

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Date: October 3, 2025

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County Executive and Council recognize North American First People's Day

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Summit County Executive Shapiro and County Council recently passed a resolution declaring October 6, 2025, as North American First People's Day. First People's Day was first recognized by County Council in 2019 after students at the Lippman School of Akron proposed the day to honor the first people of this land as part of their longstanding relationship with the Northern Cheyenne Nation of Montana.

Now celebrated on the first Monday in October every year, First People's Day is an opportunity for remembrance, mourning, healing, and reconnection for residents regarding the history of indigenous people and culture in Summit County. On Sunday, October 5, two events are taking place to commemorate the day, hosted by the Portage Path Collaborative.

- Summit Metro Parks, in coordination with the Portage Path Collaborative, will host "History of the Portage Path," a guided walk from Big Bend Trailhead (1337 Merriman Rd, Akron) to the northernmost point of the Portage Path from 10:00am – 11:30am. Attendees will learn about this area's history and importance in linking North American waterways, as well as the two statutes of the portaging Native Americans, created by Seneca/Onondaga artist Peter Jones.
- The Portage Path Collaborative will host the 10th annual "Walk the Portage Path." The walk is open to the public and will be led by members of the Northern Cheyenne nation who will be drumming and dressed in regalia. The 1km walk begins near Portage Path CLC (55 S Portage Path, Akron) at 1:30pm and ends at the John Brown House (514 Diagonal Rd, Akron). Additional exhibits will take place at the John Brown House at 2:00pm.

"Sharing traditions and experiencing different customs might sound like small actions, but they can make us much stronger and more resilient, both individually and as a community," said Executive Shapiro. "I encourage all Summit County residents to take a deep dive into our region's history and foster your own curiosity to learn about your neighbors—regardless of where they are from."

The Portage Path Collaborative includes the Summit County Historical Society, The Lippman School, Summit Metro Parks, Akron Public Schools, Akron-Summit County Public Library, Stewards for Historic Preservation and the University of Akron Institute for Human Science and Culture/Cummings Center for the History of Psychology.

Residents can learn more about the Portage Path Collaborative here: <https://walkportagepath.com/>

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