



# The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*

*Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees | Think for the Future*

## MEMORANDUM

*Good luck to all Navajo Athletes!*

**TO:** Navajo Nation Executive Branch  
Division, Program, & Department Employees

*Play Hard & Stand Together!*

**FROM:**   
Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

*!!  
We Have Your Back.*

**DATE:** February 26, 2026



**SUBJECT:** Eight (8) Hours Administrative Leave for February 27, 2026

This memorandum serves as official notification that all Navajo Nation employees, both permanent and temporary, are granted eight (8) hours of Administrative Leave from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2026.

The purpose of this administrative leave is to support our Navajo student-athletes who are competing in the Arizona Interscholastic Association's Copper State Championship and the 3A State Championship taking place in Phoenix, Arizona. Our young people have worked incredibly hard to reach this level of competition, and they are proudly representing their schools, their families, their communities, and the Navajo Nation. Moments like these bring our people together and remind us of the strength and unity within our Nation.

This is intended to be a positive day for our employees and our communities. Family, our youth, and the wellbeing of our employees will always remain priorities, because strong families, supported young people, and a healthy workforce are essential to building a stronger Navajo Nation. I recognize that not everyone will be able to travel to Phoenix, and that is OK. Whether you use this time to support our athletes, take care of personal responsibilities, or spend meaningful time with your family, that is the purpose of this leave. However you choose to observe the day, I encourage everyone to uplift and support the teams representing the Navajo Nation. Let's show our pride—whether in person or from home—and stand behind our youth as they compete on the state stage.

I want to be clear that this decision was not made lightly. Supporting our youth and strengthening community pride are important investments in the future of the Navajo Nation. Across the

region, Navajo student-athletes are excelling and demonstrating leadership, discipline, and determination. Their achievements deserve recognition and encouragement from their Nation.

While this day celebrates our youth, the work of the Navajo Nation continues. I will be meeting with several Chapters in the Eastern Agency along with Chapter officials tomorrow, February 27. My staff and I remain committed to being present in our communities, listening, and continuing the work needed to move the Navajo Nation forward. The Executive Branch remains focused on delivering real results for our people, including continued progress in housing development, water infrastructure, and other critical initiatives that have long needed attention.

Some have raised concerns regarding a recent social media post asking for community engagement. That effort was intended to bring the online Navajo community together in support of our student-athletes. The response highlighted just how many Navajo youth across the Southwest are succeeding in athletics and representing our Nation with pride. That sense of unity and positivity is exactly what we should continue to encourage.

The reality is that work is getting done, and we are seeing real results from the efforts underway for the Navajo people. Our focus remains on moving projects forward and addressing the real needs of our communities—from housing and water infrastructure to public safety and economic opportunity. I encourage everyone to focus on the work as well. Constant negativity does not help our communities or the people. There are real challenges facing our Nation every day, and there are many important projects moving forward across the Navajo Nation. That is where our time, energy, and leadership should be directed. Our people deserve solutions, continued progress, and leaders who stay focused on getting things done.

Employees exempted from this administrative leave include the Office of the President and Vice President Executive Staff, and Division Directors. Essential service workers, first responders, Emergency personnel will continue to follow their established schedules unless arrangements are made with their immediate supervisors.

Let us take this opportunity to celebrate our youth, support one another, and demonstrate the pride we have in the Navajo Nation. When we uplift our young people, we help build a future where they grow up proud of who they are, proud of their culture, and proud to call the Navajo Nation home. This memorandum serves as official notification that all Navajo Nation Executive Branch employees, both permanent and temporary, are granted eight (8) hours of Administrative Leave from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2026.

Should you have any immediate questions, please contact Chief of Staff Sharen Sandoval at (928) 871-7000.

XC:     *Legislative Branch*  
          *Judicial Branch*  
          *OPVP File*