

## 1. Statement of Need

**Audience:** The research library will serve young adult and adult tribal members and others interested in learning the Keetoowah language or enhancing their language skills in the Tahlequah and Delaware Districts as a pilot project. The participants will commit to a two-year cooperative learning program supported by the Tribe. The initiation of language revitalization will benefit both the individual and the tribal community and promote a sense of identity and well-being in the tribe as it revitalizes the Keetoowah language.

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians (UKB) represents the oldest Tribe of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, having come into Indian Territory prior to the infamous Trail of Tears. The UKB is organized under the provisions of the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act and the 1936 Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. Congressional recognition on August 10, 1946 was followed by federal approval of the Constitution/By-Laws and Federal Corporate Charter on May 8, 1950. The members then ratified the organizational documents on October 3, 1950

**Organizational Role in Community:** The mission of the United Keetoowah Band is: *To secure for its members the benefits, rights, privileges, and powers as provided by any laws of the United States now existing or may hereafter be enacted for the benefit of Indians or other citizens of the United States and administered by various government agencies, such as relief, conservation, rehabilitation, resettlement, welfare, education, health and other programs. To promote the general welfare of the Band and its members.*

The Library Mission: *The UKB Research Library will maintain in-depth collections of documents, photographs, books, and audio/visual materials pertaining to the United Keetoowah Band Tribal Government, Keetoowah people, Cherokee people, Keetoowah homelands in the Southeastern United States, Arkansas Territory, Indian Territory and eastern Oklahoma in a safe, drug-free, respectful environment to meet the educational, cultural, and informational needs of UKB members, researchers, and the community at large.* The Library and the John Hair Cultural Center and Museum share a building abutting the Tribal Headquarters offices, close by the Child Development Center, and across the road from the UKB Jim Proctor Elder Community Center. This is an ideal location for coordinating the project and providing consistent multi-generational activities in accessible and familiar locations. The library complex has two employees, one full-time and one part-time, and two part-time unpaid volunteers. Library hours are M-F 8 AM to 5 PM. After hours and Saturdays are available upon request. Programming will take place in the community, the library, and the museum as appropriate for each activity.

**Purpose of the Project:** The UKB is committed to the revitalization and stewardship of the Keetoowah language, history, and culture. Keetoowah tribal leaders understand that creating a connection to the past through language, history, culture, and values practiced by the elders is essential, to the individual and to the tribal community, to retain and promote a sense of identity and wellbeing in the young adults, youth, and children of the tribe. Tribal leaders believe this IMLS Enhancement project will assist in strengthening the sense of identity and well-being of tribal members as well as promoting life-long learning and cultural engagement as it sets the foundation for revitalizing the Keetoowah language. The community needs to address are:

- 1) Limited use of the spoken Keetoowah language in Keetoowah homes, especially among young adults (parents), youth, and children.
- 2) Limited knowledge of planning, organizing, and facilitating language learning.
- 3) Lack of language-learning opportunities and activities in the communities.

UKB Tribal headquarters, tribal libraries and other program service centers, located in Tahlequah, Cherokee County, Oklahoma, is on a 120-acre parcel owned by the tribe. The location houses programs supporting over 14,000 enrolled members scattered throughout the northeastern quadrant of the state, primarily in rural

Cherokee, Adair, Delaware, Mayes, and Sequoyah counties. Approximately 12% of the total population within this area are Native American; and the largest number of Keetoowah members live in Cherokee County. The demographic profile of the UKB members is similar to that of many other tribal people in the area: the educational level is one of the lowest in the U.S. with only one in three adults having graduated from high school; high drop-out rates; 13% unemployment; and, 23% UKB Tribal members living below poverty level.

The numbers of Keetoowah children, youth, and adults who are fluent or moderately fluent in the Keetoowah language is quickly diminishing. With each succeeding generation, the language is being left behind and Keetoowah culture is giving way to the dominant society. Tribal leaders have become increasingly concerned about the state of the Tribe, believing that generational transference of Tribal language, history, culture, and cultural values is imperative to a sense of identity and well-being. Most indigenous languages in the United States are being displaced by English--the Keetoowah language is no exception. A sharp decline in intergenerational language transmission following the federal government boarding school experience is evidenced by anecdotal stories told by Keetoowah elders of today—the children of boarding school parents.

