



GWYD DBP
CHEROKEE NATION®

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Office of the Chief

Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief

Bryan Warner
Deputy Principal Chief

Osiyo!

Thank you for requesting an application for the 2026-2027 Little Cherokee Ambassador program. The following is information that will help you fill out the application and better understand what to expect during the Event. **Applications must be received by the deadline: 5 pm (CST) Wednesday, July 1, 2026.**

All participants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must be a Cherokee Nation citizen
 - Must reside within the Cherokee Nation reservation
 - Must be between the ages of 4-12 years on August 21, 2026 (Age on the day of competition will determine age division)
 - Must be physically able to perform the duty
 - Must not have previously served as Little Cherokee Ambassador in the same age division
 - Must provide a completed Little Cherokee Ambassador application by deadline
- Must abide by all safety guidelines, and those that may arise even in a pandemic, including but not limited to: Executive Orders, Cherokee Nation Health and Safety Guidelines, CDC Guidelines, etc.

Contestants will be judged based on the same criteria. Participants will be judged on the following:

- **Personal Introduction (10-12 Year division ONLY):** 10-12 year old contestants will introduce themselves. This is not a judged category for 4-6 and 7-9 year old divisions.
- **Cultural Presentation:** This presentation is of contestant's choice and judges will be looking for an accurate knowledge of topic, Cherokee cultural relevance and content. A table or chair will be available upon request for a display, if needed. This presentation should not exceed three minutes.
- **Cultural Interview:** The interview will be conducted by an emcee and will consist of three questions selected from the information in the applicant packet. Each division will be asked different sets of questions.
- **Overall Stage Presentation:** Additional points will be given for overall knowledge, confidence and ability.

*Contestants will not be judged on attire. However, if selected, Ambassadors must have traditional attire. The official dress of Little Cherokee Ambassadors is the traditional Cherokee Tear Dress or Ribbon Shirt and Hunting Jacket, pucker toe moccasins and appropriate accessories, i.e., woven belt, beaded, copper, clay bead and/or corn bead jewelry.

Upon verification of eligibility, you will receive a confirmation email including a Cherokee Cultural Packet, program policies and procedures and details about competition day. Please provide an email in the application, as all communication from here out will be sent electronically. We look forward to receiving your application.

Applications can be emailed to Little-Cherokee-Ambassadors@cherokee.org or hand delivered to the Cherokee Nation Tribal Complex on or before July 1, 2026. It is **not** recommended to mail applications. If necessary, mail to: Little Cherokee Ambassador Program, Attention: Lisa Trice Turtle, P.O. Box 948, Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465. Please follow up on any mailed applications. All applications **MUST be received** by the deadline of 5 pm (CST) July 1, 2026.

Respectfully,

Little Cherokee Ambassador Committee/ Miss Cherokee Committee

**2026-27 Little Cherokee Ambassador
Application
PARENT AGREEMENT**

I, _____, responsible for the minor, _____
(Guardian name) (Child name)

have received the eligibility criteria of the Little Cherokee Ambassador program. My child is eligible to participate and serve as Little Cherokee Ambassador, if selected. Additionally, I

- Fully understand that I will in no way attempt to bribe, persuade, and extend gratuities or false information to the contest judges or committee to gain favoritism for my child.
- Fully understand that the decisions of the judges are based on a point system and are final.
- Fully understand that parents cannot interfere with the program or schedule of events, in any way. This includes being on stage, at any time during the program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Citizenship Number _____

Residency eligibility confirmed _____

LCA/MC Committee Member Signature _____

Date _____



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CHEROKEE NATION®

Cherokee Nation Media Release Form

Little Cherokee Ambassador

Event Name

I hereby allow the Cherokee Nation or its entities to use my image for non-commercial purposes, including publication and release to media outlets and web sites. I release, discharge, and agree to save the Cherokee Nation and its entities from any liability for non-commercial use of my image.

I have read this authorization and release prior to its execution. I have not been induced, other than by the consideration received, to execute the same by any representation or statement made by the Cherokee Nation.

Participants Name (print)

Phone

Address

State

Zip

Participants Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date