

Alvis Smith III

Good afternoon, my name is Winamsh Iskintwa ; Alvis Smith III and my tribal enrollment number is 2073. I am honored to be nominated for the position of the Wasco Chieftainship for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. As I accept and move forward with this, I believe that my background and experience fulfill today's demands as a representation and as a servant with our tribal duties.

As an Agency council representative, one of my delegated responsibilities involves investment within our youth. Language, culture, and our treaty are major topics of discussions and are now being added back within our identity. I have worked directly with our re-established tribal youth council and amplified the voice for the needs to meet these goals from the youth's point of view. One of the demands is introduction to cultural and heritage training within our school system. This demand has been met with mini powwow's, cultural assemblies, and a resource center room for the tribal youth in the high school. Our tribe is also a host in the mechanic school and is going to be adding other trades allowing investments to be made for vocational training that our tribe would greatly benefit from. With the help of a great support system, positive direction has been achieved with broken barriers and a MOA/MOU in place that better serves the youth. With these great resources and instructors our tribe is revolving back to our true identity. I have also been a coach for the past twenty years for the community. Currently I am the head football coach for the Warm Springs K-8 academy and baseball coach for the Warm Springs Little League. Through this I am given the opportunity to teach our youth that with a birth right we are here to serve each other and to protect what is placed here to take care of us as a team. Taking care and protecting our land and resources is tradition, and it takes an entire team to achieve goals.

Another important part of my duties has been a seat as a commissioner at the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission. With this opportunity that I have been given I am able to sit with unified tribal leadership to enforce our treaty rights while maintaining and protecting our foods. I have voiced concern regarding the water quality and running a stricter testing process when it comes to these tests for water quality.

As a provider, I am also a ceremonial hunter for our tribes and the designated hunter for our VFW posts as a fellow veteran.

As an employee for the tribal utilities my daily routine has impacted my involvement in the community. My role at my job demands services where I have the opportunity to serve the needs for our tribal buildings. Not only does the responsibilities include fixing structures but also has the responsibility of helping families as a priority in the time of need for funerals. With this, investments for our community and upgrades have all been obvious with more shovels and opportunity awaits.

The position as Chief is not only serving our values in one area but ensuring all our needs are met for all members of the community. By placing myself with our community 24/7 I am able to listen and serve our people. My family; children are raised through church, Washut, sports and school and they will know where their people are. This allows me to reflect with member input for needs and direction. My reflection is determined by my people and that I live, work, serve and battle with on the daily.

Thank you for your confidence and support as we move forward in a direction for not only our people but our resources. Leadership is a privilege and an honor in native country. I understand the importance of the frustrations that our native nation is experiencing but communication is key. Report to the people we serve and do not manage. Work together! Yes, debate is a major part of measuring our options but once we decide and vote as a tribe together, not tear each other apart just because it was not my outcome. Disagreement is not hate, it shows that we all have input but as long as our common goal is to benefit membership and not individual agendas. I would rather have my people upset with me for stating the truth rather than mad for lying and leading them to what they want to hear over the truth.

Other jobs that I have held include being an Army soldier, school district coach, police officer and scope/ grant writer. My history with work and leadership has proven to always serve the tribes at different levels. I have served our membership as a tribal council member, parent, and coach. I share a bloodline with lineage dating back to treaty signers. But, most of all I was blessed with a mom and dad that raised me with hard work ethics and love, to which is passed on to my people with my service. I was also raised by a tribe where we as a people are able to serve, protect, and live for each other's needs and demands.

This is what I bring to the table.

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