Use of the Keetoowah Language among members has declined particularly over the past 20 years. The Keetoowahs, historically known as the most traditional of the three Cherokee tribes, and in contrast to the other two tribes, have had chiefs who were fluent speakers of the language up until the current chief. Only twenty years ago, monthly council meetings were held almost exclusively in the Keetoowah language. Council members were fluent in the language. Today the Keetoowah language is rarely spoken in council (although six of the thirteen members are fluent).

The results of the most current Keetoowah language survey from 2018, reveals that of the 474 enrolled members who responded to the survey, only 111 are fluent speakers; 58 read the language (47 of whom are above 60 years old); and, only 19 speak, read, and write the language. It might appear that there are a good number of speakers; however, the speakers are among the older members. Ages of respondents range from 16 to 90. At each end of the spectrum there is one person; 60 are in their 60s; 23 in their 50s; 19 in their 70s; Three in their 40s; three in their 30s; and one 20s. The children are not learning the Language; consequently, when the grandparents' generation is gone, the language will diminish dramatically.

**Assessment:** Each of the six phases of the GPA (1 Connecting; 2 Emerging; 3 Knowable; 4 Deep Personal Relationships; 5 Widening Understanding; 6 Ever Participating/Growing) has a description of what a learner should be able to do, and a general estimate of how much time it might take for the learner to complete the phase. We described them, for this project as *Here and Now*, *Story Building*, *Shared Stories*, *Life-Sharing*, *Native-to-Native Discourse*, and *Self-Sustaining Growth* At the start of the project, and with each added learner for year two, the SIL staff, with the Masters, will assess each participant to determine their level of language proficiency and to develop a personal learning plan and learning goals based on the assessment. The learner will then fit their language learning into their daily routine. The first group, Apprentices I, will not be complete beginners, but will have some language-speaking ability. By the end of Phase 6, the Apprentice I will have participated in 1500 hours of language sessions. Evaluations at the end of years one and two will compare the stated project goals with actual results.

## **2. Project Design**

The attached schedule of completion illustrates the schedule of the project. There is also an attachment called the Learning Plan with a description of the extensive activities of the learners, and their thresholds for progression. The basics are described here.

**Work Plan with Goals and Activities:** The rationale and activities are aligned with goals.

**Goal 1**— To pilot a proven community-based spoken language-learning program with Keetoowah adults, youth, and children to begin Keetoowah language revitalization

*Rationale for the Approach and Process:* The Keetoowah language is vulnerable and quickly becoming endangered. Tribal leaders desire to bring the language back to a more stable existence within the tribe. SIL International, a non-profit organization experienced with language revitalization worldwide, is partnering with the UKB to implement a proven language community-based language-learning program known as the Growing Participation Approach (GPA). The GPA is a six-phase program for learning to speak a language. Thousands of international cross-cultural workers have used the GPA to quickly learn other languages and to form deep relationships in the local community.

*Activities to Accomplish Goal 1:*

1. SIL will adapt the GPA specifically for the Keetoowah language and Keetoowah learners.
2. SIL facilitators will work with the project library staff to plan activities and coordinate logistics.
3. The project director will identify 24 participants to become initial language Apprentices I or possibly II. SIL language facilitators will work with these potential Keetoowah language apprentices to help them achieve the second stage of language-learning to become *yigada uniktovsv* (Apprentices II).
4. SIL facilitators will create a Keetoowah-specific Curriculum Guide for Keetoowah *Nigada Uniktovsv* (Masters), and *Itse Analenisgi* and *yigada uniktovsv* (Apprentices I and II) to use in a variety of settings: homes, community center, cultural center, and churches. Master will supervise 3 Apprentices.

**Goal 2**—To create and begin using the organizational structure and progression path for language learning

*Rationale for the Approach and Process:* SIL International facilitators will train community language masters and apprentices and provide organization, methods, and the expertise that language Masters and three levels of Apprentice learners will need for their work with the GPA program.

- Apprentice I—New Keetoowah Language Speakers. A group of Keetoowah tribe members (children, adolescents, young adults, adults) who have completed GPA Phase 1 and are working on Phase 2.
- Apprentice II—Competent Keetoowah Language Speakers. A group of young adult and adult tribal members who have demonstrated ongoing growth at GPA Phase 3.
- Apprentice III—Advanced Keetoowah language speakers. A group of Keetoowah young adult and adult tribe members who have demonstrated ongoing growth at GPA Phase 4.
- Masters – Existing fluent speakers who will guide Apprentices through their six-phase learning development program, using the materials provided with the grant (Lexicarry book and sample manipulatives) during private tutoring, being available for questions and encouragement, and joining with them at the Speakers tables at events and Elder Center lunches.

*Activities to Accomplish Goal 2:*

1. SIL facilitators will work with the 24 Apprentices and 8 Masters for 5 days to begin the GPA program.
2. Each Apprentice I will complete an assessment of their current language proficiency and determine for themselves the appropriate level at which to begin the GPA program.
3. Each Apprentice I will be given a learning plan created by SIL and, begin building their own language-learning resource kit with help from SIL.
4. The SIL facilitator will check in virtually with the Apprentices each week, encouraging them, reviewing their progress, and adjusting their plans for the following week. Some check-ins will be multiple- person, others can be on-on-one, as needed. In the first year, each Apprentice will participate in 35 - 43 check-ins. This process will extend throughout the two-year project.
5. The SIL facilitator will be on-site five times throughout the year for a week each time. The meetings may be with individuals or a group of Apprentices and Masters to evaluate the process and to identify

and make adjustments as needed. The facilitator will lead group sessions on adapting the GPA “games” to the Keetoowah context. This process will extend throughout the two-year language-learning project.

**Goal 3— To provide language-learning opportunities, tools, and activities in Keetoowah communities.**

*Rationale for the Approach and Process:* SIL experience is that for most people, the best way to learn a language is in the community, not in a classroom. The Keetoowah Language Committee likewise concluded that the best place for Keetoowah language learners to learn is in their communities among the Keetoowah people who speak the language.

*Activities to Accomplish Goal 3:*

1. SIL facilitators and participants will create various tools to suit individual and shared learning needs:
  - Product 1—Keetoowah Entry-Level Language Learning Kit The SIL staff will guide the learner in collecting a set of Keetoowah-specific language learning resources in a “language learning kit” made of common household items and other easily obtained physical objects, plus a project-provided set of digital audio/video, photographic, and textual resources.
  - Product 2—Keetoowah Language Learning Guide. SIL will create Keetoowah-specific curriculum guide, to use in a variety of social settings, such as homes, the culture center, and churches.
  - Product 3—Keetoowah Advance Language Learning Resources. A growing collection of video recordings of oral histories told by fluent Keetoowah speakers developed as part of GPA Phase 4 activities done by advanced learners.
2. Program Director will facilitate activities year-round that create engagement and practice opportunities for Masters and Apprentices, but also for those considering joining the program and others wishing to have some exposure to the language.
  - The Project Director will arrange for an extension of the Fluent Speakers’ lunch table at the Elder Center, during special tribal special events with meals, where the only language spoken Cherokee.
  - Some churches in the area offer sermons in English and Cherokee. Some also have all-Cherokee services and all-Cherokee song gatherings. The Project Director will encourage participants to attend these gatherings and is already working with the pastors to offer regular, quarterly sessions at churches in both Delaware and Tahlequah district beginning March 2021.
  - The second September during the grant period will be a community celebration of the Apprentices and Masers during the annual Celebration event at the Stomp Grounds.

**Preliminary Work and Planning**

**Selection of Approach:** Many different approaches to language revitalization have been used over the years with varying degrees of success: western-style teacher/student classroom, *See and Say* books, audio/video tapes, and immersion. Many of our children have participated in these classes and methods. Several Keetoowah certified language teachers previously taught using one or more of these methods, all with disappointing results. Cherokee Nation, another much larger tribe in our area, has an adult immersion project that is effective but unrealistic for our audience. It is a fully paid effort that funds two years of training, five days a week for six hours a day. Not only is the UKB unable to afford to fund this, but too few members could separate from their current lives to take this approach. Additionally, this invests only in the immediate participants, not in the family network, the community organizations, and the life of the tribe in creating a lasting setting for continued and continuous learning and use. In 2015-2016, the UKB received a non-competitive grant from the Cultural Resources Fund to assess Keetoowah language usage. An appointed Language Committee, composed of six tribal members who are Keetoowah language literate (all over 60 years old), launched the two-year Keetoowah language survey previously mentioned. The Committee also created language-learning materials and stories they believed were appropriate for language learning in the communities among families who have access to fluent speakers. After lengthy discussion, consideration, and review of the survey responses, the Committee

concluded that sustaining a vital language is a natural, ongoing process in which the language is passed from the older generation to succeeding generations in the homes or communities among intergenerational family units. (Report attached.)

To determine the unmet needs of the tribal community relating to Keetoowah history, language, and culture which IMLS funding can help to address, information was gathered from sources as described below.

*Surveys of Tribal Members*—The Tribe’s jurisdictional area is divided into nine political districts. District Representatives hold meetings at various times throughout the month. For community members, it is a time of getting together, talking, sharing a meal or refreshments, hearing from their representative, expressing their ideas, discussing their concerns, and asking questions. At community meetings in four of the districts: Tahlequah, Illinois, Delaware, and Saline, surveys were distributed aimed at assessing the availability of educational materials to members, and their knowledge of Tribal language, history, and culture. Youth were included. The results of the survey pertaining specifically to the language were disheartening but not entirely unexpected. Of the 68 Keetoowah members who responded, only 16 (23%) were speakers of the Keetoowah language. The disheartening results demonstrated that the hour for our language is late, but also that there is hope for revitalization because we still have speakers in the communities.

*Interviews with Elders*—The Jim Proctor Elder Center situated at the Tribal complex in Tahlequah, serves lunch daily to approximately 120 elders fifty-five years old or older. Personal interviews were conducted with the elders to determine how many elder interviewees speak the Keetoowah language and how many are proficiently literate in the language. The fluent elder speakers all tend to migrate to the same tables. On any given day there can be from 8 to 12 fluent speakers at the speakers’ tables. Four of the elders participated in a recent project to translate papers from Keetoowah into English. These same four elders are enthusiastic about helping with the revitalization efforts.

*Discussions with Tribal Employees*—Twenty-five employees who work at the Tribal complex attended a discussion about participating in the GPA language-learning program. Most employees are young adults 18-45; a few are older adults 55+; two are members of other tribes; and two are non-Indian. There are six fluent employees who can fill the initial role of language Masters. All the employees are interested in participating in this project.

As a result of these assessments and SIL’s previous work with the UKB, we agreed to partner together in this language revitalization effort. SIL formerly led a Tribal Council 2-day retreat (2018) for leadership development and strategic language planning. SIL International is a not-for-profit non-government organization incorporated in the State of Texas in 1942. SIL is currently involved in language-related projects with more than 1,700 indigenous language communities in more than 80 countries, with a worldwide staff of more than 5,000 members. SIL is one of the world’s leaders in advocating for indigenous language and culture, and is dedicated to working with indigenous communities, organizations, and leaders as they develop solutions for documenting, preserving, and sustaining their languages and cultural identities. SIL serves all language communities, without regard to language, nationality, race, ethnic group, religion, size of population socioeconomic status, geographic location, or political affiliation.

Many Keetoowahs understand the language, but do not speak it fluently. This group (Apprentices I) plus the elders who speak fluently (Masters) are the foundation of this effort. The initial group will be up to 36 Apprentices I with varying degrees of proficiency and 9 elders who are speakers who take on the role of Masters (Masters) of whom four are in Delaware District, three in Tahlequah District, and two more at the Elder Center at Tribal Headquarters. Both groups will participate in the GPA orientation to become familiar with GPA program methods. By creating this partnership between the Library and Museum with SIL, we will develop the resources to get language learning and competence into the community in a variety of ways. This is

unquestionably a state of emergency for our language. The loss of elder speakers and the aging out of the fluent speakers from community activities means there are only a relatively small number of younger speakers fluent enough to sustain and share it.

### **3. Impact**

This proposal supports the IMLS Strategic Plan goal: “Preservation and Revitalization” of the native language by initiating a language learning program aimed at family and community members from toddler to adult. This also supports IMLS objectives, “...focus on continuous learning for families and individuals of diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds and needs,” and “...strengthen the capacity of museums and libraries to improve the well-being of their communities.”

#### **Outcomes and Products**

**Goal 1 Outcome** —By the end of the two-year period, the Keetoowah spoken language-learning program will have successfully shepherded 24 learners through the entire program, and possibly 12 more learners through their first year of the two-year program; eight Masters will have participated for the full two years; at least 300 individual tribal members will have joined in on public events and celebrations (one or more times) that include Keetoowah language presentation, use of the language supplies (book, manipulatives and copies of historical documents in the language) that are available at the library, engagement opportunities provided by the Masters and Apprentices, and language-only local churches’ events and singalongs over two years.

**Goal 2 Outcome** — By the end of the two-year period, the Keetoowah spoken language-learning program will be fine-tuned for continuation and possible expansion, be recognized by the Council as a vital program for the tribe, and be commit to pursuing continued support. We expect 75% of the UKB community, by the end of year two, to recognize there is a language program and indicate it is important to the tribe.

**Goal 3 Outcome** —By then end of the project, the library will have an expanded series of products and activities (learning resources, curriculum guide, and individual learning kits), as described above, that are easily adaptable to expanded learning and continuing tribal engagement.

#### **Measuring Progress**

The attached Learning Plan illustrates the skills and progression thresholds for the learners’ six phases of work. It is difficult to predict the pace of individual progression, but we have estimated general times based on SIL experience with this program. The following data will be gathered to track both progress and outcomes measures. Data will be collected and reviewed quarterly by SIL facilitators, the project director, and the UKB grants manager. Data will be reported to the UKB Tribal Council twice per year, and to IMLS accordingly.

Data for Goal #1: Roster of community Masters attending the training; a log of tribal employees involved in Master/Apprentice activities; Log of community members in the two districts involved in language-learning activities; Reports of library staff and district representative visits to learning locations; and a list of community members’ inquiries about language training.

Data for Goal #2: List of community language Masters and Apprentices; SIL visit schedule and notes on language-learning program progress; Log of weekly Apprentice check-ins; Lists of additional participants and drop-outs.

Data for Goal #3: Distribution check lists of language learning resources, copies of curriculum guide, and descriptions of sample components of individual learning kits.

### **4. Communications Plan**

**Reaching Our Audience:** The target group identified for this tribal library enhancement project includes Keetoowah tribal members and families in Tahlequah and Delaware Districts and the Keetoowah employees. Information will be communicated to the target groups through flyers posted in places frequented by Keetoowahs in the communities such as churches and post offices and tribal offices, on the Keetoowah website and Facebook page, in the tribal newspaper and at monthly district meetings. The data to be collected will be

reported at the tribal council meetings twice per year. These meetings are open to the public. Library staff will tally participant log information and post this information on the tribal website and Facebook page, and on tribal bulletin boards, updating on a bi-monthly basis. Stakeholder input and feedback will be gathered from the community Masters and Apprentices, council representatives and tribal members at community meetings, and tribal employees. The library staff will also solicit feedback from language learners who frequent the library.

**Engagement:** The activities described earlier, outside of the learning plans, include 1) Language-only tables at tribal special events with meals, 2) publicizing all-Cherokee language church services quarterly in the two communities (districts) if possible but at least encouraging participation in existing mixed-language services and all-language song evenings; and 3) the annual Celebration will honor participants in September.

**Outreach Responsibilities:** The project director will participate in the language program and will visit community language two locations in Tahlequah and Delaware communities at least four times in the year to see if there are specific needs to be met. The Delaware District Representative, who is a fluent speaker living in the district, will check in with the language learning locations on a regular schedule to assist and hear their concerns, if any. She will encourage them in the learning process. Likewise, the Tahlequah District Representative will visit the Tahlequah sites.

**Production of Supporting Materials for Delivery and Dissemination:** GPA Keetoowah-specific language materials adapted by SIL will be duplicated and distributed by library staff to the language Masters and Apprentices who will distribute them out to learners in their communities. *These are not digital or digitized items.*

## **5. Sustainability**

**On-going Support:** By demonstrating stakeholder buy-in, the activities of the library has received unwavering support from the tribal council even though financial resources are limited. The tribe is encouraging employees to participate as Apprentices and Masters. It is giving two Masters up to an hour a day to work with any Apprentices who are tribal members and to contribute to the success of this project. Those Masters receive stipends from the project at a lower rate than the Master not employed by the tribe to compensate them for the time outside of work when they help Apprentices and the project. The tribe also provides building maintenance, utilities, supplies, and salaries for the library, and museum and cultural center employees. When this pilot language-learning program is over, with the knowledge and experience we have gained, we at the library as well as community language Masters and Apprentices, can move forward with the spoken language techniques we have learned. With the experience and knowledge, we have gained through the IMLS Enhancement grant, we will apply for a larger language revitalization grant from the Administration for Native Americans to expand the spoken language revitalization efforts to more communities in at least five districts.

**How the Project Leads to Systemic Change:** Revitalization and preservation of the tribal language among tribal members will renew a sense of cultural pride and personal hope. It will help the youth to connect to the past in a tangible way to understand who they are and where they come from. It will help them be who they truly are as Keetoowah instead of mimicking and taking on the ways of other cultures for lack of other options.

<b>Activities across both years</b>			
Ongoing SIL Activities	Learners and SIL staff	SIL staff visit for a week 5 times each year for two years to work with participants, and have 35 – 43 phone or online check-ins with Apprentices during each year to support continuing progress.	24 months
Community Activities	Project director + members + community	Project director facilitates community events in Tahlequah District to promote the program, expand learning opportunities for all, and supports learner activities such as church gatherings, tribal special events and celebrations, and conversations at the library and Elder Center; repeats this work with Delaware District.  The Project Director will explore introduction of quarterly all-Cherokee Sundays for all at churches in both districts where pastors are already conducting some aspects in Cherokee, and encourage learner and public participation in ongoing Cherokee singing events at churches.	Ongoing periodic activities start February 2020 and continue through September 2022
Repeated Enrollment	Masters, SIL staff and Project Director	24 participants will enter at language levels aligned with any of the first three phases. As they progress, or perhaps discontinue, and space becomes available at the earlier, more intensive levels, the project may add a second cohort of up to 12 learners. This is based on the capacity of the 8 Masters and the commitment of the learners. (Total 3 learners per Master in year one. This may change in year two at the discretion of the Master.)	No new language learners after December 2021
<b>Program Phase</b>	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Start-Up	Program Dir. + SIL staff	Announce program through UKB communications and flyers at churches, elder center, Jay Library (in Delaware District), child development center and UKB library, cultural center/museum; SIL adapts GPA curriculum for UKB learners.	September 2020
Set-Up	SIL + Dir + Learners	Recruit and sign-up of language Masters and learners; SIL staff visit--Orientation of language Masters and learners; Interview participants to determine their beginning level of language proficiency	October 2020



<b>Program Phase</b>	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Activities Year One. Repeat/Extend for Year Two</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
GPA 1 1A) 30 hrs. 1B) 70 hrs. on <i>Here and Now</i>	Apprentice I	1A. Participate in a thorough Orientation to GPA with the SIL staff and the Masters. 1B. Speaking activities force them to speak though they will struggle. Continue non-verbal recognition of sounds. Start and continue a Word Log throughout the six phases and beyond.	October 2020 – continuing as needed.
GPA 2 2A) 50 hrs. 2B) 50-80 hrs. 2C) 20 hrs. <i>Story Building</i>	Apprentice II	Developing story understanding with the Masters. Masters and Apprentices work together on identify, sharing, retelling and recording stories of their choice for language practice.	October 2020 - continuing
GPA 3 3A 100 hrs. 3B 75 hrs. 3C 75 hrs. <i>Shared Stories</i>		Developing conversational ability with the Master and with other Keetoowah community speakers.	October 2020- continuing
GPA 4 4-6 months <i>Life-Sharing</i>		Apprentices collect and record interviews of Master and other fluent speakers to explore Keetoowah peoples' lives through discussions with them.	Likely March 2021 – continuing
GPA 5 4-6 months <i>Native to Native Discourse</i>	Apprentice III	Create extensive recordings of Keetoowah people talking with each other on various topics, in various settings, and for various purposes. Attend language church services and events, attend lunches at the Elder Center at the table listening to the Speakers.	Likely June 2021 – continuing
GPA 6 <i>Self-sustaining Growth</i>		Continues to participate heavily in Keetoowah community life, listening, learning, and talking. The Apprentice is becoming integrated into the native conversation community and continues to learn and grow from interaction with the community. The self-sustaining person whose life-style allows him or her to remain in close contact with fluent speakers, will continue to learn and grow.	August 2021 - continuing
Community Celebration		Each October the annual Celebration takes place at the Stomp Grounds in Tahlequah. Here we will honor the Masters and the learners, celebrating their progress. In year one we will invite new participants.	October 2021