

## **Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council ELECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Elections Committee:** The Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council (AOPPYC) Elections Committee is responsible for developing the nomination petition and declaration of candidacy information, election schedule, and district youth caucuses schedule, screening the candidates, developing the official ballots, counting the ballots and making a formal report to the AOPPYC and GRIC Youth Membership on the outcome. The youth council elections are to be held annually during the Gila River Youth Conference.

**Committee Chair:** The Youth Council Secretary will serve as the Committee chair and abide by the responsibilities as set forth in the AOPPYC by-laws.

- The Committee chair will assist in the development of the deadline dates and develop a timeline of committee activities and tasks.
- The Committee chair is responsible for submitting a written report as an update of the committee's activities, as needed, at the AOPPYC meetings throughout the year.

### **Nominations and Declarations:**

- Nominations and Declarations will be in accordance with the AOPPYC.
- All nominations and declarations will go directly to the Committee chair with postmarks checked to assure compliance with the postmark deadline date.
- The Youth Council Coordinator will assemble all nominations and declarations and send them to the Committee chair.
- The Committee chair will then separate the nominations and declarations according to district category and eligibility.
- Those nominations and declarations that fail to meet the postmark deadline will not be considered eligible for voting purposes.
- To be eligible, a nomination or declaration must meet the following criteria:
  - a. Meets the postmark deadline;
  - b. Has a completed current nomination petition or declaration of candidacy form;
  - c. Submit official application; and
  - d. Proof of tribal enrollment for youth nominations and nominators.
- Nominations and declarations which have not met the eligibility requirements will be notified in person from the Committee chair stating why their nomination or declaration was not accepted and to encourage them to reapply for the following year. As a courtesy, both the nominee and nominator should receive a letter.
- Eligible nominations and declarations will be typed onto a master list showing under which category they will be considered.

### District Youth Caucuses:

- The Committee Chair will assist in the planning and coordination of the District Youth Caucuses.
- District Youth Council members will chair each of the seven community district caucuses.
- The District Youth Caucuses will be held during the annual Gila River Youth Conference for the purpose of:
  - a. Reading of duties, responsibilities and qualification criteria for youth council offices;
  - b. Filing a declaration of candidacy form;
  - c. Filing a nomination petition;
  - d. Reading of list of qualified candidates who have filed declarations and nominations;
- To conduct candidate speeches for youth council offices; and
- Hold Youth Council elections
- The Committee chair will make an official announcement of eligible candidates for positions of the AOPPYC during the 2<sup>nd</sup> general assembly of the annual youth conference.
- The Committee chair will then prepare the eligible candidates listing and official ballots for each district youth caucus.
- Gila River youth registrants of the Gila River Youth Conference will have the opportunity during the second day of the youth conference to cast a ballot for the candidate of their choice during district youth caucuses.
- The Committee chair will assemble the election committee immediately following the youth council election to receive all ballots and tally sheets.
- The Committee members will not disclose the names of the newly-elected youth council members until the annual youth conference farewell dance.
- The Committee chair will make a formal report to the AOPPYC of the outcome of the vote but not announcing the tallied numbers.
- The AOPPYC office will need to prepare for a youth council packet and a schedule of youth council meetings occurring during the fiscal year so the new youth council members can attend.
- The Committee chair and Youth Council Coordinator will assist in the development of an Orientation for newly-elected youth council members.
- The Committee chair and Youth Council Coordinator will assist in the development of the date and develop a program agenda for the Oath of Office for newly-elected youth council members.
- The Committee chair must submit a report to the AOPPYC listing the actual number of ballots counted and the number of votes each nominee received. Lastly, the chair must send all ballots and tally sheets of the AOPPYC office to put on file.

## Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council

### JOB DESCRIPTION

**TITLE:** District Youth Council Representative (elected two-year term)  
Community At-Large Youth Representative (appointed one-year term)

**STIPEND:** \$75.00/per meeting x 24/pp = \$1,800.00

**REPORTS TO:** President & Coordinator  
Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council

### **OVERVIEW:**

In 1988, Resolution GR-27-91 officially chartered the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council under the laws of the Gila River Indian Community.

The Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council is the representative youth voice of the Gila River Indian Community. The Youth Council comprises of two youth representatives from each of the seven community districts and six at-large youth representatives. The Youth Council meets twice a month throughout the year. Members of the Youth Council receive special training and opportunities during their tenure on the Council. Members also share concerns, issues and successes with other members at these meetings. Special guests and speakers are also invited to these meetings to share information with youth concerning issues of education, health, environmental issues, and other important issues.

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Responsible for the development of workshops, seminars, and conferences for the youth of the Community;
2. Provides oral and written monthly reports to the Youth Council Coordinator and the Youth Council;
3. Serves as liaison in the interest and development of community youth services and projects;
4. Must attend youth council regular and district meetings and/or other meetings as requested;
5. Shall provide an effective voice on behalf of youth;
6. Will represent the best interest and concerns of youth; is responsible for bringing youth issues or concerns to the attention of the Youth Council;
7. Will support and attend all scheduled activities and projects to ensure their success, and expected to behave in an adult manner;
8. Shall provide amicable communication with the district, programs and youth in order to provide them with information and services;
9. Act as youth advocate in communication with tribal leaders, program directors, district officials, support personnel and other agencies;

10. Encourages youth and community participation in community activities and events;
11. Acts as a resource person to youth when questions concerning the Gila River Indian Community are raised; and
12. Performs other related duties as assigned.

**AUTHORITY:**

As set forth by the Youth Council President and Coordinator

**QUALIFICATION CRITERIA:**

1. Must be in junior high school, high school, college, vocational training school or in good standing with place of employment;
2. Must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community;
3. Must maintain an alcohol, drug, tobacco-free lifestyle;
4. Must be 13 to 21 years of age;
5. Must maintain at least a basic "C" average or better, and be in full compliance of school/college rules;
6. Knowledge of the physical, mental and social problems which accompany the youth;
7. Must be willing to express ideas clearly, orally and in writing;
8. Must respect the traditions of the Pima (Akimel O'odham) and Maricopa (Pee-Posh) tribes of the Gila River Indian Community;
9. Ability to maintain effective working relationships with youth of varied economic, educational and cultural backgrounds; and
10. Must maintain a positive attitude while communicating and interacting with youth;

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT:**

1. Pass background drug screening as set by the Youth Council Policies and Procedures as a condition of appointment as this position provides services to youth.
2. Proof of Grade Report must be submitted with application as a condition of appointment.

**PREFERENCE IN FILLING POSITIONS IS GIVEN TO QUALIFIED CANDIDATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE AKIMEL O'ODHAM/PEE-POSH YOUTH COUNCIL.**

## Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council

### 2011 ELECTION INFORMATION

#### **What is the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council?**

The Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council is the representative youth voice of the Gila River Indian Community. The Youth Council is comprised of two youth representatives from each of the seven community districts and six at-large youth representatives. The Youth Council meets twice a month throughout the year. Representatives to the council receive special training and opportunities during their tenure on the council. Representatives also share concerns, issues and successes with other representatives at these meetings. Special guests and speakers are also invited to these meetings to share information with youth concerning issues of education, health, environment issues, and other important issues.

#### **What are the duties of the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council?**

The primary duty of a member of the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council is to represent both the Youth Council and the Gila River Indian Community Youth in a positive and proud manner within their community.

Members are expected to promote the mission of the Youth Council where ever possible including presenting at local district meetings, schools, conferences and organizations.

Members may also be asked to serve on youth-serving organizations representing both the Youth Council and Gila River Indian Community.

#### **What are the qualifications for declaration and/or nomination and election to the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council?**

- An enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community; the youth candidate must be in good standing with the Gila River Indian Community.
- Candidates must be 13-21 years of age and must complete the proper declaration and nomination form, including all signatures, and have it received by the Youth Council office by the deadline.

Campaigning is limited to the district youth caucus at the Gila River Youth Conference.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Anna Blackwater, Election Committee Chair at the Gila River Youth Council Office at (520) 562-1866.

