



Denaakk’e Dedeenee – Say it in Denaakk’e! Native Language Activities for Children and their Caregivers at the Morris Thompson Center

For Immediate Release
April 3, 2019

FAIRBANKS, AK – In collaboration with Doyon Foundation and other local organizations the Morris Thompson Center will host “Denaakk’e Dedeenee,” a series of intergenerational language learning activities for children attending with a parent or caregiver. Denaakk’e Dedeenee means “Say it in Denaakk’e.” Denaakk’e, also known as Koyukon Athabascan, is a Native language of Interior Alaska.

The language activities will be led by Doyon Foundation’s Language Revitalization Program staff Jennifer Mayo-Shannon & Diloola Erickson. Each activity will take place from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, on the following dates and with the following themes:

April 9 - Animals / scavenger hunt
May 3 - Cooking / potlatch preparation and singing
June 21 – Giving and taking directions / Simon says & charades
July 12 - Chores / counting games
August 16 - Colors & Beading / making necklaces

These activities are part of a year-long series of free community events about Alaska Native languages, produced in collaboration with Denakkanaaga, Doyon Foundation, the Morris Thompson Center, Tanana Chiefs Conference Cultural Programs, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ Alaska Native Language Center. The events are inspired by UNESCO’s 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, and include introductions to Native languages, language learning activities for children with caregivers, community conversations, films, and storytelling. Additional information about this and future events may be found at www.morristhompsoncenter.org/iyil . Learn more about UNESCO’s International Year of Indigenous Languages at <https://en.iyil2019.org/> .

The Morris Thompson Center encourages visitors and residents to learn about and explore Interior Alaska: the facility is open daily to the public and offers interpretive exhibits, maps, a bookstore, and ample parking. In addition, an auditorium, a theater, a classroom, a conference room, and an informal gathering place are available on a rental basis.

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For more information, contact Sara Harriger at (907) 459-3701 or sara@morristhompsoncenter.org