



SMOKE SIGNALS

-- THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ABSENTEE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF TEXAS --

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January 2026

TRIBAL COUNCIL

Principal Chief: Lee R. Young

Asst. Chief: Richard L. Watson

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Clarence G. Ward, Treasurer

Ebonie S. Mobley, Secretary

Mary S. Young

Marsha Jo Butler

PRINCIPAL CHIEF'S MESSAGE: Hensci, Seminoles

Wishing everyone A Happy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to the challenges and success we will strive for in the new year. Our challenges and efforts never cease as we continue our struggle for recognition of our remarkable heritage and people. We must continually seek methods to educate and spread our heritage and culture. Our first Tribal Council meeting of 2026 will be on January 24, 2026 11:00 AM CST. The meeting will be held via Zoom. The Tribal Council meeting information is included in this newsletter. All tribal members are welcome to attend.

TRIBAL COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING

JAN 26, 2026 – 11:00 AM CST

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82389520032?pwd=Wx9zb3pe8trQ9O9RHMjsJKbmimCEp8.1>
Meeting ID: 823 8952 0032 - Passcode: 959876

TRIBAL COUNCIL VACANCY

A vacancy exists on the Tribal Council – an enrolled member 18 years of age or older who has interest in serving on the Tribal Council is asked to contact any Tribal Council member to indicate your interest or for additional information on serving on the Tribal Council. Service on the Tribal Council is an excellent opportunity to provide suggestions and ideas for our development as a nation. New ideas for programs, events, and fundraising are vital for our development and growth.

INDIAN SCOUTS ENLISTMENT RECORDS – FORT CLARK, TEXAS

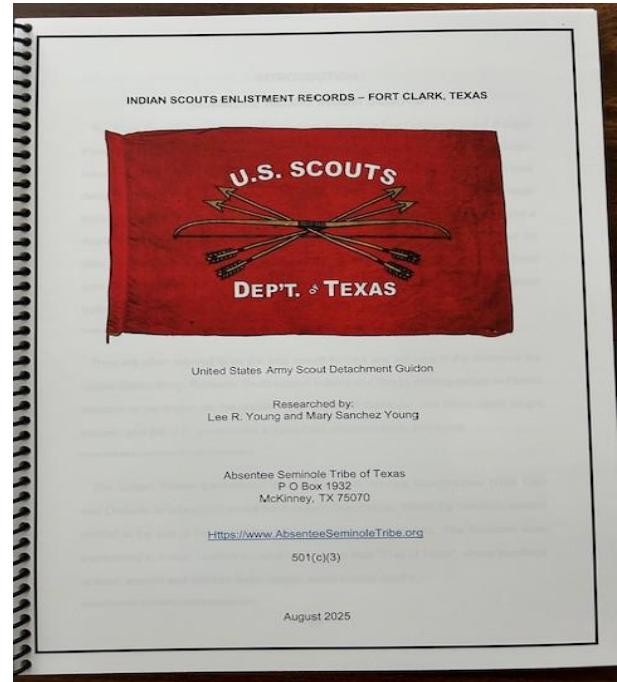
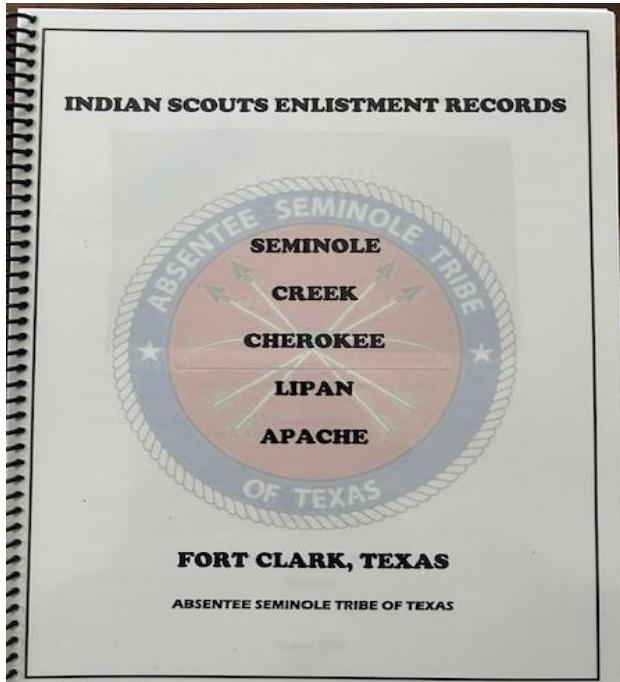
The booklet “Indian Scouts Enlistment Records – Fort Clark, Texas”. The booklet consists of 78 pages with information on each of the Indian Scouts who served at Fort Clark, Texas 1870 to 1914, it has approximately 39 photographs, full color where possible. The printing cost of the booklet has been donated by Chief Young, the proceeds from sale of the booklet will go to the ASTT. **The booklet is available for purchase online cost \$25.00, shipping USPS included. To order a booklet and learn more of our remarkable heritage – follow the link below to place your order, or visit or webpage: [https://absenteeseminoletribe.org](http://absenteeseminoletribe.org)**

