



What is an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement and Why Do We Say It?

Discussion Guide

Discuss

Why is a land acknowledgement important? Why does it matter?

In what spaces do these acknowledgements happen and more importantly, where are they not found?

What do territorial acknowledgments mean for people who have heard them over and over?

Many proponents share that these acknowledgements are only meaningful when coupled with authentic relationships and intentional inclusion of Indigenous people. What are ways to move toward reconciliation and reparation at Virginia Tech broadly or in your unit more specifically?

How can and should Virginia Tech address colonialism beyond acknowledgement?

How can individuals develop relationships with peoples whose territory they are living on?

Dig Deeper

Moving beyond territorial acknowledgments means asking hard questions about what needs to be done once we're 'aware of Indigenous presence'. It requires that we remain uncomfortable, and it means making concrete, disruptive change.

How can you be in good relationship with Indigenous peoples, with other living creatures, with the land and water?

What are your responsibilities as guests on this land? How can you engage with Indigenous communities and support them in meaningful ways?

Learn More

Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus is located on Monacan and Tutelo lands. Visit the digital exhibit [The Land Speaks: The Monacan Nation and the Politics of Memory](https://exhibits.lib.vt.edu/the-land-speaks/) at <https://exhibits.lib.vt.edu/the-land-speaks/> to learn more about Monacan culture, everyday

life, survival under colonialism and systemic racism, trade practices, and current efforts. This exhibit is a collaboration between University Libraries, consultants from the Monacan Indian Nation, and students in the Virginia Tech ASPECT Spring 2020 graduate course, the Politics of Memory.

Virginia Tech is committed to learning more about its relationship to Indigenous peoples across the Commonwealth:

The Virginia Tech Southwest Center in Abingdon is located on Cherokee lands.
The Virginia Tech Newport News Center is located on Nansemond lands.
Reynolds Homestead in Critz is located on Monacan, Saponi, and Occaneechi lands.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia provides historical information as well as links to the websites of State Recognized Tribes: <https://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/virginia-indians/state-recognized-tribes/>

The Virginia Indian Archive is a project of the [Virginia Indian Heritage Program](#) at the [Virginia Humanities](#), which helps to redress centuries of historical omission, exclusion, and misrepresentation. The Program creates opportunities for Virginians of all ages, as well as visitors to the state, to learn about the history and cultures of Virginia Indian people and communities, past and present: <http://www.virginiaindianarchive.org/>