



ITCA National Tribal Water Systems Training & Certification Program



*ITCA is a USEPA-approved provider of operator
certification services for personnel of
Tribal water utilities*

National Workgroup Summit **For Personnel of Tribal Water & Wastewater Utilities** **(#26015-18, in-person)**

September 14-18, 2026
Mesa, Arizona

Includes:

- ✓ FREE Training for Personnel of Tribal Water / Wastewater Utilities
 - Water/Wastewater Federal Regulations Workshop
 - Utility Resilience Workshop
 - Utility Management and Finance Workshop
- ✓ 2026 Operator of the Year Award Ceremony
- ✓ Operator Certification Paper-Booklet Exam Session
- ✓ Travel Expense Reimbursement Stipends Available



Comments from past participant:

*“Built up morale of the field of work that we are in.
Makes me feel good and excited to perform the work”*



NATIONAL TRIBAL WATER SYSTEMS PROGRAM
EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL WORKGROUP SUMMIT
FOR PERSONNEL OF TRIBAL WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES

NETWORKING, TRAINING, AND CERTIFICATION EXAMS

September 14-18, 2026
Mesa, Arizona

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

Since 1983, the *Tribal Water & Wastewater Utilities Workgroup Meetings* have been a forum for personnel of Tribal water and wastewater utilities to share ideas and concerns with peers, attend short training sessions, and contribute directly to the continuing development and planning of the certification, training, and technical assistance services provided by the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA). As professional water/wastewater utility and environmental staff, your feedback is vital to maintaining the quality and effectiveness of the National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Certification Program at ITCA. The ITCA Program is your program and all input and suggestions are welcomed. The Tribal Water Utilities Workgroup Meetings help ensure that these services are genuinely “by tribes and for tribes.”

FOCUS OF THIS SUMMIT:

During this important event, subject-matter experts will provide short training seminars and guest speakers will present on topics applicable to Tribal utility programs. ITCA will provide updates pertaining to the Tribal Operator Certification Program and a roundtable discussion session where personnel of Tribal utilities may discuss matters of interest. The event will finish with a ceremony for Indian Country’s nominees and awardee of the **2026 Operator of the Year**.

- ✓ **Training contact hours will be earned by each participant**
- ✓ **Food will be provided**
- ✓ **Prize drawing will be held at the end of the event**
- ✓ **Operator Certification Paper-Booklet Exam Session (Friday, September 18, 2026)**

Cost:

Personnel of Tribal water/wastewater utilities may attend the Tribal Water Utilities Workgroup Summit, apply for operator certification, and take a certification exam for **free**.

Location:

The Tribal Water Utilities Workgroup Meeting will be conducted as an in-person event and will be held at the Sheraton Mesa Hotel at Wrigleyville West, located at 860 North Riverview, Mesa, Arizona 85201. The phone number for the meeting venue is (480) 664-1221.

Ak-Chin Indian Community
Cocopah Tribe
Colorado River Indian Tribes
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
Fort Mojave Tribe
Gila River Indian Community
Havasupai Tribe
Hopi Tribe
Hualapai Tribe
Kaibab-Paiute Tribe
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Pueblo of Zuni
Quechan Tribe
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
San Carlos Apache Tribe
San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
Tohono O’odham Nation
Tonto Apache Tribe
White Mountain Apache Tribe
Yavapai-Apache Nation
Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SUMMARY OF CUTOFF DATES

- Hotel Room Block Reservation by: August 22, 2026
- Register by: September 12, 2026
- Apply for Certification by: September 16, 2026

DATES & TIMES:

Event Sessions	
Monday, Sep. 15, 2026 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Breakfast Welcome, Ice Breaker Session, Roundtable Discussion¹ Tour (Water Plant Tour) Earn training contact hours. Breakfast and Lunch provided.
Tuesday, Sep. 16, 2026 7:30 a.m. 8:00 – 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Breakfast Training Seminars³ on Wastewater Federal Regulations and Utility Management. Earn training contact hours. Breakfast and Lunch provided. Optional Study Session
Wednesday, Sep. 17, 2026 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.	Breakfast Training Seminars³ on Water Federal Regulations and Water Utility Resilience. Earn training contact hours. Breakfast and lunch provided. Optional Study Session
Thursday, Sep. 18, 2026 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m.	Breakfast Training Seminar³ on Water Utility Management. Breakfast and lunch provided
Friday, Sep. 19, 2026 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Breakfast 2026 Operator of the Year Award Ceremony⁴ and Raffle Drawing Operator Luncheon Exam Session for Professional Certification⁵

EVENT SESSIONS:

- (1) **Tribal Operator Roundtable Discussion.** Please attend. Your participation is critical for the continued success of the Program. A Tribal Roundtable Discussion will take place on Monday, September 14, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Training contact hours will be earned by participants. The National Tribal Water Systems Program at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (the “ITCA Program”) serves to meet the needs of personnel of water / wastewater utilities working in Indian Country. The ITCA Program was established and is maintained “by tribes and for tribes” through oversight from the Tribal communities it serves. The purpose of the ITCA Roundtable Discussion is to have direct involvement by Tribal water and wastewater utilities personnel in the advisement and planning of the Program’s continuation.
- (2) **Review Sessions.** Optional Review Sessions will be offered at various times during the week. ITCA consultant subject-matter expert trainers will be available for one-on-one tutoring or group review of technical topics to help prepare for professional certification exams. If you would like to attend a review session, please sign up during the registration process and be sure to identify your topics of interest.

