## **CHOKMA** (HELLO)! WELCOME TO THE CHICKASAW JOURNEYS ACTIVITY BOOK!

CHICK.

OFI' TOHB

I'm Ofi' Tohbi. *Ofi'* means dog in our Chickasaw language, and *Tohbi* means white. You can also call me the White Dog. I'll be your guide on this journey through Chickasaw history!

We'll visit some of my favorite places, and I'll tell you about my *ittikana'* (friends), the Chickasaw people. I've known them for a long time. In fact, I went on a journey with them once.

It was a long, long time ago, back when our Chickasaw ancestors lived somewhere in the west. No one remembers exactly where. There was war and unrest there. The ancestors decided to search for a new home where they could live in peace and happiness.

Two brothers, Chicsa and Chatah, led the people on their journey. My job was to be the scout and protector. I walked along ahead of the people. I kept a sharp eye out and alerted them if there was danger. We traveled a long way. It was a lot of hard work!

The people traveled with a sacred pole. The pole was a gift from *Aba' Binni'li'* (God) to guide them. At the end of each day's journey, the people planted one end of the pole in the ground. The next morning, whichever direction the pole was

leaning was the direction we traveled that day. We traveled *hashaakochcha'* (east) for a long time.

When we reached the Mississippi River, the people were in awe. The Mississippi was very wide and long! They built rafts to get everyone across the river

safely. That's when I got separated from everyone else. My raft came apart, and I was not able to continue the journey with the people.

> Our ancestors continued their journey with the leaning pole guiding them. We'll learn about the rest of their journey in the next few pages. First, let me tell you more about how to complete this activity book.

## Here are a few instructions to help you along the way.

As we work our way through this book we'll complete some fun activities. We will also visit interesting places and learn about Chickasaw history and culture.

I'll teach you some Chickasaw words along the way, so pay attention! You'll need them to complete the activities at the end of our journey.

Some of the activities in this book can be completed at home. For others, you will need to visit our Chickasaw historic or cultural sites listed below. Once you visit a site and complete its activities, be sure to show your book to the staff at that site. They will stamp your book and give you an *oksop* (bead).

I'll be at each location, too, but you'll have to find me. Keep your eyes open and use the clues I've left for you on each site's activity page. When you find me, write down where you saw me in the blank next to the clue in your activity book.

After you have completed *ALL* of the activities, you can take your book to any of the locations listed below to receive your official Ofi' Tohbi Club badge and coin.

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Are you ready to get started? Me, too. Let's go!

**Chickasaw Council House and Museum** 209 N. Fisher Ave Tishomingo, OK 73460

580-371-3351

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**Chickasaw Capitol Building** 411 W. 9th Street Tishomingo, OK 73460 580-371-9835

**Chickasaw White House** 6379 E. Mansion Road, Milburn, OK 73450 580-235-7343

**Chickasaw Cultural Center** 867 Cooper Memorial Dr. Sulphur, OK 73086 580-622-7130