

Chief Kirk Francis Penobscot Indian Nation

Chief Francis was born and raised at Indian Island, Maine-the home of the Penobscot Nation. He has deep cultural ties to the people, the land, and the river. He is an avid outdoorsman practicing the traditions of hunting and fishing for which his family is well known.

Chief Francis has been the elected Chief at Penobscot Indian Nation for 9 years and was just reelected to his fifth term. Before becoming Chief he served in many leadership roles within the Penobscot Nation including chairing various committees and serving three terms as a member of the Tribal Council. He was first elected to the Council at 21 years old and when elected Chief he was the second youngest to be elected to this position in the modern era. He now owns the distinction of being the longest serving Chief at Penobscot since the electoral system began in 1850. Chief Francis has become knowledgeable and effective in handling the myriad of issues facing tribal governments today.

Chief Francis graduated from Old Town High School in 1987, and attended the Bridgeton Academy and the University of Southern Maine where he majored in Business Administration.

Beyond his local service, Chief Francis also serves as a national leader on many issues facing Native Americans. He currently is President of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)/United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) an organization comprised of 30 federally-recognized Tribal Nations from the Canadian Border to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico.