



## **Chickasaw Country honored for tourism efforts**

*Chickasaw Country, Chickasaw Nation receive awards from major tourism organizations*

**OKLAHOMA CITY (June 20, 2018)** – The Chickasaw Nation and Chickasaw Country were recently honored for efforts to boost tourism in Oklahoma. Chickasaw Country was recognized as the Tourism Organization of the Year by the Oklahoma Tourism Industry Association (OTIA) and the Chickasaw Nation tourism department received a Hometown Hero award last month from the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau (OKC CVB).

“This recognition is a testament to the collaborative work of community leaders, destinations and business owners who make Chickasaw Country such a unique tourism experience,” said Paige Williams Shepherd, Chickasaw Nation director of corporate development and tourism. “From Oklahoma’s natural beauty to unique shops and fantastic local restaurants, Chickasaw Country has something for every taste and interest.”

The Hometown Heroes Awards are presented each year during National Travel & Tourism Week and honors individuals and organizations that have made a significant impact on Oklahoma City’s tourism and hospitality industry.

“The Chickasaw Nation was nominated for a Hometown Hero award because they have consistently been a quality partner with us in the promotion of OKC and the region for leisure and group travel,” said Mike Carrier, OKC CVB president. “They are a pleasure to work with and consistently bring quality product and service to our joint efforts.”

Chickasaw Country’s website – [www.chickasawcountry.com](http://www.chickasawcountry.com) – also received a Merit Award at OTIA’s Redbud Awards last month. Shepherd said the website is a resourceful tool that helps both national and international travelers plan, and perhaps extend, their visit to the region.

“Studies have shown that 69 percent of Oklahomans have unused vacation days,” she said. “Chickasaw Country and tourism partners, like OKC CVB, leverage the events and attractions in central and south-central Oklahoma to give families many, many reasons to use all their vacation days each year. No one remembers a routine day at the office, but travel and tourism offer opportunities to make lifelong memories.”

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### **About Chickasaw Country**

Nestled in south-central Oklahoma, Chickasaw Country is a regional tourism organization representing 13 of Oklahoma’s 77 counties. As the official destination tourism organization, Chickasaw Country includes 7,648 square miles, 11 percent of Oklahoma’s total 68,597 square miles. Chickasaw Country, a division of the Chickasaw Nation, is a tourism source for visitors and communities within the region and promotes destinations, attractions and festivals. Chickasaw Country is a diverse and culturally-vested destination, with new adventures and experiences around every corner.



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