Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Tuolumne County.

The Tuolumne Rancheria was established on October 26, 1910.
Tribal Lands

- The Tuolumne Rancheria was established on October 25, 1910 through the purchase of 289.52 acres.
- Two years later in 1912, the Tribe added 33.58 acres and another 10.9 acres in 1978.
- Over the years, land has been purchased and placed into trust through the Department of Interior and BLM land has been transferred through congressional acts.
- Tribe currently owns fee land around the existing Rancheria.
- Tribal land base (trust and fee) is now 1775.87 acres.
Today, the Me-Wuk culture is alive and still widely practiced. There are traditional events that occur to keep the traditions alive.
The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians (Tribe) is a tribe that has a constitution written during the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) period of Indian Policy.

The present constitution and by-laws, originally approved on January 15, 1936, remains contemporary with amendments incorporated to address the changing times.
Community Council

- The governing body of the tribe is a legislative assembly aptly named the "Community Council."

- The name "Community Council" is a portrayal of the group composed of eligible voting members of the tribe that live within the community enclosed by the borders of the Tuolumne Rancheria.

- Prospective Community Council members have to meet a criterion of eligibility and be voted into the group by the other members of the Community Council.
Governmental Structure of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
Community Council Committees, Boards, Commissions, and Authorities

- Established to assist the Community Council in carrying out its' responsibilities, to provide quality services to the Tribal membership and to develop, maintain, and protect the assets and interests of the Tribe.

- Each division is tasked with the following responsibilities:
  
  (A) Act in an advisory capacity to the Community Council, Tribal departments and their programs by recommending policies and procedures, identifying needs, and developing priorities for the Tribe;

  (B) Report to the Community Council on problems, activities and other relevant information; and

  (C) Undertake any other duties or responsibilities as developed and approved by the Community Council.
Tribal Administration Government plans, prioritizes, implements, and coordinates the programs and services with Tribal government, Tribal members, and outside entities as needed and monitors operational progress to meet stated goals and objectives.
Twelve Standing Committees

- Business & Finance
- Constitution & By-Laws
- Cultural & Historic Preservation
- Education & Recreation
- Enrollment
- Integrated Resource Management Plan
- Personnel
- Planning & Development
- Social Services Advisory
- Tribal Housing Authority
- Tribal Law Enforcement Commission
- Tuolumne Me-Wuk Indian Health Board
Tribal Programs Today

• The Tribe is a full functioning government that employs many throughout the community.
• Program services and departments include:
  – Administrative
  – Social Services
  – Housing
  – Fiscal and Human Resources
  – Planning and Development
  – Education and Recreation
  – Governmental Affairs
  – Cultural, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
  – Tribal Security
  – Fire Department
  – Economic Development (TEDA and Black Oak Casino)
Services Provided to the Community

• Tribe provides many services and programs to its members on and off of tribal trust land.
• Services extended to non tribal members include:
  – Education programs (distant learning for employees)
  – Public safety such as tribal security and Fire protection
  – Social services to those in Indian homes
  – Grants to local organizations
Agreements with Outside Agencies

• The Tribe works with many outside agencies to foster better communication and work towards common goals.

• Agreements with others include:
  – Stanislaus National Forest
  – Tuolumne County
  – Tuolumne City Sewer District
  – Tuolumne City Fire District
  – State Agencies (Cal Fire)
  – Federal Agencies (DOI, EPA, DOE, BLM)
Best Practices to Follow

• Every Tribe is different. While they may be made up of related families, each is distinct.
  – Recognize differences
  – Understand similarities
  – Respect structure

• Understand the sovereignty of a Tribe and what that means.
  – Know their history and their current community

• Listen, be patient
Thank you!