

19th Annual Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Cultural Day Celebrates Community and Tradition

By LINDA SUTTER September 16, 2026



"Roadkill" proudly displays his skunk fur hat from Jed Smith Mountain Men.



Jody Martinez and Rosa- Laucci at the ROU DA- LAGURR Food Sovereignty Lab at Cal Poly Humboldt.



Marissa Bergren taking a big bite on a Rez Dog with owner Justin Donahue looking on.



Robert Super's Elkhorn Carvings. Becky Arriola and Vickie Demott stop and ask questions about self taught Karuk tribe and Council member Robert



Terrin Nusbash, learning manager at Del Norte Library adult literacy program. 707-238-2270. Also, Youth tutors Dylan Brewen and Bella Morales.

SMITH RIVER — What began with a few sprinkles to freshen the morning gave way to sunshine for what was described as one of the biggest Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Cultural Day celebrations yet.

The 19th annual Cultural Day brought community members, families and visitors together in Smith River for a day dedicated to culture, tradition, art, food and family activities.

Familiar and inviting food aromas filled the air as approximately 100 vendors showcased their wares, artwork, food and talents. The large gathering offered visitors an opportunity not only to enjoy the festivities, but also to learn more about the traditions and cultural heritage of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation.

Throughout the event, cultural demonstrations provided an important connection to Tolowa traditions. A regalia showcase gave attendees an opportunity to appreciate the beauty, craftsmanship and cultural significance represented in traditional regalia.

Traditional men's and women's gambling games were also part of the celebration, along with a stick game and horseshoe tournament that brought another element of friendly competition to the day.

Art played an important role in the celebration as well. A Tribal Citizen art show highlighted the creativity and talents of Tolowa Dee-ni' artists, while local art vendors offered an assortment of handmade and creative works.

Children were not forgotten. Dedicated kids' activities helped make Cultural Day an event for the entire family, with something available for nearly every age and interest.

Perhaps one of the most welcoming aspects of the celebration was that the event was free to the public, giving community members and visitors an opportunity to participate regardless of their financial circumstances.

Cultural events such as this are about far more than entertainment. They provide an opportunity for traditions to be shared across generations, for Tribal Citizens to celebrate their heritage, and for the surrounding community to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the Tolowa Dee-ni' people.

For 19 years, Cultural Day has continued to bring people together. This year's gathering in Smith River appears to have done just that—combining tradition, food, art, games, family and community beneath a sky that ultimately gave way to sunshine.

It was a day celebrating not only where the Tolowa Deeni' people have been, but the traditions and culture they continue to carry forward for generations to come.

<https://triplicate.com/news/19th-annual-tolowa-dee-ni-nation-cultural-day-celebrates-community-and-tradition>

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