



# **WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE**

## **A Sovereign Tribal Nation**

### **(Authorizing the Tribal Historic Preservation Office to Apply for Grant Funding with the National Park Service to Continue the Theodore Roosevelt School Oral History Project and Develop a Children's Book)**

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- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation ("Reservation") provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a), that the Tribal Council ("Council") shall exercise the power, "To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe...", and at Article IV, Section 1(j), the power "To accept grants and donations from any person, state, or the United States"; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribal Historic Preservation Office ("THPO"), Mark Altaha and Dr. Nicholas Laluk, seek council approval to submit a collaborative grant for oral history research with MOS Research, LLC to continue their research regarding Ndee experiences at the Theodore Roosevelt Boarding School at Fort Apache, Arizona (the "Project"); and
- WHEREAS,** This oral history Project will document the recollections of White Mountain Apache individuals who attended the Theodore Roosevelt School from 1923 to the present, and include group and multi-generational interviews when appropriate, providing a more inclusive and sovereignty-based research approach that allows Tribal members to tell their own history and stories to continue to decolonize the anthropological and archaeological discipline; and
- WHEREAS,** Many of the people who attended the Theodore Roosevelt School in the past are now elderly and have not shared many experiences about the school, and the Tribe feels their stories must be preserved before they pass on, in order to educate future generations of White Mountain Apache people about their history, heritage, and identity; and
- WHEREAS,** The oral history Project will consist of up to 40 hours, or 15 semi-structured, open-ended oral history interviews, with White Mountain Apache people including multi-generational and group interviews. Interviews will be recorded with audio and visual recording equipment when consent is provided; and
- WHEREAS,** The study participants will sign an informed consent form explaining the terms of study including the project purpose, explanation of procedures, confidentiality, compensation, benefits and risks; and
- WHEREAS,** The THPO personnel will work with Fort Apache Museum (*Nowike Bagowa*) personnel to identify potential individuals to interview; and
- WHEREAS,** THPO personnel will also work with MOS Research, LLC personnel as they have in the past and have formed very trusting, respectful, and responsible research affiliations; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribe asserts all sovereign beneficial ownership rights to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and intellectual property and other applicable rights to all materials and information obtained or derived from those lands, including cultural resources and associated information, images, and other data and media; and

**WHEREAS,** If the grant is awarded, planning and research will begin in August 2025 and end July 2027 with submittal of all project materials for archiving at the Tribe's THPO; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribal Council has reviewed this request and finds that authorizing the research project will help the Tribe tell its history from its own perspectives, and is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the White Mountain Apache Tribal Historic Preservation Office personnel, Mr. Mark Altaha and Dr. Nicholas, in collaboration with MOS Research, LLC personnel Michael Spears and Sean O'Meara, to submit a grant application for, and begin the above-discussed ethnographic research project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that Anne Skidmore will act as an advisor throughout the research project to provide guidance and recommend potential interviewees.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that interview data collected during the ethnographic project will be shared between the Tribal Historic Preservation Office and the Fort Apache Heritage Foundation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the research team will develop, print, and disseminate a children's book for the White Mountain community that teaches Ndee children about the experiences of their elders at the Theodore Roosevelt School. The children's book will also be designed to share outside of the community. This children's book will derive its source material from the oral history interviews conducted with attendees of the school, and will require final approval by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office prior to printing.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that information provided during interviews including quotes and paraphrases, may also be used in preparation of future interpretive materials, books, reports, and articles authorized by the White Mountain Apache Tribe under the stated intent of this project. Any future publications derived from this research must be approved by the White Mountain Apache Tribe Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

***Resolution No. 03-2025-36***

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on MARCH 05, 2025 duly adopted by a vote of TEN for, ZERO against, and ONE abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1, of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on November 10, 2021, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

<u>Kasey Velasquez</u>	<u>3-6-25</u>	<u>Vaneya Johnson</u>	<u>3/6/2025</u>
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman	Date	Vaneya Johnson, Tribal Secretary	Date