



Poarch Band of Creek Indians

# PRESS KIT

2024 | Version 3.0



Alabama Natives. **Alabama Neighbors.**







# Table of Contents

---

OUR MISSION	4
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT	5
OUR HERITAGE, OUR PURPOSE	6
OUR FUTURE, OUR COMMUNITY	7
CREATING JOBS, DRIVING GROWTH, GIVING BACK	8
CREEK INDIAN ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CIEDA)	9
POARCH CREEK INDIANS FEDERAL SERVICES	10
WIND CREEK HOSPITALITY	11
MAGNOLIA BRANCH WILDLIFE RESERVE	12
PERDIDO RIVER FARMS	13
OWA PARKS & RESORT	14
POARCH CREEK INDIANS MUSEUM	15

---

**For all PR & Media Inquiries pertaining to Poarch Band of Creek Indians or any of its other non-gaming enterprises contact Kristin Hellmich, Director of Strategy and Media Communications**

[communicationsinfo@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:communicationsinfo@pci-nsn.gov)  
251.359.8554

**For All PR & Media Inquiries pertaining to Wind Creek Hospitality contact Julia Corwin, Director of Corporate Communications Wind Creek Hospitality**

[julia.corwin@windcreek.com](mailto:julia.corwin@windcreek.com)





## Our Mission

Seeking Prosperity and Self-Determination

The mission of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians continues to guide our Tribe toward a position of self-sufficiency and good citizenship in the community. With a fully functioning Tribal Government and more than 2,900 Tribal Members, the Tribe provides essential services.

---

### ALABAMA NATIVES

The Poarch Creek Indians are the only federally recognized Indian Tribe in the State of Alabama, operating as a sovereign nation with their own system of government and bylaws. We are a surviving segment of the original Creek Nation that once covered almost all of Alabama and Georgia and have lived together for almost 200 years in and around the reservation in Poarch, Alabama. We have fought hard to preserve our proud heritage and maintain our identity and inherent right to self-govern. We continue to work every day to preserve our Tribal culture and improve our community.

### ALABAMA NEIGHBORS

We are united in our mission to serve. Stories of the Tribe's history and culture, and the work we do to improve life for our Alabama neighbors, bring into focus a deeper truth—that good will and a strong community can build a better world for all. We are a nation with lands that border other communities, and we care deeply about the people who call these communities home. Our care and concern for others is not defined by borders or proximity. We are part of Alabama's history, its present, and its future.



# Tribal Government

We act with fairness in all our decisions and policy applications inspiring others to trust our intentions and our actions.

This affirms our commitment to something bigger than any one of ourselves and encourages all to persevere when we confront challenges along the journey. The respect we show for the contributions of all to our common purpose creates the platform for open and honest interactions. This leads to collaborative relationships, openness to new ideas, and a commitment to growing levels of accomplishment.

---

## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A nine-member Tribal Council, one-third of whom are elected each year, meets regularly to manage Tribal affairs.

## EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Tribal Chair is the CEO of the Tribe and is responsible for the overall management of the Tribal Government's daily activities. Several departments perform administrative functions, including: accounting, human resources, education, family services, health services, safety, public works, utilities, economic development, legal, and resource development.

## JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Tribal Supreme Court, Tribal Court, and Drug Court make up the Judicial Branch of the Tribe. The judicial system is an important exercise of Tribal sovereignty, as the state of Alabama has neither criminal nor civil jurisdiction over Indians located on the Reservation. The Federal Court System only has judicial authority over major criminal offenses that occur on the Reservation.



STEPHANIE A. BRYAN  
TRIBAL CHAIR & CEO



ROBERT R. MCGHEE  
VICE CHAIRMAN



CHARLOTTE MECKEL  
SECRETARY



AMY BRYAN GANTT  
TREASURER



SANDY HOLLINGER  
AT LARGE



ARTHUR MOTHERSHED  
AT LARGE



KEITH MARTIN  
AT LARGE



DEWITT CARTER  
AT LARGE



JUSTIN STABLER  
AT LARGE



# Our Heritage

As descendants of a segment of the original Creek Nation, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians have a rich heritage. This nation once covered most of Alabama and Georgia, and can trace its roots to the Paleo-Indian period. Our ancestors lived along the Alabama, Coosa, and Tallapoosa Rivers, including areas from Wetumpka south to the Tensaw settlement. The Treaty of Fort Jackson, in 1814, forever changed the face of the great Creek Nation, as more than 21 million acres of Creek Indian land were ceded to the United States. In 1830, the historic Indian Removal Act imposed the resettlement of the Creek Nation from the remaining lands to present-day Oklahoma; this journey is known as The Trail of Tears. However, several Creek leaders and their families, because of their service in protecting Creek and White settlers, received land grants, in 1814, and again in 1836, which became the home of today's Poarch Band of Creek Indians in southern Alabama.

