What to expect 2026

ISCDC 30th Annual, Indigenous Sustainable Communities Design
"Indigenous solutions for a sustainable future"

Dear Participant, student, learner,

Welcome to the 30th Annual "Indigenous Sustainable Communities Design Course 2026 ISCDC ("Indigenous Solutions for a Sustainable Future")

What is ISCDC: ISCDC is a thirteen-day intensive training in ecological design, natural farming and earth restoration, natural healing both human and Mother Earth, these strategies and objectives compliment the Permaculture methodology, which is: the conscious, holistic design and maintenance of biologically productive ecosystems that have the diversity, stability, balance and resilience of natural ecosystems. A holistic indigenous approach based on traditional knowledge and practices ("putting the words of our elders and ancestors into actions") as a tool for community health, ecosystems understanding and management, traditional farming, traditional diets and nutrition, pattern understanding, Indigenous Women in agriculture, herbal processing, earth building, alternative energy, communal and global responsibilities.

*ISCDC takes a permaculture*** approach to sustainability. Permaculture is the harmonious integration of landscape and people, providing food, energy, shelter, and other needs in a sustainable way for all species. Permaculture is working with nature rather than against it; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than thoughtless action; of looking at systems to evolve beneficially towards a state of maximum natural productivity and abundance.*

Who Should Take the Course: Environmental students, agricultural department staff, agricultural students, landscapers, landowners, people thinking of purchasing land, people concerned for a healthy environment, farmers, ranchers, parks personal, range management personal, wildlife personal, environmentalist, health department personnel, indigenous peoples concerned for the future. This course has been taught to young (13 yrs.), elders (plus 70's) both men and women. Participants under 18 years of age MUST have a parent, or adult supervisor, with parental permission.

Registration: Indigenous Peoples, Registration Fees, Scholarships: Registration cost is $400.00 We have a very limited number partial of scholarships available; selection is based on need and interest and agreements to fully participate in all course requirements. All students are encouraged to seek additional funding support to attend this course. See partial scholarship application & agreement.

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What to Bring if attending in-person: This course will consist of classroom presentation, field trips and hands on work experience. Some days we will be working outside at 7,000-ft elevation, or higher, the sun is intense. Head covering of some sort, gardening hat, cap, broad brim hat, water, canteen, bottled water, work clothes, gloves, good shoes or boots, sunscreen, pens, pencils, note paper, etc.

What to Expect if attending in-person: This course will start each day promptly at 9:00AM, unless agenda reads otherwise. If you wish to receive a certificate, you must attend the entire course. During the course lunch is provided, and you ***must bring your own dishes, bowls, cups &utensils!!*** *Lunch each class day will be served at approximately 12:00 noon - 1:00 PM. Lunchtime is one hour. Each day will adjourn at approximately at 5:00-6:00 pm, some days are a little longer, depending on weather and travel time during field trips. Classroom presentations will consist of presentation from TNAFA staff and invited presenters. Depending on the weather, some classes are held outdoors, under shade. Field trips, we will visit several ongoing traditional agriculture, permaculture, and alternative agriculture sites that will give you a first-hand look and work at sustainable designs.*

Child Care: We are not able to provide any child care. This course is all about building relationships, in nature and in our human community. We do not discourage parents to bring their children, realize the "classroom" is indoors and outdoors, sometimes working in agriculture fields, hands-on working with mud (children love this). Just be mindful of the environment and respectful of the other student's participation and learning environment.

Participants responsibilities: TNAFA and Camino de Paz, require participants to obey all rules of both organizations, read and sign "participants agreement form". ***All participants are required to assist with camp, kitchen, campus cleaning, assisting with preparing and contributing (funds or groceries) to group meals, breakfast and dinner.*** *A sign-up sheet will be provided; everyone must contribute labor and time. (A) footnote*

Most evenings organizing "potlucks". We will provide a list of local grocery stores and farmers markets; CDP also sells produce; Four Sisters Farm donates some traditional foods. TNAFA will provide the lunches.

Hands on Experience: Learning by doing. Some presenters will require hands on activities. Such as making seed balls, seed cleaning, planting gardens, building compost piles, digging, cooking, exercising, hiking, mud plastering, and more.

Recording of this year's Design Course: This year TNAFA has contracted with a Native

video production to record and produce a program out of this year's activities. TNAFA is requesting all participants to sign a release form allowing to record and to be used in the final production. (B) footnote

Evaluation: At the completion of each day, we are requesting a written evaluation of the day's activities. Handwritten evaluation to be placed in specified location. Email of evaluation can also be emailed to Pueblotopueblo@Gmail.com ***subject line Day__ Evaluation****.*

Location: 1 Camino De Paz, Santa Cruz, NM 87567
Camino de Paz, School/Farm; Northern New Mexico, Near Espanola NM

Camping students: Camino de Paz School /Farm (CDP) allows student camping (we/they also require students to sign a letter of responsibility). Students that are camping must provide their own tent and camping equipment, sleeping bag, lamps, sleeping pads, etc. CDP permits the student to access to their school kitchen, two showers and laundry room. Previous students have scheduled themselves for shower and kitchen use. (C) foot note

Local transportation: Dependent on funding and size of class, we may be able to provide a passenger van. If you have your own transportation this will be helpful.
Some field trips are 20 miles from home base; others are only a few miles.

Certificate: After completion of the course and design presentation of certificates. Participants can receive a certificate of completion issued by TNAFA.
For information write: Traditional Native American Farmers Association
|PO Box 31267 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87594|E-mail: pueblotopueblo@gmail.com|Website: www.tnafa.org|

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*TNAFA an affiliate program of the SEVENTH GENERATION FUND (501) (c) (3) *** Permaculture, the very first few design courses we hosted, were titled Traditional Agriculture/Permaculture Design Course, we utilized the Permaculture syllabus provided by the International Permaculture Institute. Since then, we have modified this course the better reflex our indigenous communities, culture and ethics. We have dropped the "Permaculture" wording in the title but still use some of its foundation.*

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(A)foot note; ISCDC program provides the lunch meals. Breakfast and dinner meals are "on your own". TNAFA wishes this also to be a learning experience. Since the school campus has only one kitchen we can use. The best approach is to organize as a community, organizing a planned menu, pooling resources (money/food). It is typical to contribute approximately $30/40. The cost on average for lunch/dinner for 13 days would be $130 considering you spent $5/per meal/day.

The community will design who's going to get the food, who's going to prepare the meal and who's assigned to clean up after. Each day can be planned in this manner the duties, task, responsibilities are shared. Please come with your thoughts/ideas/input of what this could look like for your community for this course. This is your first assignment prior to arriving at the course, please bring this with you to the first day of the course. We will provide time to assemble as a community and get these plans into action. The TNAFA Team can offer guidance based on past successes, if needed.

(B) Attached video, picture release form

(C)foot note; We have limited number of participants and limited bath/showers on campus. Scheduling shower usage will be necessary for everyone's safety and comfort. TNAFA will be providing an additional portable shower and bathrooms on campus.