

GDENWÉMGENANĚK YAJDANAWA (OUR RELATIVES TELL IT)

Archivist in a Backpack Project

Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation Office

July 22, 2020



What is Archivist in a Backpack?

- Archivist in a Backpack is a program created by the UNC Wilson Library's Southern Historical Collection staff.
- GdenwémgenanĚk Yajdanawa Project was developed to assist Tribal Citizens conduct and record oral history interviews. The project is modeled off of the UNC Archivist in a Backpack Program.
- Project Goals
 - Making history and historical production accessible through community-based workshops
 - Engaging Tribal Citizens in the historical and cultural preservation goals of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office
 - Create an archive of sound and/or visual recordings documenting Potawatomi History and Culture



The Archivist in a Backpack Kit includes:

- “Gdenwémgenanëk Yajdanawa: A Guide to Oral History Interviews” and other Information Pamphlets and Forms
- General Question Cards
- Kalamazoo River Question Cards
- Digital Audio Recorder
- Micro SD Memory Card
- Headphones
- Archival Sleeves and Folders
- Archival Gloves
- Notebooks and Pencils
- Stamps and Thank You Cards
- Tissues
- Medicine/Care Bundle (Sema, Sage, Shell, Fabric and String for Sema Bundles)
- Video Recorders are also available upon request



The Archivist in a Backpack materials potentially available at home:

- Phone, Tablet or Laptop
- Electronic Copies of Resources
 - “Gdenwémgenanëk Yajdanawa: A Guide to Oral History Interviews” and other Information Pamphlets and Forms
 - General Question Cards
 - Kalamazoo River Question Cards
- Headphones
- Notebooks and Pencils
- Stamps and Thank You Cards/E-Card Options
- Tissues



Using free apps on your phone, tablet, or laptop

- In-person Interview Recording Apps (or can use two separate devices):
 - Easy Voice Recorder
 - iPhone Only: Voice Memos, Garage Band
 - Android Only: ASR Voice Recorder, Hi-Q MP3 Voice Recorder
- Phone Interview Recording Options:
 - Apple Only: Rev Call Recorder
 - Android Only: Cube Call Recorder
- Video Call Interview Recording Options:
 - Zoom
 - Google Voice (only recommended if necessary)



Gdenwémgenanëk Yajdanawa: A Guide to Oral History Interviews

- Introduction/What is Oral History?
- Considerations for an Oral History Interview
- Planning & Preparation
- Interviewing Reminders and Tips
- Processing the Interview
- Equipment Overview and Instructions
- Transcription Guidelines
- Archiving and Storage



Oral History, Oral Tradition, Family and Community Stories

- What are the differences between Oral History, Oral Tradition and Family/Community Stories?
- Considerations for Oral History Interviews/Projects
 - What stories or memories would you like to hear or learn about?
 - Who should you interview? Would some people feel more comfortable interviewing with a group?
 - What do you and the interviewee want done with the interview once completed?
 - Do you need to conduct any background research to assist with developing interview questions?



Planning and Preparation

- Contact the interviewee to receive permission for a recorded interview
- Interviews should be limited to 60-90 minutes
- Location
- Prepare Outline/Script of Questions
- Is the interview for personal or public use?
- Become familiar with your recording equipment or apps being used
- Review the electronic resources available:
- Schedule some time before and after the interview to review biographical information and answer any of the interviewee's questions
- Please remember if you're asking people to give of their time and knowledge, keep in mind appropriate cultural protocols associated with requests and giving thanks



Interviewing Reminders and Tips

- Reminders at the beginning and throughout the interview
 - Permissions
 - Silencing phones
 - Off the record requests
 - State the date, time and location when beginning the interview
- After collecting the biographical information, play back to make sure the recording is clear
- All electronic resources are reference materials
- Make sure your questions are open-ended



Interviewing Reminders and Tips (cont'd)

- Allow the interviewee to guide the interview, but as the interviewer provide an overall direction/framework.
- Throughout the interview:
 - Try to use non-verbal communication to showcase active listening
 - Do not be afraid of silence
 - Note-taking
- Difficult Subjects to Discuss
- Ending the Interview



Future Trainings and Projects

- Processing Interviews
- Transcription Guidelines
- Archiving and Storage



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