



# What's the difference between the northern and southern drum?

*So many songs and two different drum styles to know when you're at a powwow*

by Kolby KickingWoman ICT

There are a number of sounds you hear at a powwow. From aunties laughing to kids crying to the emcee making jokes, it is a symphony of sounds; meshing together to make an unforgettable experience.

At the center of it all, is the drum.

Over the course of a powwow weekend, anyone at the powwow is sure to hear a number of songs and styles. Singers and groups know a countless amount, often getting songs passed to them and composing their own.

Many tribes have Flag Songs, similar to the United States national anthem, that the host tribe will sing at the end of grand entry.

There are honor and ceremonial songs, which are sung in specific instances. Most common are the songs drum groups sing during intertribals, where everyone is invited into the circle to dance, and contest songs, of which the different categories are competing in over the course of the powwow.

While there are nuances and differences within songs, there are also different styles of drum groups. Most notably northern and southern drums.

The former is associated with the Great Plains and Great Lakes regions along with Canada. Perhaps one of the more recognized groups is Northern Cree, a drum group from Alberta that has received nine Grammy nominations since 2002.

The northern drum style is often fast-paced and involves vocals at a higher pitch than that of the southern drum counterpart. Southern drums are smooth and slow but that doesn't mean the tempo can't be increased when

needed. Southern drum groups are often associated with Oklahoma and the Southern Plains.

Last updated in March 2025, powwows.com put out the top 10 drum groups of all time (after asking ChatGPT) and Yellowhammer from Oklahoma was the highest-ranked southern group at number three.

"They've been a fixture at many of the biggest events across Indian Country and are widely respected for their dedication to preserving Southern style," the article states.

The AI list features a good mix of northern and southern drums and would be an interesting exercise to replicate among those who hit the powwow trail regularly.

While there are many similarities between the two drum styles; there are also subtle, important differences. Drums represent their tribes, regions and histories. Attending a powwow will allow an individual to see the diversity in



The Stony Creek drum group at the Richmond powwow. (Vincent Schilling/ICT, file)

Indian Country.

Next time you are at a powwow, take note to see if you can tell the

different styles between drums and enjoy the music that makes tribal communities and Indian

Country so unique.

# #noDAPL anniversary gathering aims to elevate Indigenous climate work

*The People of the Sun Summit in September on the Standing Rock Reservation will feature discussions centering on renewable energy in Indian Country*

By Amelia Schaefer ICT

On the 10th anniversary of the #noDAPL movement, a three-day summit in Cannon Ball, North Dakota, where the occupation took place, aims to address gaps in renewable energy funding for tribal nations and pave a pathway for future sustainability projects.

Amidst rising energy costs and the halting of numerous multi-million dollar tribal renewable energy projects following federal budget cuts, The People of the Sun summit, to take place Sept. 16-18 and hosted by the capacity-building, nonprofit organization Indigenized Energy, will provide space for strategy building and planning amidst celebration.

"It's really time to try to understand how important energy sov-

ereignty is," said Cody Two Bears, a citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and CEO and founder of Indigenized Energy. "Whether it's in your home, whether it's in your community, your state or your country, it's really time to look at that and see the importance of truly becoming energy sovereign where you come from."

Dozens of tribes currently risk losing \$1.5 billion in climate project funding previously promised to them through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 as a result of cuts made in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, according to the Brookings Institute.

Through the event, organizers hope to raise funds to support tribes whose grants were pulled. Two Bears said Indigenized Energy was supposed to be



Credit: Protestors gather in response to the "Building an Advanced Energy Ecosystem in New Mexico" summit in downtown Albuquerque on Sept. 14, 2023. (Anna Padilla, Source New Mexico)

Bears serving as a tribal council representative for the Cannon Ball district, the very area where protesters were gathered. The movement inspired him to start Indigenized Energy in 2017, he said.

"I got a chance to learn about many different cultures, many different stories, and many different things that have happened as far as extraction and fossil fuels that happen within their reservation homelands," he said.

While the summit's main focus centers on tribal energy, the event will also feature a concert with the band Mumford and Sons, and Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas. Taboo is Shoshone and Hopi. The event will also feature appearances from several A-list celebrities, including actors Mark Ruffalo and Shailene Woodley. Woodley attended the 2016 #noDAPL protests and was arrested on Oct. 10, 2016, and charged with criminal trespassing and engaging in a riot while protesting and was later sentenced to one year of unsupervised probation.

