

2025 Orange Shirt Day Press Kit

Sep. 8, 2025

Contents

- [What is Orange Shirt Day?](#)
- [Call to Action](#)
- [Where to buy an Orange Shirt](#)
- [Teams/Zoom Background](#)
- [Press Release Template](#)
- [Message from We Are Here Oregon Native Employees \(WAHONE\) Resource Group](#)

For more resources, visit the [ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs web page](#).

Honoring Survivors. Remembering Children. Every Child Matters.

Each year on September 30, Orange Shirt Day is recognized across the U.S. and Canada as a time to remember Indigenous children who were taken from their families and placed in residential and boarding schools. These schools stripped children of their names, language, and culture, causing lasting harm that still impacts Tribal communities today.

This day also honors the resilience of survivors, their families, and Tribal Nations who continue to heal and carry forward cultural traditions. In Oregon, this includes the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon and their ongoing efforts to preserve culture, language, and community well-being.

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Office of Tribal Affairs, together with the We Are Here Oregon Native Employees (WAHONE) Resource Group, invites you to join us in wearing orange on Tuesday, Sep. 30, 2025.

Why Orange Shirt Day matters

From 1819 to 1969, more than 400 Indian boarding schools operated in the U.S. Thousands of Indigenous children were taken from their families, many never returned home, and unmarked graves are still being found today.

Oregon is part of this history. Schools operated in Warm Springs, Siletz, Grand Ronde, Klamath, Umatilla, and Chemawa Indian School in Salem, which is still open today. Chemawa is now a modern high school serving Native students from across the country, but its history reminds us of the painful past.

Orange Shirt Day started from the story of a child whose new orange shirt was taken away on her first day at a residential school. That shirt represented her family's love and pride—taken from her, just like so many children's connections to their culture were taken.

Wearing orange today is a way to say: **Every Child Matters.**

Where to buy your Orange Shirt

If you're looking to **buy an orange shirt for Orange Shirt Day**—a meaningful way to honor Indigenous children affected by the federal (or Indian residential) school system—here are several trusted and impactful options.

- [Orange Shirt Society](#)
- [Orange Shirt Store](#)
- [Culturally Committed](#)
- [Native Northwest](#)
- [North of 50 Boutique](#)

How you can take part

- **Wear Orange:** On September 30, put on an orange shirt as a sign of support.
- **Use our digital background:** Download the ODHS Orange Shirt Day [Teams/Zoom background](#).
- **Share your support:** Post a picture of yourself wearing orange on social media. Tag ODHS:
 - Facebook: [ORHumanServices](#)
 - LinkedIn: [orhumanservices](#)
 - Twitter/X: [@ORHumanServices](#)
 - Use hashtags: **#ODHSOrangeShirtDay #OregonOrangeShirtDay #EveryChildMatters**

- **Join our photo campaign:** Send your photo to Tony Aaron Fuller at tony-aaron.fuller@odhs.oregon.gov .

News Release template

Use this [Orange Shirt day News Release template](#).

Message from We Are Here Oregon Native Employees (WAHONE) Resource Group

The **We Are Here Oregon Native Employee (WAHONE)** Resource Group is dedicated to honoring the history, resilience, and strength of Tribal Nations, families, and communities.

Orange Shirt Day is a time to face a difficult truth: for generations, Native children were taken from their homes, families, and Tribes in an attempt to erase cultures and break apart communities. In Oregon, the impact of these actions is still felt today. At places like Chemawa Indian School, unmarked graves have been found, reminders of the children who never made it home. These truths are painful, but they must be acknowledged if we are to move toward healing.

On **Sep. 30, 2025**, we invite you to wear orange with us. Wearing orange is a simple but powerful way to honor survivors and remember the children who were lost. It also shows our commitment to working together with Tribes across Indian Country to restore what was taken, to listen to Indigenous voices, and to help create a future where every child is safe, valued, and belongs.