



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
MEDIA CONTACT:
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2026

Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council holds inaugural meeting under Legislative Branch leadership



The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council held its inaugural meeting establishing the next generation of leaders.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Saturday, the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council (NNYAC) convened its inaugural meeting in Window Rock, Ariz., marking its establishment under the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation.

The orientation brought together youth leaders and Navajo Nation Council Delegates to provide foundational training, introduce governmental processes, and foster dialogue between elected officials and the next generation of leadership.

Delegates in attendance included Otto Tso, Dr. Andy Nez, Shawna Ann Claw, Amber K. Crotty, George H. Tolth, and Speaker Crystalyne Curley, who participated in discussions aimed at strengthening youth engagement in governance and community advocacy.

“The establishment of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council under the Legislative Branch reflects our responsibility to mentor and empower the next generation of leaders. We are investing in the young voices that have long deserved a seat at the table,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. “The NNYAC are the leaders of today and it’s our duty to ensure they are equipped, heard, and supported as they help shape the path forward for our Nation.”

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks and invocation delivered by the NNYAC, followed by presentations and workshops throughout the day. An IT presentation and media

engagement session provided NNYAC members with tools to effectively communicate and represent their communities. A key portion of the agenda included an agency overview workshop, where delegates shared perspectives from their respective regions, offering insight into governance structures, regional priorities, and ongoing initiatives across the Navajo Nation.

A Q&A panel and debrief session allowed youth council members to directly engage with delegates, ask questions, and discuss challenges facing Navajo communities. Topics included education, infrastructure, youth resources, and opportunities for civic involvement. The orientation emphasized collaboration, leadership development, and building pathways for youth voices within the legislative process.

The NNYAC also established the leadership by electing NNYAC Chairperson Aryiah James and Vice Chairperson Taewakeedah Martin, who will guide the council in its mission to represent Navajo youth and contribute to policy discussions moving forward.

The day concluded with the first official NNYAC meeting, followed by a cultural engagement activity, reinforcing the importance of cultural identity and community connection in leadership development.

The establishment of the NNYAC under the Legislative Branch represents a continued commitment by the 25th Navajo Nation Council to empower youth voices, cultivate future leaders, and ensure that the perspectives of young people are included in shaping the Nation's future.

###