HOW CAN I HELP?
To prepare for 2020, individuals and communities can help in a variety of ways.

- As native advisors with a knowledge of regional matters
- As native medicinal people
- As western medicine people skilled for example in podiatry, chiropractics, and massage therapy for runners.
- As local organizers of layover accommodations in the path of the run
- As highly qualified mechanics for vehicles
- As support personnel at layover locations
- As local or over the road runners
- As contributors of funds and vehicles
- Communities may fundraise to host the runners.
- Fundraise to donate to the general fund

HOW CAN MY COMMUNITY GET INVOLVED?

Peace & Dignity Journeys is a run dedicated to healing our nations. The Journey strives to bring the sacred staffs to as many communities as possible. Communities, be they on reservations or in cities, have many opportunities to participate in the run. The hosting community will be responsible for arranging meals, housing and funding in the time the runners pass through. The participation of the hosting community is also integrated into the run.

Many communities organize tributary routes that join up with one of the main Peace & Dignity Routes. In this manner, prayers of those communities join their prayers and energies within the run. If your community would like to host the sacred staffs and the runners, or if you would like to organize a tributary run, please contact a regional organizer.

CONTACTS
Region: Inland California
Organizer Name: Atl Gonzales
atlachinoll@peaceanddignity.org
Phone: (909) 539-7804

VISIT US ONLINE
Continental website
https://peaceanddignity.net/

Peace and Dignity Journeys 2020
Jornadas de paz y dignidad

“When you know who you are; when your mission is clear and you burn with the inner fire of unbreakable will; no cold can touch your heart; no deluge can dampen your purpose. You know that you are alive.”

-Chief Seattle, Duwamish

North America Alaska to Quito, Ecuador
In 1990, over 200 representatives of Indigenous nations from throughout the western hemisphere met for the first time in Quito, Ecuador. There they witnessed the unfolding prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor. The inspiration of spiritual running to re-unite the nations of Turtle Island surfaced from the elders. Elders from North, Central and South America remember and talked about a prophecy that foretold how we will come together and reunite as one... “We are like a body that was broken up into pieces and this body will come back together to be whole again.” Peace & Dignity Journeys became part of that realization. Through Peace & Dignity Journeys, numerous and diverse indigenous nations from throughout this continent can reunite and reclaim dignity for themselves through their traditions.

**PEACE & DIGNITY JOURNEYS**

Each Journey that passes is focused on a particular theme. In 1992, the first journey was dedicated to the elders for the wisdom they have preserved. In 1996, the children, In 2000 the run was dedicated to the family and the importance of keeping communities together. 2004 was based on Women, mothers and grandmothers whom give life to our very existence. In 2008 the run was dedicated to sacred sites throughout the Americas where Indigenous people face threat to their culture and existence. In 2012 the run was dedicated to the sacred element of water as access to clean water has become difficult, expensive or limited due to erratic rain patterns. In 2016 the prayer was for the seeds, the seeds we eat, our children and the next seven generations, as well as the spiritual seeds we plant in our hearts.

The 2020 Peace and Dignity Journey theme will be dedicated to our sacred fire. One of our four most sacred elements needed to survive. We were asked to write a prayer in regard to the sacred element ‘fire.’ Through deep prayer and meditation there was an answer given, and what was communicated is: “When a sacred event, movement, or prayer is happening; there should be no documentation of the spirit because it moves and heals in a manner that is unspeakable. It is sacred; therefore, sharing an experience based on prayer leaves the prayer powerless, just like the prayers written down by other cultures.” Prayer for the fire is a movement that is sacred.

Our elders talk to us about being mindful with our thoughts when we are around our sacred fire because it is the way we directly communicate to our Creator and it has a spirit of its own. When we pray for our sacred fire, we pray for all four fires that exist, which is the fire deep within Mother Earth, the fire we use for our ceremonies and to provide us with nourishment, the fire in the sky, and the fire within each and every one of us.

All indigenous culture’s use our sacred fire to conduct our rituals and ceremonies, it helps guide and heals us. For example of Purepecha Relatives have a special ceremony of their own where they keep their home fire lit throughout the whole year, put it rest, and then reignite it for a new year of blessings.

May we honor and pray for our scared element fire.

The Tohono O’odham Runners from Arizona:

May we honor and pray for our sacred fire.

How Can I Become a Runner?

With each passing, Peace & Dignity Journeys makes an open invitation to runners from across the continent. Youth, elders, men, women are all invited to participate as runners. Both native and non-native people who are committed to the preservation of Native American culture are encouraged to participate. Runners may commit to run for as little as one day or the entire duration of the journey. Runners represent their nations and communities and are expected to carry themselves in a proper manner. Since the run is a sacred ceremony, runners abstain from drugs, alcohol, and sexual activity while on the journey. If you are interested in participating as a runner, contact the appropriate regional coordinator as soon as possible.