"Even though the pipeline has been laid, even though the pipeline has gone through, that doesn't necessarily mean that we hang our heads and we feel bad because of that," Two Bears said. "There's a lot of good that has happened because of it, a lot of seeds have been planted all over the world and we want to be able to recognize all those success stories at this event and to be able to build upon them and then be able to continue to network and collaborate for the future."

The event will also feature an awards ceremony to celebrate leaders in Indigenous energy.

"We want to make sure we're showcasing those Native tribes, those champions and leaders out there," Two Bears said.

Event tickets are not yet avail-

able, but proceeds will go toward supporting Indigenized Energy's goal of providing no-cost, renewable energy projects to tribal nations.

"The reason why there's a ticket price is because we want to continue to make sure that our work in ongoing supporting tribes is free of charge," Two Bears said. "A lot of the projects are slowing down and tribes are really wanting to pursue renewable energy more than ever."

While the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is not directly responsible for organizing the event, all of the events take place on the tribe's lands and several will be held at its tribal casino, Prairie Knights in Fort Yates, North Dakota.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe did not respond to requests for comment.

## SUMMONS

TURTLE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL COURT - JUVENILE DIVISION  
TURTLE MOUNTAIN RESERVATION  
BELCOURT, NORTH DAKOTA

In the matter of the minor child(ren):  
O.D., DOB: 10/22/2017

TM Child Welfare	) SUMMONS
Petitioner(s)	
VS	) CASE# JV-
	) CW-24-15038
Kaitlyn DeCoteau, mother	)
Unknown father	


TO: Unknown Father:

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and required to appear before the Turtle Mountain Tribal Court in the above-entitled matter on the 26th day of June, 2026 at 9:00a.m., to defend against the PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS in the Turtle Mountain Tribal Court in Belcourt, North Dakota and herewith that has been served upon filed by Turtle Mountain Child Welfare in Belcourt, North Dakota.

Dated this 4th day of June, 2026

/s/Jenna Belgarde  
Juvenile Clerk  
Turtle Mountain Tribal Court  
714 Little Shell Street NE  
P.O. Box 900  
Belcourt, North Dakota 58316  
(701) 477-6121 ext 220

(#39, 40, 41)



**TURTLE MOUNTAIN HOUSING AUTHORITY T.D.H.E.**  
**A TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY**  
P.O. BOX 620 • 1/4 mile S. on Hwy. #5 • Belcourt, ND 58316-0620

**BID ADVERTISEMENT**

**Concrete — TMHA Main Office/Various Sites**

**Closes: June 12, 2026 at 2:00p.m.**

The Turtle Mountain Housing Authority is seeking qualified individuals/contractors for the removal of existing concrete, replacement of sidewalks at various sites, and curb (approx. 70 yards of concrete), railing and landscaping for the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority.

**NOTE: Build America Buy America Act (BABA) requirements apply.**

For more information, contact:  
Dave Nadeau at (701) 472-1344;  
or email: dnadeau@tmhousing.net

To request a bid package, or for more information, please contact:  
Alex JR Davis (701) 477-5673 ext. 258;  
or email: adavis@tmhousing.net  
Danelle Baker @ (701) 477-5673 ext. 274;  
or email: dbaker@tmhousing.net

Bids can be submitted in sealed envelope via email, dropped off at the Main Office, or emailed to BOTH of the following email addresses:

**Alex Davis Jr. @adavis@tmhousing.net**  
**Rebecca Olander @phelps\_58316@yahoo.com**

**Indian Preference will apply.**

TMHA reserves the right to waive any informality and/or reject any and all bids.

awarded one of the \$136 million federal solar grants intended to power five different states, but following the mass cut of renewable energy projects, it lost that funding opportunity.

"There's a lot of tribes that are sitting here with the whole plan ready to deploy, and this is just another way to create movement on making some of those projects feasible and make sure that they're not for nothing," Two Bears said. "So that's just another way to bring attention and aware-

ness around that, but also another way to make sure that a lot of our energy sovereignty plans through our tribal nations don't lose that momentum. So that's the importance of this event."

