

Proposed Minute for Applying for an Affiliate Membership in the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) and Making a Donation

The Boulder Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends has applied for an affiliate membership in the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) in support of their important work. The Indigenous People's Concerns Committee of Boulder Friends Meeting proposes that the Colorado Regional Meeting also apply for an affiliate membership in NABS and that they join Boulder Friends Meeting in asking IMYM to apply for membership.

NABS describes itself in the following way: "We are a coalition of people who support the healing of boarding school survivors and descendants. We use our coalition voice to educate others about the truth of the Boarding School Policies, experiences, and legacy. We call for action towards justice and healing. We use our network to share research, healing resources, and advocacy. We learn from one another, and we grow and heal together."

Between 1869 and the 1960s, Native American and Alaska Native children were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in Indian Boarding schools. The children were taught to reject their Native languages, cultures, and spiritual practices and adopt Euro-American culture. Native Americans continue to suffer multigenerational trauma caused by this policy of forced assimilation and cultural genocide. Quakers were among the strongest supporters of the Indian boarding school policy and operated some 30 Indian schools (some in collaboration with the federal government) for varying periods of time.

Affiliate members of NABS are not required to pay any dues but we recommend giving NABS a donation.