

JUNALUSKA LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Junaluska Leadership Council is a youth leadership program comprised of Native American youth enrolled in Cherokee High School, Swain County High School, Smoky Mountain High School, and Robbinsville High School. The program enhances participants leadership, social, public speaking, and relationship development skills. Participants also gain experience in understanding operations of Tribal Government.

Junaluska Leadership Council holds monthly meetings with rotations between the 4 schools. During meetings they plan community events, discuss issues and concerns in the community, write resolutions with issues that were collected from their peers and based on needs of the community.

Community events planned by the council were a result of legislation submitted by Junaluska Leadership Council to Tribal Council.

Community events include and Honor the Elders Day named after Ned Long. The council determines what elders will be honored and plan a community gathering, send invitations, and set up entertainment using local entertainers.

The council plans a Junaluska Wreath Laying Ceremony at the gravesite of Cherokee Chief Junaluska. They organize invitations, a luncheon, and entertainment for the event.

Junaluska Leadership Council holds 2 Council Sessions per year one in the fall and one in the spring. The council submits resolutions (at least 3 per school) that pertain to needs of the youth as well as needs of the community. Resolutions passed in Junaluska Leadership Council are submitted to Tribal Council.

Resolutions submitted to Tribal Council that have been ratified by the Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and that are now in place include; Ned Long – Honor the Elders Day be held the last Wednesday of October, Building a 5 Star Hotel, enclosing community gymnasiums, constructing a movie theatre, bowling alley, and skate park, placing concave mirrors at hidden driveways, painting lines on tribal side roads, placing guardrails on Big Cove and Old No. 4 Roads.

JLC elects officers; Chairman, Vice Chairman, Recorder, and English Clerk.