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GOVERNOR RICHARDSON AND THE NATIVE AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOUNDATION ENCOURAGES PUEBLOS AND TRIBES TO PARTICIPATE IN PAGEANT OF PEACE CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING CELEBRATION

The Native American Alliance Foundation and the Governor's Office will be joining together this year to oversee New Mexico's role in the annual Pageant of Peace Christmas Tree Decorating Celebration in Washington, D.C.

Every year, the President lights the National Christmas Tree, along with a tree for each state and commonwealth territory. In keeping with the historical opening of the National Museum of American Indian Art, the organizing committee has asked that the New Mexico state Christmas tree be decorated with Native American art for the first time ever.

In a letter dated October 12, 2004 and sent to each Pueblo or Tribal leadership, Governor Richardson writes, "...This is an exciting concept, a well-deserved and long-awaited tribute to the role played by Native Americans in this country." Governor Richardson states that "Participation by [all Indigenous populations and organizations] is strongly urged; and I know that with your leadership, your community will contribute significantly to this exciting and historic event." A duplicate tree will be displayed in the Governor's Office.

Janna Gourd Gallegos, the founder and Executive Director of NAAF, explains the excitement and why this is such a historic event. "It is my understanding that New Mexico's tree will be the first native themed tree in the history of the Pageant of Peace since its inception in 1923. I sincerely hope that when the tree is taken down, the decorations will be donated to the Museum of the American Indian. Display of such a beautiful collection of art, resulting from a united group of indigenous people will provide an opportunity for all to share in the honor that we, as an organization have had bestowed upon us in undertaking this endeavor."

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If you would like to contribute to this great
the Native American Alliance Foundation
alliance.org.

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