# Our Purpose

In 1984, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians became the only federally recognized Tribe in the state of Alabama. Through the turn of the 20th century, the Poarch settlement was largely ignored and increasingly impoverished. In the 1940s, Tribal leaders took action to improve community conditions and educational opportunities, and, in 1950, more formal leadership was re-established, with a dedicated leader of a formal governing body. Currently, there are more than 2,900 members of the Tribe who possess at least 1/4 Poarch Creek blood quantum. The Reservation is located eight miles northwest of Atmore, AL, in rural Escambia County. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians has fought hard to preserve its proud heritage while moving forward into today's modern society. The Tribe's determination to maintain both its identity and inherent right to self-govern is evident by its continued efforts to preserve its Tribal culture and improve its community.







## Our Future

We make a difference in the lives of our Tribal Members by fostering in them a spirit of independence and pride, connecting them to each other and their heritage.

The Poarch Creek Indian community honors its proud heritage and spirit, values its people, encourages open communication and participation in all of its activities, promotes progressive partnerships with its neighbors and other organizations, and is a supportive, welcoming community that features exceptional economic and community development opportunities for all.

## Our Community

We work, play, go to school and raise our families with our fellow Alabamians. Tribal Government has donated and provided scholarships of more than \$75,000,000 (since 2013).

The Tribe has a long-standing tradition of sharing with those in need, contributing to many charitable organizations throughout the state of Alabama, including the arts, hospital foundations, youth sports and more.



# Creating Jobs Driving Growth Giving Back

With the growth and development of the Poarch Creek Indians, the relationship between Alabama and its only federally recognized Tribe has deepened into a mutually beneficial partnership. Our diversification has allowed us to create more job opportunities across the state and beyond. With Wind Creek Hospitality properties stretching from Chicago to Curaçao, we have reinvested in more than 40 businesses across a range of industries. As we have expanded, we continue to give back in ways that improve the quality of life not only for our Tribal Members but also for our Alabama neighbors.



**\$37 MILLION +  
DONATED**  
by our Tribe in  
charitable giving since 2021.



**\$1 BILLION +  
REINVESTED**  
by our Tribe in capital spending  
over the last 9 years.



**9,100 U.S.  
JOBS CREATED**  
90% of which are  
held by non-Indians.



**\$2 BILLION +  
SPENT**  
by our businesses on  
Alabama goods and services.







## Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority

CIEDA executes and oversees building, construction, and development projects commissioned by the Tribe.

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) oversees a diverse portfolio of non-gaming enterprises and investments held by the Tribe. Tasked as the economic development arm of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, CIEDA focuses on creating business opportunities within the tourism, hospitality, manufacturing, and retail sectors.

### FOCUS AREAS

TOURISM | HOSPITALITY | MANUFACTURING | RETAIL







## Poarch Creek Indians FEDERAL SERVICES

PCI Federal Services is a growing Tribal federal contracting enterprise providing best-in-class services to U.S. Federal Government Agencies and the Department of Defense.

Ecke Holding Company LLC, doing business as Poarch Creek Indians Federal Services, was formed under the Poarch Band of Creek Indians to provide high quality products and services to federal agencies and the Department of Defense. Ecke is a Muskogee word for “mother” and reflects the role of the holding company. As the parent, Poarch Creek Indians Federal Services provides the common connection and integration that enables our collective success.

Our portfolio of companies shares the Tribe’s values of fairness, trustworthiness, commitment to something bigger than self, perseverance, respect for contribution, open and honest communication, collaboration, openness to new ideas and making accomplishments. Through these values, the Poarch Creek Indians Federal Services companies focus on delivering exceptional services that exceed expectations.

### SERVICES

Aviation/Engineering | Modular Facilities Support | Media/Communications | Information Technology | Facilities Management/Maintenance | Environmental | Business Construction | Manufacturing







Meaning “big water,” OWA Parks & Resort is the perfect place to thrill, chill, reconnect, and spend your day exactly as you wish.

Award-winning OWA Parks & Resort in Coastal Alabama is owned and operated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. OWA's tropical theme of the 520-acre property was inspired by the Gulf of Mexico, minutes away via the Foley Beach Express.

At the heart of OWA is Tropic Falls, which includes 23 theme-park rides, an outdoor wave pool, and the region's largest indoor water park, covered by a convertible roof. Just outside the ticketed areas is Downtown OWA. This pedestrian-only streetscape was inspired by Southern small towns and features numerous options for dining, shopping, and entertainment.

