Life” and will benefit its members for generations to come.

Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

WE ARE a group of students from across the entire Choctaw Nation with one goal in mind. The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board wants to challenge the youth of this great nation to become the leaders of tomorrow. The Youth Advisory Board works to empower youth to come together and work towards addressing community needs. We set goals to develop positive visions for the future of the Choctaw Nation. Our mission is to help grow healthy, productive and civic minded adults. If you want to grow and expand your opportunities join us! You need a willing spirit and a heart that reaches out to other people and you will be amazed at the results.

Significant Outcomes:

- Boswell School going GREEN—The CNYAB implemented a recycling project in the school, placing bins and keeping them emptied for Choctaw Nation to pick up and deliver to a recycling plant.
- Calista Kelley Benefit—The Boswell and Soper YAB worked together to put a Co-Ed softball team together for a benefit in Soper. The Benefit went to support the family of Calista Kelley. Calista was in an accident a few months ago, her father backed over her with his car, Calista suffered third degree burns on her back, and lost her left ear. The doctor's were able to replace her ear. She is getting better everyday and the doctor's say she should make a full recovery. The YAB played ball on two different days, even though we didn't win one game, the kids enjoyed every minute of it. It was really hot both days we played ball, but to see the family in the stands cheering us on, it was hard to complain. The Benefit was a success, and brought in about $2200.
- Red River Valley Down’s Syndrome—Clayton YAB chapter did the RRVDSS Buddy Walk this weekend and it turned out great. The YAB donated $1376.00 in all. We had 56 walker for Aidan's Astro's. Our team won first place in most money raised and in most walkers. The total for Aidan's Astro's was $3700.00. Aidan looked pretty good with those 2 trophy's. The RRVDSS as a whole raised $21,000 for Down Syndrome Awareness. Boswell, Soper and Hugo also participated in the walk.
- Fun 2 Run—Leflore North and South CNYAB piloted the new initiative "Fun 2 Run" to encourage young children to exercise. This run is targeting preschoolers through 3rd graders to show them that running is exercise and that it can be fun. They are broken into two categories Preschool-1st grade and 2-3rd grade. The pilot program that was held in Poteau, with over 50 participants.
- Free Wheel—Clayton CNYAB was the first ever youth group to host a Free Wheel event. Approximately 900 bicyclists came to stay in the town of Clayton. They provided sleeping areas, trash pickup, vendors, entertainment and even a church service.
- Choctaw Code Talker Association—Clayton CNYAB set up a concession during Free Wheel and made a profit of $714 to donate to the CCTA to help in their efforts to erect a memorial at the Oklahoma City Cultural Center.
- Dating Violence Prevention—Durant CNYAB have been working along side CN Project SAFE on their Dating Violence curriculum in the schools. In this effort, one of the members was selected to attend the Intertribal Youth Forum in Arizona and received honors for his volunteer work in his community and school.
The Choctaw Nation Youth Empowerment Program and the Youth Advisory Board continues to impact the health and quality of life for all residents residing in the 10 1/2 County service area. Through the hard work and dedication from the staff to the empowering youth led activism among the youth advisory board…the results are overwhelming. The YAB works hard to provide a better and brighter future for the youth of SE Oklahoma. Through their efforts, initiatives and leadership, CN youth’s attitudes toward tobacco prevention and underage drinking are slowly changing in the economically impoverished and extreme rural communities of the Choctaw Nation. The YAB has been successful in the adoption of the Social Host Law in many cities across SE Oklahoma ~ sending out a message that underage drinking is unacceptable. No longer is the “prevention message” being told by adult leaders, but by the Youth of the Nation. It is the belief of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board that through community service, mentorship, communication and education, Choctaw Nation Leadership can and will empower future generations to be a healthier and stronger nation.