

APACHE STRONGHOLD

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Apache Stronghold Announces Sacred Sites Summit

San Carlos, AZ | Today, Apache Stronghold, a nonprofit focused on protecting holy sites and freedom of religion, announced that registration is open for the Sacred Sites Summit. The Summit is a special convening where leaders from various land and water defense efforts across the country will gather in solidarity to share stories and develop strategies around their fights to protect places considered holy to Tribal Nations. The Summit will take place in Tucson, Arizona at Casino Del Sol from November 30, 2022 to December 2, 2022.

The three-day summit is free for the first 200 registrants and will include breakout sessions where attendees can hear more about the important steps Tribal Nations, allies, and advocates can take to support current land and sacred places fights. These sessions will feature panels of youth, faith leaders, and others as they educate about the importance of collaboration and a calculated approach to the protection and preservation of the places that matter most important to Indigenous People.

"We are actually living the fight, the possibilities that will happen in the future and what role you each play. It's already moving forward, like a train, if you haven't jumped on, you have to jump on. It's not going to stop and wait for you to learn as much as you can." Wendsler Nosie Sr. explained, "it's always about speaking the truth, you are my sister, you are my brothers, we are one people. There is only one God and we need to come to that understanding."

"In the Southwest is where America ended, and where America claimed everything, history is what makes up what we are living in today. The United States is founded on a lie, an untrue foundation and that's what we live on and it is the reason we have the problems we have today. How the U.S. Government forms itself not only with the good things but the bad things, we have the political issue, we have the religion issue, the environmental issue and the identity, the crisis of the identity of this Country."

"We learn from our mistakes, everything is changing, when things change, we adapt for those good reasons. When it was said that America was the new way, the better way, the best way for all people. They told our people that to extract all these minerals and ruin the land, this is the way it should be, the American dream, but if we look back to those issues, you see the devastation that has been brought forward and that we all have to deal with today." Wendsler Nosie Sr. welcomes all to the upcoming Summit.

EVENT DATES & TIMES

- Wednesday, November 30, 2022 - Hotel Check in, 3 p.m. MST, Program from 4 p.m. MST to 7:30 p.m. MST
- Thursday, December 1, 2022 - 8 a.m. MST to 5 p.m. MST
- Friday, December 2, 2022 - 8a.m. MST to 5 p.m. MST

To register and for instructions on booking hotel lodging, please visit the event [website](#). Anyone interested in attending are encouraged to register early to ensure the no-cost ticket. After the 200 registration limit is met, registration will be \$210 plus system fees.

Travel stipends will be considered for Tribal elders and those experiencing financial hardship. Funding is limited and will be awarded on a need basis. To apply or for all other questions, please contact sacredsitesummit@gmail.com or Mina at (516) 717-7260.

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About Apache Stronghold:

Apache Stronghold, San Carlos, Arizona, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit community organization of individuals who come together in unity to battle continued colonization, defend Holy sites and freedom of religion, and are dedicated to building a better community through neighborhood programs and civic engagement. We work from San Carlos, Arizona connecting Apaches and other Native and non-Native allies from all over the world. Chi'chil Bitdagoteel (also known as Oak Flat) is a sacred site for our Apache people and many other Native Americans. This is a place that has special significance— a place where we pray, collect water and medicinal plants for ceremonies, gather acorns and other foods, and honor those that are buried here. We have never lost our relationship to Chi'chil Bitdagoteel, though the U.S. Government, at times in our history, has imprisoned us on our Reservations and not allowed us to come here. We have established an encampment to protect the Holy Ground at Chi'chil Bitdagoteel with its four crosses, representing the entire surrounding sacred area, including its water, animals, oak trees, and other plants central to our tribal identity. The four crosses are now part of the body of Chi'chil Bitdagoteel. Learn more at: <http://apache-stronghold.com/>