Youth Council members whose terms will expire in October 2011 and whose seats are up for election at the Gila River Youth Conference are:

**District One:** Duane Jackson Jr.

**District Two:** Lisa Hendricks

**District Three:** Lorena Clashin

**District Four:** David Williams

**District Five:** Delia Paramo

**District Six:** Anna Blackwater

**District Seven:** Anthony Montes

## Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council

### 2011 ELECTION SCHEDULE

June 15, 2011	Beginning date to file Declaration of Candidacy for Youth Council Offices in Districts #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7
August 5, 2011	Deadline to file Declaration of Candidacy for the above offices by 5:00 p.m. at the Gila River Youth Conference
August 5, 2011	Beginning date for District Youth Caucuses to be held during the Gila River Youth Conference for the purpose of: 1). Reading of duties, responsibilities and qualifications criteria for Youth Council offices and 2). Filing a nomination petition
August 5, 2011	Youth Council Election Committee conducts interviews with candidates for Youth Council offices.
August 6, 2011	Youth Council Meeting is held to certify list of qualified candidates for Youth Council offices.
August 6, 2011	Announcement of Youth Council Certification of candidates for Youth Council offices during the Gila River Youth Conference 2 <sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.
August 6, 2011	District Youth Caucuses are held at the Gila River Youth Conference for the purpose of: 1). Reading of list of qualified candidates who have filed declarations and nominations. 2). Candidates speeches for Youth Council offices, and 3). Youth Council Elections, District #1-7.
August 13, 2011	Youth Council Certification of Election Results.
October 22, 2011	Oath of Office Ceremony for newly elected Youth Council Officials.

**For Further Information Contact:**  
**Anna Blackwater Secretary**  
**Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council**  
**Post Office Box F**  
**Sacaton, Arizona 85147**  
**(520) 562-1866**

In accordance with Article III of the Bylaws of the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council, the Youth Council Secretary shall serve as the Elections Committee Chair and abide by the responsibilities as set forth in the Bylaws and the Election Policies & Procedures. The Youth Council elections are to be held annually during the Gila River Youth Conference.

**DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FOR THE  
OFFICE OF  
AKIMEL O'ODHAM/PEE-POSH YOUTH COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVE  
(Name of Office)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, solemnly declare that I have read and am familiar with the requirements for the position of Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council Representative for said District \_\_\_\_\_, and am qualified to hold this office and hereby declare my candidacy, I certify that I am between the ages of 13 to 21 years of age for the Office of: \_\_\_\_\_.

I am qualified to hold this office and hereby declare that I am a candidate for such office subject to the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council Election to be held on **Saturday, August 6, 2011 at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gila River Youth Conference**  
**San Marcos Golf Resort, Chandler, Arizona.**

I reside at: \_\_\_\_\_

My mailing address is: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Declared

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

**1). WITNESS: (Name & Address)**

**2). WITNESS: (Name & Address)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

I do certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief all the signers of the Declaration of Candidacy are qualified youth electors of the Gila River Indian Community, and I further certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the candidate herein named is a qualified elector and has been a resident of said district at least one year prior to the date of this election.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anna Blackwater, Secretary, Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**NOMINATING PETITION  
FOR THE OFFICE OF  
AKIMEL O'ODHAM/PEE-POSH YOUTH COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVE**

(Name of Office)

I, the undersigned, a qualified youth elector between the age of 13 to 21, a community member of the Gila River Indian Community, Arizona, hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_, a resident of said District \_\_\_\_\_, for the Office of Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council Representative, to be voted at the election to be held at  
San Marcos Resort, Chandler, Arizona on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of Saturday, August, 2011.

Name	Address	District	Date
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

I do hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief all the signers of this Nominating Petition are qualified youth electors of the Gila River Indian Community, and further certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the candidate herein named is a qualified elector of the Gila River Indian Community and has been a resident of the said district at least one year prior to the date of this election.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominating Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anna Blackwater, Secretary, Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed