



News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Oregon State Correctional Institution hosts Pow Wow

Native American people from all walks of life and tribal heritage came together at Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI) on July 26 to celebrate and honor the Creator for His many blessings through song, dance, and drumming. The celebration gave inmates the opportunity to honor warriors (veterans) for their sacrifices; Mother Earth for the cycle of life; those who have passed; elders, women, and families; and the Native American heritage and culture. Fifty-four inmates, three volunteers, ten tribal representatives, 15 family members, and eight staff participated in the event.

“The challenge for incarcerated Native Americans is to “walk in beauty” and to develop a connection spiritually with themselves, the community, and the earth. Pow Wow and the connection to the larger Native American population is a positive move in that direction. Eating foods blessed by the earth, dancing in community, and tuning our heart to the beat of the drum are ways to restore, renew, and replenish the spirit. The support of OSCI and the community made this year’s Pow Wow a success.” Chaplain R. D. Borden.

OSCI is a medium-security prison in Salem that houses approximately 870 male inmates. It provides a range of correctional services and programs including education, drug and alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, religious services, inmate work crews, and transition planning. OSCI participates in prison industries with Oregon Corrections Enterprises, including a print shop and a contact center. OSCI was established by action of the 1955 Legislature and became fully operational on June 1, 1959.



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The mission of the Oregon Department of Corrections is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.