

Cherokee, North Carolina- The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is poised to present a unique cultural experience on September 23 and 24 in Cherokee, North Carolina. The Festival of Native Peoples, a gathering of Native American tribes from across the continent, will be the first of its kind in the region. Modeled after Folkmoot, a popular international folk festival that is held annually in Western North Carolina, the Festival of Native Peoples will be a celebration of native cultures throughout North and South America. Plans for the event include area school visitation and housing the tribes in Cherokee for the duration of their visit. There are 556 federally recognized tribes in the United States alone. Many of these tribes will bring groups to the Qualla Indian Boundary, also known as the Cherokee Indian Reservation. The event is funded by the Marketing and Promotion Department of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. There will be exhibitions of the various cultures on stage at the Amphitheatre of the Cherokee Indian Fairgrounds during the two-day event. In addition to very interesting, exciting presentations, the tribes are invited to assemble information and vending booths to display and sell arts and crafts to attendees. Tribes will be invited to attend this inaugural event. The contact for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is George Lambert, Marketing and Public Relations Supervisor. He may be reached at 828-497-8127. This event will be an opportunity for the residents of the southeastern United States to experience unique and rich cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Americas. The Festival of Native Peoples will be the cultural event to see in 2005.