

Understanding Lyle: VNN's Indian Country Chatbot

What Lyle Is

Lyle is an innovative, culturally grounded AI-powered chatbot designed to serve Native American communities by providing reliable, culturally informed, and fact-checked information. Developed by Verified News Network (VNN) with guidance from Indigenous-led organizations, Lyle was created to combat misinformation and disinformation impacting Indian Country.

Key Features:

- Provides **information grounded in Indigenous knowledge and perspectives**.
- Answers frequently asked questions about topics such as:
 - Tribal sovereignty
 - Native history and treaties
 - Healthcare and community resources
 - Scams and fraud awareness
 - Cultural practices and knowledge
- Only draws from **verified sources created or sourced by Indigenous-led organizations**.
- Designed with cultural sensitivity, respecting Native data sovereignty and community control.
- Continually tested and refined through feedback from Native community members.

Lyle is a free-to-use, public-facing chatbot that represents a step toward digital self-determination for Native communities, offering an alternative to biased or inaccurate mainstream information sources.

What Lyle Is Not

While Lyle is a helpful and culturally aware tool, it's important to understand what Lyle does **not** do:

- **Lyle is not a lawyer, doctor, or official government representative.**
 - He cannot provide legal advice, interpret laws, or tell you what actions to take in legal matters.
 - He cannot offer medical diagnoses, treatment plans, or personalized medical guidance.
 - He cannot represent you in any official or governmental capacity.
- **Lyle is not a human.**

- Lyle is a chatbot, powered by artificial intelligence. He does not have feelings, personal experiences, or the ability to make independent decisions.
 - **Lyle does not replace professional advice.**
 - If you have a legal question, you should consult with a licensed attorney.
 - If you have a health concern, you should speak with a medical professional.
 - If you need official tribal or government guidance, contact the relevant office or agency directly.
 - **Lyle's answers may not be exhaustive or fully up-to-date.**
 - While Lyle is trained on vetted and verified information, laws and policies can change, and not every scenario can be accounted for. Always double-check important information with an authoritative source.
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Lyle's Name and Image

VNN held a contest to select the name of VNN's Indian Country Chatbot. The name Lyle received the most votes.

This name was submitted in honor of VNN founder Kelly Tidwell's Mvskoke and Cherokee great grandmother Alice Lyle Schoonover (Alice Thompson) who was sent to Eufaula Indian Boarding School. She later graduated from Chilacotho Business School and went on to travel across the country speaking on behalf of Native Americans and others in their needs for survival.

Lyle's image was created by Maddie Sanders, known as Holatte (ho-lah-tee). Maddie is a Mvskoke & Mojave artist from Tahlequah, Oklahoma. "Holatte," meaning "blue" in Mvskoke, reflects her deep connection to the sky, water, and natural elements, which inspires her work. Maddie specializes in murals and graphic design.

In Summary

Lyle is here to help you navigate information about Native communities and issues in a culturally respectful way. He is a **trusted guide to accurate information**, but **not a substitute for professional advice or decision-making**.

If you're unsure about an answer Lyle gives or you need more specific guidance, always consult a qualified expert.

For more information or to visit with Lyle, visit: <https://indiancountrychatbot.com>