



## **We Care!**

### **UNITY Safety and Crisis Protocols**

UNITY participants' and youth's safety and well-being are our utmost priority. As we prepare for this year's National UNITY Conference, please know we will work closely with all advisors and chaperones to promote a safe experience. In fact, during the planning of UNITY events, we work closely with each property's security team to outline safety tips and protocols. Hotel security officers are available onsite 24 hours each day. They may be reached immediately by calling #65 from a hotel phone. Please note, UNITY requires all trainers, contractors, and staff to submit to background checks. We remain dedicated to maintaining a secure environment for all participants and will continue to uphold our commitment to their welfare.

[Click here](#) for UNITY Hotel Group Safety Tips & Information

To ensure clarity and ease of response, it is important that advisors and chaperones have well-thought-out procedures in place to handle potential crises. Advisors and chaperones know their youth the best. The tip sheet provides suggested guidelines.

### **UNITY Spirit Room**

This year, an expert team of Cultural Wellness and Prevention trainers will team up to host UNITY's Spirit Room. The Spirit Room (Convention Office 1, lower level) will be available throughout the conference, designed to provide a supervised safe space for Native youth and Advisors to gather, pray, meditate, or share cultural teachings. (Native youth will need to be accompanied by an Advisor) This space can also serve as a quiet place for anyone who may experience sensory overload or need time for reflection. The Wellness team is led by UNITY Alumni Hunter Genia, Lovina Louie, and Sheldon Smith. Interventions, treatment, crisis assessment and counseling are not available on-site. The Spirit Room is designed to provide calm, focus, prayer and comfort to people while attending the Conference. The Spirit Room will close each night at 11:45pm.

## Mental Health Support

The FCC has designated 988 as a nationwide 3-digit number for mental health crisis and suicide prevention services, sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Callers will be connected to a specialist who will listen to their concerns and connect them to relevant resources. The helpline will be promoted throughout the conference.

### Emergency Mental Health Care

Call 988

Or text "HelpLine" to 62640

There is no Indian Health Service facility nearby. Here's a link for the nearest [Urgent care facilities](#).

## Buddy System

Where's your buddy? Every year, UNITY encourages youth participants to keep an eye on each other. A buddy system is a common way to reduce risk in any environment. Of course, it's just one way to promote safety. We encourage youth to not only check in with each other but especially with their advisors. Daily huddles with youth and advisors is encouraged. UNITY peer groups conduct daily debriefs as a way to address any concerns. A group chat, with everyone's cell phone numbers, is also a good way to keep track of each other.

## Community Safety Listening Sessions hosted by OJJDP

On Monday, July 3, 2023, the Department of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will host listening sessions at the National UNITY with youth and adults from across the country to discuss safety issues in Indian country. The listening sessions will bring together a select group of youth, ages 14 to 24, and adults with a diverse range of experiences to discuss the challenges they have had with safety in their communities and share their ideas for how federal programs could better empower them and their families.

The OJJDP Listening Sessions will be held **Monday, July 3, at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm**. One session is for youth, and the second session is for adults. Attendance is limited to 30 for each session. [Sign up now!](#)

## 4th of July Safety in Washington DC

The National Park Service asks visitors to adhere to the following guidelines to help everyone have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day. Please bring plenty of water for hydration, dress in weather-appropriate attire, and use sunscreen. Please note the following:

- **Medical Aid Stations** will be clearly identified by red banners with a blue star of life on them.
- The public is asked to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases by following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for **events and public gatherings**.
- Take the following precautions to protect yourself against the heat:
  - Drink plenty of water
  - Bring a water bottle and drink water throughout the day even when you are not thirsty
  - Minimize consumption of beverages containing caffeine or alcohol
  - Eat a healthy breakfast and normal meals throughout the day
  - Take frequent shade breaks to cool off
  - Periodically get out of the heat and into air conditioning, especially between the hours of 10am to 3pm
  - Avoid overexertion
  - Reduce exertion during the hottest hours
  - Loosen clothing and cool off outside before entering an air-conditioned space
  - Bring extra medication.

The symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Profuse sweating, nausea, headache, dizziness, weakness, exhaustion, cool, pale, flushed or ashen skin, increased body temperature

The symptoms of heat stroke include:

- Red, hot skin, change in level of consciousness (may become unresponsive), rapid or shallow breathing, rapid and weak pulse, body temperature of 104 degrees F or above

Heat stroke is a life-threatening condition. Cool victims rapidly with splashed water and fanning. Summon help immediately.

## **Fireworks**

Please follow these precautions if you are located near the launch site (West Potomac Park) during the fireworks display:

- Consider wearing eye protection and hearing protection
- Do not attempt to enter the fenced safety zones around the launch site
- Following the fireworks, do not walk along Independence Avenue, SW, between Daniel Chester French Drive, SW, and 17th Street, SW, until safety teams clear the area of potentially harmful fireworks debris