



## OCCANEECHI BAND OF THE SAPONI NATION, INC.

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Physical Location: 4902 Dailey Store Road · Burlington, NC 27217

2022-2023

### OBSN INFOSHARE

*The Occaneechi-Saponi Tribe is one of the eight NC State Recognized Indian Nations located primarily in Alamance County, Orange, and Caswell Counties, our Tribal Grounds and Center are in Alamance County. Our Tribal Rolls identify just over 2000 current members. The Tribal Grounds and Center is located at 4902 Dailey Store Road in Burlington NC. The tribe is governed by a Tribal Council led by a Tribal Chair. The day-to-day operations are run by a Tribal Administrator. The ancestors of the Occaneechi people called themselves the YESAH! We are the modern-day descendants of the YESAH.*

-The Tribe's service area continues to be Alamance, Orange, and Caswell Counties, but we have reestablished relationships with Durham and Wake Counties' governments and corporate entities due to our geographical proximity and our mutual interest.

-In recent years the Tribe has built strategic relationships and MOUs with various business partners such as Elon University, Alamance County Commissioners, Alamance County Arts, Alamance County Schools, Orange County Schools, Orange County Commissioners, Town of Hillsborough, Hillsborough Historical Alliance, Orange County Museum, Durham Preservation, Durham County Commissioners, Raleigh Pilgrimage, Museum of Life and Sciences in Durham, Duke University Forestry Dept., Blue Cross, local Small Businesses, Organizations, and Corporations.

-The Tribe works with our State and local Representatives to support significant issues and to bring forth beneficial changes to the region.

-We are representatives of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs and supporters of the other seven tribes in our state and tribes across the country. We look to work on areas of common interests to build opportunities for American Indian people and strengthen our cause for better, more vibrant communities. We are focused on targeted support strategies that work toward a value proposition to benefit us all, today and in the future.

-Technology is a critical component of our strategic plans. We are creating a more robust website, webstore/virtual marketplace e-commerce model, and information/educational portal. Our biggest hurdle is our high-speed broadband access. Our creativity far outpaces our access; we are working with our IT folks and Legislators to help, but limited access is our handicap today. More to come, as we investigate ways to gain faster providers moving to the area.

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-Culture and Art are also very important to the tribe and we are doing/sharing more with our partners and communities. Our educational forums, classes, and exhibitions highlight our Artisans and Members. For example, we are conducting, basketweaving events, crafting seminars, well-being events, historic language classes, and everything in between to support and expose our Craftspersons.

-Our Powwow is not only a homecoming and funder for the Tribe, but it is also a reflection of our commitment to the preservation of Occaneechi Culture. It is a binding link to our land and our ancestors, intertwined with other Tribes' Cultures and Arts. It is a two-day festival in October that brings hundreds of folks, Native and Non-Native to celebrate and fellowship together. We also use it as an educational experience for those who seek American Indian knowledge and history.

-Youth and Elder's support are also part of our ongoing core values. We are a small but nimble tribe that is committed to putting our people first. And the two most important groups for us to continue supporting and building on are our Eldercare programs and Youth engagement. We are hoping with the increasing interest and participation of our members that we can continue to create sustainable and exciting programs/events for both groups with like-minded partners.

-Finally, the most critically important catalyst for all that we are as a Tribe, is our Homeland and Tribal Center. It is the Sacred Centerpiece of who we are and how we lever our accomplishments for the future! The one thing that differentiates American Indian Communities from all other groups in NC, is we all have a Tribal Center to call home and a safe place/space for our members to gather, celebrate, mourn, create, and govern.

Our land is the most important strength asset in our SWOT analysis. It gives our entire community a sense of pride, purpose, and unity! We plan to upgrade, renovate, and expand our facilities and ceremonial grounds. We hope to add staffing as we grow into a working tourist center. The Tribe has two historic 1600 replica villages, one here on site at the tribal facilities and one in downtown Hillsborough NC in the ever-expanding highly visited River Walk Park. We are working to create a revenue stream from tourism and awareness programs using the villages as a springboard to create sustained opportunities for the Tribe.

This is just the beginning of where we want to be in the next 5 years and more opportunities will be created through this growth. We look forward to the future and strengthening relationships. We remain committed to the preservation of the YESAH in all our future endeavors!

## OBSN TRIBAL COUNCIL