The order portal is located on the RESOURCES Tab

<https://absenteeseminoletribe.org/enlistment-records/>

The Seminole Negro Indian Scouts were a detachment which served the U S Army from 1870 to 1914. The detachment personnel consisted of Seminole, Creek, Cherokee, Lipan and Apache Indians. These remarkable men served the U.S. Army for 42 years. During their service not a single scout was killed as a result of combat action. The Medal of Honor, an honor for valor, was subsequently awarded to four of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts.

These men of mixed black and Seminole/Indian ancestry, dressed, acted and possessed remarkable tracking, and fighting skills. They are often referred to as the best desert fighters and trackers in the history of the United States Army.



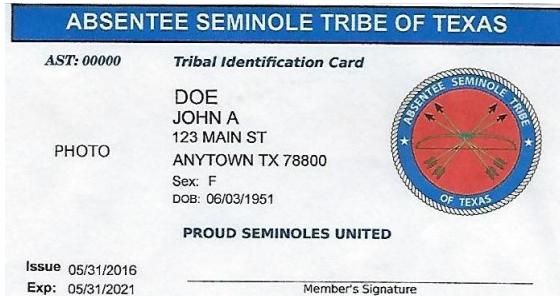
January Birthdays

Lana Jean Blanks - Jan 2
Dehvon A. Davies – Jan 4
Aaron Cory Harris – Jan 5
Chloe D. Williams – Jan 7
Lee R. Young - Jan 8
Anissa Faye Best – Jan 11
Patricia B. Bonnet - Jan 15
Kentron Chas Lawrence – Jan 16
Denise Watson-Cross – Jan 17

Mary S. Young – Jan 20
Shawn R. Powell – Jan 21
Larvell Blanks – Jan 28
Michael Lee Aguilera – Jan 29
Jeffrey W. Blanks – Jan 30



TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS: Tribal Identification Cards are available for \$25, valid for 4 years. The Tribal Identification Cards, are an official means to identify tribal members. Tribal Identification Cards do not replace any official government issued identification, they provide a means for members to proudly display their tribal enrollment.



TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION CARD RENEWAL

Tribal Identification Cards are beginning to expire – we will mail expiration notices. Everyone encouraged to check the expiration date on their Tribal Identification Cards. Renewal only requires submission of payment of \$25, payable to Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you change residence, get a new telephone number, new email address, or any other changes in contact information. Forward your new information to our office.

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/AbsenteeSeminoleTribeTexas/>

**Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas
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McKinney, TX 75070-8162**

E-Mail - info@AbsenteeSeminoleTribe.org

Website: <https://AbsenteeSeminoleTribe.org>