The destination resort offers a full calendar of events, from Downtown OWA's own Mardi Gras Parade to the annual Christmas tree lighting with fireworks and snowfall. With its own award-winning TownePlace Suites by Marriott, OWA is the place in Coastal Alabama to thrill, then chill.

## AMENITIES

Indoor Water Park with Convertible Roof | Outdoor Wave Pool | Amusement Park Rides  
Event Space | Shopping | Dining | Entertainment | Resort RV Park | Suite Hotel





**WIND CREEK®**  
HOSPITALITY

Wind Creek is the destination for great escapes and winning moments.

As the principal gaming and hospitality entity for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Wind Creek (WCH) is leading the industry as one of the fastest-growing resort brands. We currently operate 10 distinct properties in the U.S. and Caribbean with exciting new locations coming soon, including Wind Creek Chicago Southland. Beyond state-of-the-art gaming that features popular slots, traditional table games, sports betting, and online social gaming, our resort amenities provide an escape like no other. At Wind Creek, you'll find top-notch entertainment, luxurious hotels, upscale and casual dining, world-class spas, shopping, family-friendly activities and much more.

## SERVICES

Class II & III Gaming Facilities | Resorts & Hotels | Dining & Entertainment Venues



**WIND CREEK®**  
ATMORE



**WIND CREEK®**  
ARUBA



**WIND CREEK®**  
BETHLEHEM



**WIND CREEK®**  
CHICAGO SOUTHLAND



**WIND CREEK®**  
CURAÇAO



**WIND CREEK®**  
MONTGOMERY



**WIND CREEK®**  
WETUMPKA



**MOBILE  
GREYHOUND  
PARK**



**CREEK  
ENTERTAINMENT**  
GRETNA



**PENSACOLA  
GREYHOUND TRACK**





# Magnolia Branch

## WILDLIFE RESERVE

Activities include hiking, biking, bird watching, tubing, canoeing, kayaking, riding on our horse trail, and an array of fun ways to stay active. Or just relax and enjoy the sandy beaches and listen to sounds of nature.

When you think of relaxation and fun, what comes to mind? If you love the outdoors, then Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve is perfect for you and your family and friends. Tucked deep into the woods off Highway 113 south of Interstate 65 sits a vast amount of natural campgrounds and entertainment for all guests.

We offer 47 full amenity RV sites that include water, electric and sewer and 20 RV sites with water and electric hook ups so patrons can bring their RVs and have the comforts of home while enjoying the serene environment.

Magnolia Branch also has 15 tent camp sites with water and electric as well as primitive camping, allowing guests to become one with nature. Horses welcome.



**Poarch Creek Indians**  
NATURAL RESOURCES



2,900 acres of Tribal agricultural properties supporting a sustainable herd of cattle producing USDA-inspected beef.

Conscientious about maintaining, protecting and preserving the land, we work closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Tribal office to implement best stewardship practices for the farm. In 2014, Perdido River Farms was recognized with the State Environmental Stewardship Award by the Alabama Cattleman's Association.

Perdido River Farms partners with USDA agencies, state agencies and other organizations to provide educational venues and training opportunities to inform Tribal Members, landowners and agency staff of the various programs available to assist them in best management practices of their natural resources.

With more than 700 head of cows and 35 bulls, Perdido River Farms is constantly improving beef quality. The farm also produces enough hay to feed its cattle and sell the excess to the public.

Coming in spring 2024 is Perdido River Farms' new, \$15 million meat processing facility. The facility will allow the Tribe as well as nearby farmers to have their animals processed locally, delivering a superior product to wholesale and retail customers.



**Poarch Creek Indians**  
NATURAL RESOURCES







# Poarch Creek Indians MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER

## KERRETV CUKO (BUILDING OF LEARNING)

The museum is the place to experience the history of our Tribe firsthand. Our exhibit showcases how our ancestors—the Muskogee Creek Indians—lived with samples of stoneware, pottery, tools, baskets, and textiles. See what early village life was like for families living and farming together.

The Poarch Creek Indians Museum has examples of baskets produced in the traditional way along with other traditional forms of Creek art, including pottery, textiles, shellwork, copper tooling, and quilting. You'll also see artifacts that are special to the Poarch Creek Indians specifically, such as original copies of the Petition for Federal Recognition submitted to the United States Department of the Interior in 1980.

## MUSEUM HOURS: MON–FRI 8 AM–5 PM

5484 Jack Springs Rd, Atmore, AL 36502 | 251-368-9136 ext. 2050 | [museum@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:museum@pci-nsn.gov)