The #noDAPL protests brought global attention to Indigenous sovereignty, environmental justice and energy development as a whole, making a 10th anniversary celebration the perfect setting for dialogue on continued development projects, Two Bears said.

At the time of the protests, Two

## United Telephone Educational Foundation Awards \$62,000 in Scholarships to 42 Local Students

United & Turtle Mountain Communications is thrilled to announce that 42 exceptional graduating high school seniors have been awarded a total of \$62,000 in scholarships through the United Telephone Education Foundation. This year's awards bring the foundation's total historical contributions to an impressive \$1,011,000 since its inception in 1991, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to keeping our communities strong by supporting local youth in their pursuit of higher education.

The scholarship committee carefully evaluated a highly competitive pool of applicants to select this year's winners. The final 42 recipients were chosen based on their outstanding academic achievements, active extracurricular involvement, proven leadership experience, and financial need. These students exemplify the hard work and resilience that make our region thrive.

We proudly congratulate these 2026 scholarship recipients:

- **Bottineau High School:** Cooper Beckman, Rowan Cheshire, Ashlyn Follman, Kendra Knoke
- **Dunseith High School:** Nyomie Belgarde, Aubreauna Faine, Kacey Gladue, Meadow Lunday
- **Langdon Area High School:** Nora Lorenz, Sophia Nuelle, Raleigh Ratzlaff, McKenzie Regner, Levi Swanson
- **Mount Pleasant High School:** Julius Elick, Samantha Lagein, Payne Wilkie
- **Munich Public School:** Max Brown, Tanner McDonald

- **North Border High School:** Grace Follin, Jacy Fraser, Jaelyn Johnson
- **North Star High School:** Ashley Nikolaisen
- **Rolette Public School:** Elizabeth Lewis, Ella Pederson
- **Saint John High School:** Sophia Allery, EmmaLee Azure, Abigail Delorme, Stirling Gable, Kadence Jerome, Christian Poitra, Kaden Preston, Lane Zupan
- **TGU Towner High School:** Jorja Smith

• **Turtle Mountain Community High School:** Akealys Azure, Stacy Azure, Tiana Davis, Joshua Falcon, Kenley Hamley, Aubree Jeanotte, Ashlin LaRocque, Harris Reid, Hallie Trotter

"Supporting local students through scholarships is one of the most meaningful ways we can invest in the future of our communities," said Steve Swanson, General Manager & CEO of United Communications. "These students have worked hard to reach this milestone, and we're honored to help them take the next step toward their educational and career goals."

Students interested in future opportunities can apply when applications for the 2027 scholarship program open in March 2027. To find out more about eligibility requirements and how to apply, please visit [utma.com/scholarship](http://utma.com/scholarship).

About United & Turtle Mountain Communications  
United & Turtle Mountain Communications is dedicated to keeping our communities strong and connected. Since 1952, we have been providing North Dakota with the dependable high-speed internet, phone, television, and security camera services that are essential to making your house a home and helping local businesses thrive.

*You can't "Delete" a newspaper.*

Websites can crash and social media posts can be edited, but a public notice in print is a permanent, verifiable record of history. It is the third-party "receipt" for local government actions that can be referenced for decades to come.

**Turtle Mountain Times**

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**ST. JOHN SCHOOL DISTRICT #3**

**NOTICE TO VEHICLE AND HEATING FUEL VENDORS**

In accordance with North Dakota Century Code 15.1-09-34.1, the St. John School District #3 is requesting that all vendors interested in supplying vehicle fuel and/or heating fuel (including propane) for the upcoming school year register with the district.

All vendors wishing to be considered for fuel purchases must submit their registration information to the district office. Registration must include the vendor's business name, contact person, address, phone number, and email address.

Only vendors who have registered with the district for the current school year will be contacted and allowed to submit written quotes for vehicle and heating fuel purchases, as required by law.

Vendor registrations will be accepted through June 30, 2026, and may be submitted to:

**St. John School District #3**  
Box 200  
St. John, North Dakota  
Phone: 701-477-5651  
Email: keith.lavallie@k12.nd.us

The St. John School District #3 reserves the right to reject any quotes and to waive any informalities in the interest of the district.

Dated this 1st day of July 2026.

**By Order of the School Board**  
St. John School District #3