- (3) **Training Seminars.** Numerous training seminars will be conducted by guest speakers and ITCA consultant subject-matter expert trainers. The seminars will cover “hot topics” for drinking water, wastewater, and utility management personnel. The training seminars will take place during the time period of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, September 15-17, 2026. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on all five days. A detailed agenda will be provided by ITCA. Attendees will earn training contact hours. Confirmed registrants that are interested in only earning training contact hours may attend as many of the training seminars as needed. The training seminars are designed to enhance the skills of Tribal utilities personnel and to provide opportunity to earn training contact hours. Please note, this event does **not** provide comprehensive preparation for certification exams.
- (4) **Award Ceremony for 2026 Operator of the Year.** Indian Country’s 2026 Operator of the Year Award Ceremony will be conducted on Friday, September 18, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All nominees and the winner of the 2026 award will be formally recognized during the ceremony.
- (5) **Exam Sessions for Professional Certification.** On Friday, September 18, 2026, a single exam session will be conducted for eligible candidates with prior ITCA approval to take a paper-booklet exam for professional certification. The exam session will begin at 1:30 p.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Please read the Examination & Certification section of this event brochure for important information and instructions. The purpose of the exam session is to provide personnel of Tribal water utilities the opportunity to retest for professional certification. Please note, it is recommended that first-time examinees obtain comprehensive preparatory training prior to testing.

ATTENDANCE & CONTACT HOURS:

On each day, participant sign-in sheets will be administered for both morning and afternoon sessions. All attendees will receive written recognition of earned training contact hours based on attendance. Training contact hours may be accepted towards the training requirements for new certification or as Professional Development Hour (PDH) credit towards the renewal of existing certification.

REGISTRATION: Registration Deadline is September 11, 2026

To register, click on this event’s active link on the ITCA Program webpage (<http://www.itcaonline.com/tws>) to visit the on-line registration platform or manually complete and return the enclosed registration form by mail, email or fax to ITCA by Friday, September 12, 2026, so we can ensure adequate meeting materials, food, and refreshments. Registrants that are accepted into the training event will receive written confirmation of a reserved seat. Please Note: a reserved seat does not apply to the exam session. Separate written approval is required to be admitted into the certification exam session (see below).

LODGING:

You are responsible for making your own travel and lodging arrangements. For the convenience of attendees of this training course, a block of sleeping rooms are available at the **Sheraton Mesa Hotel at Wrigleyville West**. The block of sleeping rooms are at the GSA rate of \$160 per night plus state and local taxes of approximately 14.27%. To reserve a sleeping room, please contact (480) 664-1221 to make a reservation using the **Group Name: Inter Tribal council of Arizona**, or **Group Code: ITCA** by the Cut-Off-Date of Saturday, August 22, 2026.

TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT:

Limited travel expense reimbursement stipends (partial reimbursement) may be available for individuals who are working on Tribal lands and who attend the entire training event. Travel expense cost will be considered for reimbursement on a case-by-case basis and may be subject to funding restrictions. Travel expenses are reimbursed at the federal government GSA rates. The maximum per diem rate for zip code 85201 in Mesa, Arizona for the time period of this event is \$160 for lodging and \$86 for meals and incidentals. According to federal guidelines, local residents traveling less than fifty miles one-way are eligible only for mileage

reimbursement costs for use of privately-owned automobiles at the rate of \$0.70 per mile. Per GSA guidelines, participation in provided meals are to be deducted from reimbursement calculations.

To request a travel expense reimbursement, please submit an ***ITCA Travel Expense Reimbursement Claim Form*** within fifteen (15) days following the training event. The travel expense claim form must include the signature of the attendee's supervisor. ITCA will verify an applicant's eligibility based on event attendance records maintained by ITCA. This form is available upon request.

A registrant that has received seat confirmation from ITCA may request written verification of ITCA reimbursement funds prior to travel. To do so, please submit a completed *Preliminary Application for Travel Reimbursement Stipend Form* to ITCA before your travel to the event. The form must include the signature of the confirmed registrant's supervisor. This form is available upon request. Preliminary applications received prior to the start of the event will be considered on a first-come first-served basis and will be subject to funding availability. Preliminary applications that are approved by ITCA will receive written notice stating the level of funding available for their travel reimbursement.

