

Statement of Support and Commitment to Wabanaki Nations

Schoodic Institute is a nonprofit partner of the National Park Service and a center for inspiring science, learning, and community for a changing world. Our campus is located in Acadia National Park at Schoodic Point, homeland of the Wabanaki, People of the Dawn.

Historically, Schoodic Point was home to small communities of Wabanaki families who, according to archaeological evidence, harvested fish, clams, sea birds, and mammals, both in the distant and recent past. Schoodic Point remains an important place for Wabanaki families, and a place for community gatherings and meetings between Wabanaki governments and the National Park Service.

We recognize and respect Wabanaki relations past and present with Schoodic Point and the surrounding waters. We support Wabanaki Nations as they continue to practice and renew their cultural traditions and identities in Acadia and beyond. Honoring Wabanaki sovereignty benefits all who live here, today and in the future.

As a nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, we have a unique role to play as a “boundary organization” in supporting the government-to-government relationship of Wabanaki Tribes and the U.S. Department of Interior. Schoodic Point is also a site of research by Wabanaki scientists on behalf of their communities. We have much to learn from them, and from the holders of traditional ecological knowledge, about the environmental changes and human responses that are addressed by our research and education programs.

As part of our commitments, we intend to:

- Highlight the importance of Acadia to the Wabanaki, and of Wabanaki people to Acadia.
- Communicate that our campus and surrounding lands are the homeland of the Wabanaki.
- Make our campus available for Wabanaki community gatherings.
- Increase and expand collaboration with (and funding for) Wabanaki scientists and students conducting research about our changing environment.
- Include Wabanaki perspectives in our Board of Directors and/or as Advisors to our Science & Education Committee.
- Be intentional and inclusive in our communication of science and conservation history.
- Support a stronger conservation movement in Maine that reflects and centers Wabanaki history and Indigenous perspectives.

[Note: This letter has been approved by Schoodic leadership and is posted online at <https://schoodicinstitute.org/wabanaki-commitment/>.]