



2022 BOSTON MARATHON "PURSUIT" PROGRAM

FOR CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Application Deadline March 11, 2022 5pm (MST)

*"Our young people must have a dream and hope. Running is a means of healing."
-Billy Mills*

Background:

At the 2016 Boston Marathon, the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.), Harvard University Native American Program (H.U.N.A.P.), Running Strong for American Indian Youth, The Indigenous Marathon Foundation and Wings of America partnered to celebrate past Native American and First Nations Boston Marathon champions. Through a series of speaking presentations, panel discussions and receptions hosted by Harvard and the B.A.A., the legacy of legendary runners like Ellison "Tarzan" Brown (Narragansett), Tom Longboat (Onondaga), Andrew Sockalexis (Penobscot), Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota), Arnulfo Quimare (Raramuri) and Patti Dillon (Mi'kmaq) came to life. A select few adult runners also got the opportunity to raise money and awareness for Indian organizations by training for and racing the Marathon.

Wings of America has continued this partnership with the B.A.A. and Boston area Universities to use "Marathon Weekend" as an opportunity for learning, conversation, relationship building and healing. **For a fourth year, Wings will select up to 5 high school juniors to travel with the organization and experience the Boston Marathon as part of our "Pursuit" Program April 14th-18th, 2022.**

This program was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19. We return to Boston in 2022 with the understanding that the risks associated with the virus are less- but still present. Last-minute changes and/or cancellations to the trip may be necessary. At the very least, program participants will need to COVID test before travelling.

This year, the two "charity runners" that who volunteered to raise funds for "Pursuit" students and serve as trip chaperones are Verna Volker (Diné), founder of "Native Women Running", and Dr. Lydia Jennings (Huichol and Yaqui), soil scientist, runner and post-doctoral fellow at the University of Arizona. Along with Wings staff, they will accompany students during the weekend's activities and share lodging. Although COVID restrictions may not allow for some visits/activities enjoyed by "Pursuit" students in the past, the trip itinerary will most likely include:

- College visits/counseling facilitated by Boston-area Universities (COVID policies allowing).
- Group runs in and around Boston as a means of sightseeing.
- Speaking engagements, tours and workshops that expose students to the realities of continuing their education (COVID policies allowing).
- Visits to the Boston Marathon “expo” and other race-related events/speakers leading up to the race.
- The B.A.A. 5K hosted on the Boston Common the Saturday before the Marathon.
- Museum and research institution visits in the Boston area (COVID policies allowing).
- Marathon viewing on “Patriot’s Day”.

Application:

In order to apply for the Pursuit Program, all applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a current High School Junior.
2. Have a cumulative high school grade point average of at least 3.0.
3. Be able to provide proof of membership in a federally or state-recognized Tribe or Alaska Native Corporation in the United States.
4. Be able to provide proof that you have taken or are currently signed up to take either the ACT or SAT.
5. Submit two (2) letters of recommendation from teachers, coaches, mentors and/or bosses who are not related to you.
6. Submit **typed** responses to the following essay questions by Friday, March 11th, 2022 at 5:00pm (MST):

Essay Questions:

1. Briefly explain the role running has played in your life thus far and how you envision the activity being a part of your life as you grow older. (300-350 words)
2. Why do you want to attend college? What challenges must you overcome to attend your dream school? How might a trip to Boston with Wings this April help you overcome these challenges? (350-500 words)

Read this history about Tarzan Brown before answering the last question:

<https://www.wingsofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/TarzanBrownIndianMarathonRunner.pdf>

3. How have opportunities for Native youth increased since the time of Ellison “Tarzan” Brown? Why is it important to raise the public’s awareness of the positive achievements of Native peoples? (350-500 words)

Application Material Checklist:

- ___ Essay question responses
- ___ High School Transcript
- ___ ACT or SAT registration confirmation
- ___ Copy of proof of Tribal enrollment
- ___ Signed letters of recommendation (2) (sealed or unsealed)
- ___ Completed Applicant Information Questionnaire (see below)

Ways to Submit:

1. (Up to March 11th 5:00pm MST deadline) Email all materials as a single pdf to:
dustin@wingsofamerica.org
2. (On or before March 7th) Mail all materials to:

**Wings of America
Attn: Dustin Martin
13701 Skyline Rd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123**

**Applicant Information Questionnaire
(To be submitted with application other application materials):**

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

School You Attend: _____

Home Mailing
Address: _____

Best Phone Number to Reach You (Student): _____

Your Email (Student): _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Please call Dustin Martin at (505) 977 5057 with questions about the application process and/or submission.