

THE MEDICINE KEEPERS BAND

One of our more active bands is the Medicine Keepers Band located in Sedona, Arizona. The band chief is Ayanvlideha Rick. Sedona, Arizona, is one of the most beautiful locations in our country. It is surrounded by buttes and huge red sandstone formations that seem to glow bright red and orange colors during sunrises and sunsets.

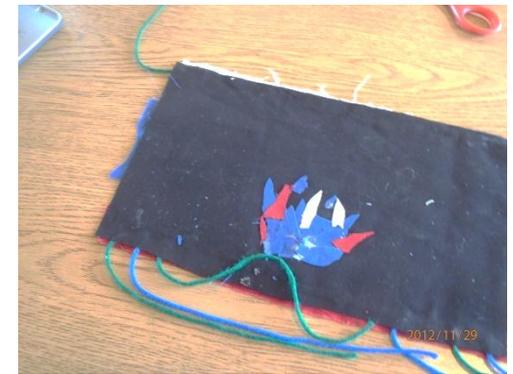
This band has been active in handcrafts that especially pertain to traditional regalia. Also, efforts have been put forth to educate kids in the area regarding Native culture.

Chief Rick performed a traditional Cherokee wedding for a couple in January of this year. Her son Joshua FireHorse carried the wedding rings while dressed in regalia. In this traditional wedding the bride and groom wore blue blankets at the beginning. Their wrists were bound together and a white blanket placed over both of them. They partook of a drink made from corn. One wedding vase was broken and another kept for a memory.



Above: A student is drawing a panther print on her shawl.

On October 28, 2012, Chief Rick participated in a world wide web blog radio show pertaining to Native culture and spirituality. She describes it as a "beautiful blessing".



Above: A handcraft made by a student depicting the fire symbol.

The Medicine Keepers Band is a good example of what good an active band of the Southeastern Cherokee Council can do in a community to increase awareness of Native culture and to teach skills that our ancestors needed ages ago to survive and be a dynamic society. # # #



Above: Student displaying her creativity showing cat paw prints and a horse shoe. At home she has both animals.

Chief Rick has made shell necklaces for several persons in the band and these are seen in some of the photos on this page. She also uses feathers to act as adornments for men and women. Bright colored feathers go to the men and pastel color feathers to the women (as is also seen in Nature among the "Birds Nation"). Below: Chief Rick on right.

At times, Chief Rick teaches a handwork class at one of the local schools. The kids learn how to make their own needles and how to stitch and sew.



Above: Band members pose with current Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation Of Oklahoma, Bill John Baker at a picnic event in Phoenix, Arizona.

Chief Rick says "wado" for prayers for her father John O'le Indian Jon Dildine who suffered from complications from a pace maker and infections. He is better now. She reports that her own injured ankle continues to heal and get better.

The band did a store blessing and provided dictionaries (Cherokee/English) to the Wolf Watches Clan and the Medicine Crow Bands of the SeCCI.