ITCA PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:

The National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Program at ITCA serves to meet the needs of system operators working on Tribal lands and to provide a jurisdictionally correct alternative to state certification programs. The ITCA is a U.S. EPA-approved provider of certification services under the U.S. EPA Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification Program Guidelines and makes its services available to all Tribal water and wastewater utilities personnel working in Indian Country. ITCA-issued certification in drinking water or wastewater is deemed equivalent and accepted through reciprocity (exam waiver) by numerous states. Tribal operator certification is an additional way by which Tribal governments can exercise their sovereignty and promote their self-determination goals.

EXAMINATION & CERTIFICATION: Exam Application Deadline is September 16, 2026

Water/wastewater utilities personnel operating systems located on federal trust Tribal lands (Indian reservations) may apply for ITCA operator certification and take the operator certification exams for free. ITCA staff will be available during the training event to proctor paper-booklet certification exams to eligible utilities personnel seeking professional certification. Participants must have prior written approval from ITCA to be admitted into the examination sessions. Approval is based upon eligibility and submittal of a completed *ITCA Application for New Certification* by close of business on **September 16, 2026**. Please refer to the ITCA Application Booklets for complete certification eligibility criteria and the application, which is available on the ITCA website or by directly contacting the ITCA Tribal Water Systems Department. You are highly encouraged to submit an application as soon as possible.

The purpose of this event's exam session is to provide personnel of Tribal water utilities the opportunity to **retest** for professional certification. Please note, this event does **not** provide comprehensive preparation for certification exams. It is recommended that first-time examinees obtain comprehensive preparatory training prior to testing. Applicants intending to take an operator certification exam during this training event are encouraged to review the applicable **Need-to-Know Criteria** Documentation and the referenced documents recommended for study in association with the particular certification exam.

Important Notice: ITCA drinking water operator certification requires two exams—the **FedReg Exam Module** AND the **Standardized Exam**. The FedReg exam has been uniquely developed to utilize an "open book" format. ITCA will provide to each FedReg examinee an electronic tablet containing the federal regulatory reference documents pre-loaded for examinees to look up as they are taking a Federal Regulations exam. This training event will provide opportunity for students to use these tablets in preparation for a FedReg exam.

Types of Paper-Booklet Certification Exams

This training event will offer a single paper-booklet certification exam session. Applicants that receive prior written approval from ITCA may take only one (1) exam during the exam session. ITCA offers the following types of paper-booklet certification exams.

Drinking Water

- Federal Regulations Exam Module for Water DISTRIBUTION Operator Certification
- Federal Regulations Exam Module for Water TREATMENT Operator Certification
- Water Distribution Standardized Operator Certification Exams (levels 1 through 4 available)
- Water Treatment Standardized Operator Certification Exams (levels 1 through 4 available)

Wastewater

- Wastewater Collection Standardized Operator Certification Exams (levels 1 through 4 available)
- Wastewater Treatment Standardized Operator Certification Exams (levels 1 through 4 available)

Utility Management

- Tribal Utility Management Certification

PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS:

Protection of public health is a top priority and ITCA intends for this in-person event to align with federal and local guidelines and recommendations. This training event is available for personnel working on Tribal lands located throughout the country. Therefore, some of the attendees, the instructor / speakers, and facilitators will travel from various other locations to attend the event, which will take place indoors within meeting rooms. Attendees will be encouraged to sit in an every-other seat pattern for social distancing and for exam proctoring best practices. Individuals are free to choose whether to wear a facemask, including during the exam session.

Please Note: Photographs taken by ITCA staff at training/meeting events may be used in ITCA publications including, but not limited to, ITCA's website, publications and social media. If you do not consent to have your photograph published, please notify ITCA staff at the training/meeting event.

For additional information, please contact the ITCA Tribal Water Systems Department at (602) 258-4822.



NATIONAL WORKGROUP SUMMIT
FOR PERSONNEL OF TRIBAL WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES

in-person, September 14-18, 2026, in Mesa, Arizona

(Please Print Clearly)

Name of Registrant: _____
(First) (Last)

Title/Position: _____

Tribe/Organization: _____

Tribal Utility/Department: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Office Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____ Cell Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

Business Address: _____
(for mailing of letters) (Street/P.O. Box)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Emergency Contact: _____ (____) _____ - _____
(Name) (Phone Number)

Will attendee be requesting **travel expense reimbursement stipend**? YES NO
If yes, do you need ITCA to provide pre-travel verification of travel expense reimbursement stipend?
 YES NO

