



2026 National TERO Convention

49 Years of Commitment to Progress

“Workforce Sovereignty: Our People, Our Jobs, Our Future”

Agenda

August 12th - August 14th, 2026

River Spirit Casino Resort

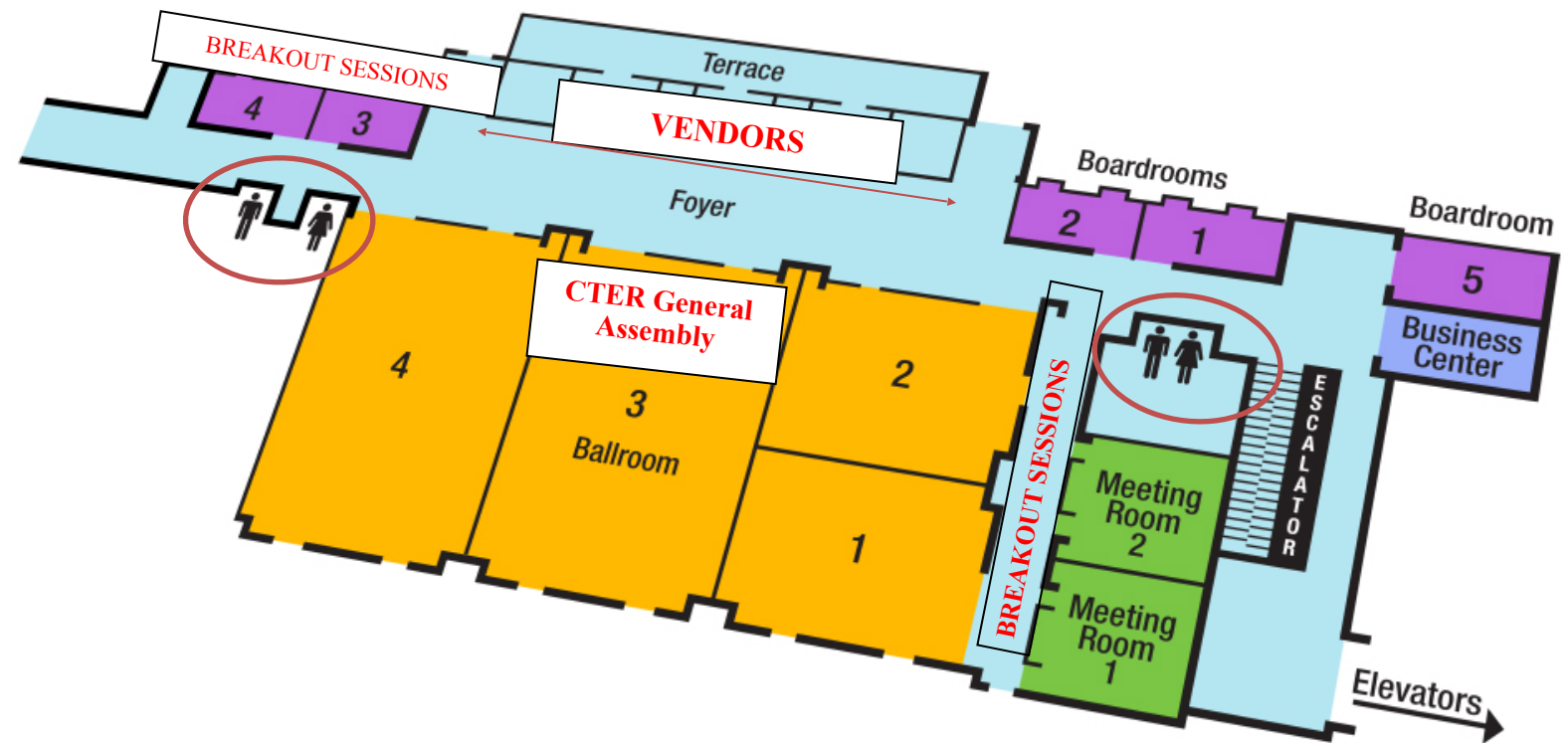
8330 S. Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137

****DRAFT AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

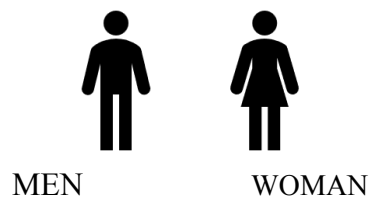
WELCOME TO THE



RIVER SPIRIT CONFERENCE LEVEL MAP



BATHROOMS ON ARE BOTH SIDES OF THE HALLWAY FOLLOW THE SIGNS



GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVERY MORNING IN BALLROOM 3

BREAKOUT SESSION IN MEETING ROOMS 1 & 2 (GREEN COLOR ROOMS)
BREAKOUT SESSIONS IN MEETING ROOMS 4 & 3 (PURPLE COLOR ROOMS)

Current Members

Alaska Region

Kaltag Tribal Council
Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Organized Village of Kake
Orutsaramiut Native Council
Tanana Chiefs Conference

Eastern Region

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Seneca Nation of New York

Great Lakes Region

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

Northern Plains Region

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
MHA / Three Affiliated Tribes
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate
Spirit Lake Nation
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
Yankton Sioux Tribe

Pacific Northwest Region

Bishop Paiute Tribe
Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation
Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribes
Hoh Tribe
The Klamath Tribe
Lummi Nation
Metlakatla Indian Community
Nez Perce Tribe
Nisqually Indian Tribe
Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Current Members

Shoshone Bannock Tribes

Shoshone – Paiute Tribe

Snoqualmie Tribe

Spokane Tribe of Indians

Swinomish Tribal Community

Tulalip Tribes of Washington

Walker River Paiute Tribe

Yakama Nation

Rocky Mountain Region

Blackfeet Tribe

Chippewa Cree Tribe

Confederated Saish & Kootenai Tribes

Crow Tribe

Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribe

Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Salish & Kootenai Tribe

Southern Plains Region

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma

Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma

Muscogee Creek Nation

Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Southwest Region

Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley

Colorado River Indian Tribes

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

Gila River Indian Community

Hopi Tribe

Jicarilla Apache Nation

Pueblo of Acoma

Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

UTE Mountain UTE Tribe

Tuesday, August 11th

8:00 am **Board Meeting**

3:30- 5:30 pm Early Convention Registration - Special raffle for those who check in at this time

Wednesday, August 12th

7:30 am **Convention Registration**

7:30 am **Morning Meet & Greet**
Location: Main Conference Room

8:30 am **1st General Assembly**
Grand Entry / Posting of Colors:
 Muscogee Creek Nation Veterans Color Guard
Singers - Host Drum:
 Tulsa Indian Pow Wow Drum-David Bible
Blessings:
 Muscogee Creek Nation Second Chief Del Beaver

9:00 am **Convention Theme & Welcome:**
Melvin J. Wheeler, Sr., CTER Board Chair

Official Welcome:
Muscogee Creek Nation Chief David Hill

9:30-11:00 am **Keynote Speaker:** The History of Indians and U.S. Citizenship
Bernice Delorme, CTER General Counsel

11:00 am **Speaker: Strength of TERO**
Zechariah Harjo, Secretary of Nation

12:00 pm *Lunch on your own*

1:30 pm **Presentation-Tribal Grants Working Session**
 Lee Vasquez Ilaoa, Ph.D., Good Road Life, LLC
 Mescalero Apache/Lower Brule Lakota

2:00 pm **Speaker-Joining Forces through TERO**
Edith Baker

2:30 pm **Speaker-TBD**

3:00 pm **Speaker-Workforce Development**
Jess Factor, Muscogee Creek Nation

3:30 pm

Speaker- Importance of TERO

Will Lowe, MCN Council Member, NCAID Member

4:00 pm

Speaker-Better Together

Victor Flores, Founder of Better Networking & President of Oklahoma Tribal Finance

4:30 pm

Survey Questions

Recess for the Day

6:00 pm

Welcome Feast & Honoring Ceremony

Hosted by Muscogee Creek Nation

Grand Entry / Posting of Colors:

Muscogee Creek Veterans Color Guard

Singers - Host Drum:

(TBA)

Feast & Dinner Blessing:

Tribal Elder

Welcome From Host Tribe:

TBD

CTER Welcome & Introductions:

Melvin J. Wheeler Sr, CTER Board Chair

TERO Memorial & Honoring Ceremony:

Honor Song: Tulsa Indian Pow-Wow Drum

8:30 pm

Retire Colors and Close Evening Program

Muscogee Creek Veterans Color Guard

NOTES:

[illegible]

Thursday, August 13th

7:00 am **Convention Registration**
 Location: TBD

7:30 am **Morning Meet & Greet**
 Location: Main Conference Room

8:30 am **2nd General Assembly**

Invocation:
 Tribal Elder

9:00 am **Keynote Speaker:** TBD

10:00 am **Speaker-TBD**

11:00 am **Speaker-TBD**

12:00 pm **2026 Itche Shikaake Scholarship Luncheon**
 Council for Tribal Employment Rights Scholarship Committee

1:30-4:00 pm **Keynote Speaker- Establishing a TERO Program & History**
 John Navarro, Co-Founder & CEO of CTER

4:30 pm **Survey Questions**
 Recess for the day

6:00 pm **2026 CTER Annual Awards / Recognition Banquet**
 Outstanding TERO Awards & Special Recognition

- TERO Program of the Year
- TERO Staff/Commission of the Year
- TERO Director of the Year

NOTES:

Friday, August 14th

7:30 am **Morning Meet & Greet**

8:30 am **3rd General Assembly**
Invocation: Spiritual Leader
(TBA)

Announcements: Melvin J. Wheeler Sr.
Council for Tribal Employment Rights Board Chair

9:00 am **Tribal Leaders Panel**
(TBA)

10:30 am **Union Panel- TBD**

11:00 am **TBD**

11:30 am **Closing Statements:** Melvin J. Wheeler Sr.
Council for Tribal Employment Rights Board Chair

Closing Prayer:
Tribal Elder

Retire Colors & Convention Adjournment:
(TBA)

Singers - Host Drum:
(*TBA*)

12:00 pm **2026 CTER Convention Adjourns**

Notes

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More Information to come on our

SAVE THE DATE!

December 9th – 11th, 2026 at The Orleans Casino, Las Vegas

Registration information will be posted on our website as it becomes available at www.cter-tero.org

