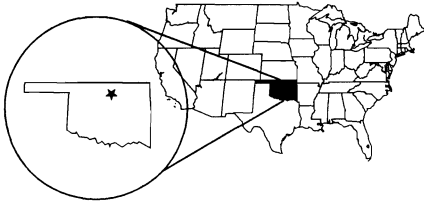


## TONKAWA



The modern Tonkawa nation are descendants of at least twenty scattered bands from today's eastern and central Texas. They called themselves *Titska Waticsh*, "the most human of people". The neighboring Wacos called one of the principal bands the Tonkawa (AIA, 87-88). Since

1884 the Tonkawa have lived in northern Oklahoma near the Ponca (ENAT, 239-240) and today number around 1,300 (REAI, 32).

The Tonkawa's flag is royal blue. It bears the seal of the Tonkawa in the center and has "TONKAWA TRIBE" written in white across the top and "OKLAHOMA", also in white, across the bottom (Homer Miller Co., Oklahoma City, OK).

The seal recalls the "circle of life" and is divided in half—white above and red below. A stylized "Peyote Spirit Bird", which has served in several formats as the logo of the Tonkawa, points upward in the center.

The bird is divided in half, vertically, pink to the left, blue to the right. Behind it runs a peace pipe with a brown mouthpiece, black pipe head, brown stem, and blue, yellow, and red beadwork adorning the length of the stem. Behind this bird's head rises a yellow sun with ten yellow rays. Above this is a thin red crescent moon with points facing downward. (The old seal from before the 1990s consisted of just this moon and the divided bird.)



A red hill looms behind the bird. The red earth refers to Oklahoma's name, which is Muskogee for "Land of the Red People". Surrounding the seal is a narrow white band, edged in black. Across the top is "SEAL OF THE TONKAWA TRIBE", below is "APRIL 21, 1938". The date is separated from the tribe's name by six black stars on either side. ☛