Will attendee be testing for **operator certification at the event**? YES NO

One (1) free exam session is offered during this training event. **NOTICE:** To be considered for approval to take a certification exam, you must submit an Application for New Certification for the type of exam for which you are applying, by the application deadline: **September 16, 2026.**

Complete all four (4) pages of the registration form and return by **September 11, 2026**

Send completed form by e-mail, fax, or mail, to the following:

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., TRIBAL WATER SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT
2214 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004, Telephone: (602) 258-4822, Fax: (602) 258-4825
TWSInfo@itcaonline.com



NATIONAL WORKGROUP SUMMIT
FOR PERSONNEL OF TRIBAL WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES

in-person, September 14-18, 2026, in Mesa, Arizona

Name of Registrant: _____
(First) (Last)

- Yes, I do plan on attending the National Workgroup Summit for Personnel of Tribal Water & Wastewater Utilities being held in-person in Mesa, Arizona.
- Yes, I understand that if accepted into this training event, ITCA will send me written confirmation of a reserved seat.
- Yes, I agree that if my plans change and I am unable to attend this event, I will inform ITCA as soon as possible to make my seat available for someone else.
- Yes, I understand that if I plan to take a professional certification exam, I must submit a complete ITCA Application for New Certification. I understand that prior approval from ITCA is required to be admitted into the certification exam session.**
- Yes, I understand that I am responsible for making my own travel and lodging arrangements.
- Yes, I understand the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any training event due to lack of enrollment or extenuating circumstances.

Yes, I understand that photographs taken by ITCA staff at training/meeting events may be used in ITCA publications including, but not limited to, ITCA’s website, publications and social media. I understand that if I do not consent to have my photograph taken or used in this way, I must notify ITCA staff prior to or at the event.

ITCA is an equal opportunity provider. Do you need any special accommodations during the event or dietary considerations? If so, please describe.

What do you hope to get out of this training event? (Select all that apply)


- Training hours
- Certification prep
- Networking
- Other

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	<p>NATIONAL WORKGROUP SUMMIT FOR PERSONNEL OF TRIBAL WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES</p> <p>in-person, September 14-18, 2026, in Mesa, Arizona</p>
<p>Name of Registrant: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(First) (Last)</p>	

Event Sessions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I do plan on attending	Monday, Sep. 15, 2026 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Welcome, Ice Breaker Session, Roundtable Discussion, Tour. Earn training contact hours. Breakfast and lunch provided.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I do plan on attending	Tuesday, Sep. 16, 2026 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Training seminars on Wastewater Federal Regulations and Utility Management. Earn training contact hours. Breakfast and lunch provided.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I do plan on attending	Wednesday, Sep. 17, 2026 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Training seminar on Water Federal Regulations and Utility Resilience. Earn training contact hours. Breakfast and lunch provided.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I do plan on attending	Thursday, Sep. 18, 2026 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Training seminars on Water Utility Management and Finance. Earn training contact hours. Breakfast and lunch provided.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I do plan on attending	Friday, Sep. 19, 2026 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	2026 Operator of the Year Award Ceremony and Raffle Prize Drawing. Breakfast and lunch provided.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I do plan on attending	1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exam Sessions for Professional Certification

Complete all four (4) pages of the registration form and return by September 11, 2026

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NATIONAL WORKGROUP SUMMIT
FOR PERSONNEL OF TRIBAL WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES

in-person, September 14-18, 2026, in Mesa, Arizona

Name of Registrant: _____
(First) (Last)

NOTICE: To be considered for approval to take a certification exam, you must submit an Application for New Certification for the type of exam for which you are applying, by the application deadline: **September 16, 2026.**

An optional exam session is offered for free on the afternoon of **Friday, September 18, 2026.** With this registration form, a candidate can sign up to take a single exam. **Select ONLY ONE (1) exam type.**

Friday
Exam
Session

- WATER **DISTRIBUTION FEDERAL REGULATIONS EXAM MODULE**
(40-questions, open-book exam for all levels, reference materials provided by ITCA on electronic tablet)
- WATER **DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATOR**
(110-questions, ABC/WPI 2019-edition standardized, closed-book exam)
Select a level: L1 L2 L3 L4
- WATER **TREATMENT FEDERAL REGULATIONS EXAM MODULE**
(40-questions, open-book exam for all levels, reference materials provided by ITCA on electronic tablet)
- WATER **TREATMENT FACILITY OPERATOR**
(110-questions, ABC/WPI 2019-edition standardized, closed-book exams)
Select a level: L1 L2 L3 L4
- WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM OPERATOR**
(100-questions, ABC/WPI 2012-edition standardized, closed-book exams)
Select a level: L1 L2 L3 L4
- WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY OPERATOR**
(100-questions, ABC/WPI 2012-edition standardized, closed-book exams)
Select a level: L1 L2 L3 L4
- TRIBAL UTILITY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**
(100-questions, closed-book exam)

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