

Charissa Jo Chalepah

2010

Apache Tribal Princess

My name is Charissa Jo Chalepah. I am an enrolled tribal member of the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma. I am 16 years old and a sophomore at Anadarko High School. Being princess will mean a lot to me because I enjoy dancing at powwows, meeting new people and seeing family there. Also, because you get to see everybody together like a big family and I like to watch people enjoy our culture, to me this is like a great opportunity. Some of the things I enjoy are helping kids read at school, being a member of the Indian Capital Baptist Church, and I attend Indian Falls Creek Club. I've done that since I was six, I do some sign language and am in Spanish Club.

I am the daughter of Christopher John Chalepah and Larisa Selene Beard. My paternal family is my grandparents, Vester and Rose Autaubo, great-grandparents are the late Alfred and Evelyn (Oyebi) Chalepah, and great-great-grandparents Alonzo (zah-tah) Chalepah, It-se-nos (Rose Maynahonah); A-Pay-Yat (Freemont Oyebi), Sarah (Ella Goinkeen) Longhorn, and great-great-great-grandparents, Saw-Tau-Koy and Pah-ah-ty (daughter of Chief Whitebear). My maternal grandparents are Mamie French and Larry Wheeler, great-grandparents Blossom and Jerome Pewenofkit, and great-great-grandparent Major Pewenofkit.



Also being princess would mean a lot to me because it's like I'm helping my family carry on our tradition of my family serving in this capacity and now it is my turn to carry on the tradition and make my family happy. This means a lot to me and I know I'll enjoy it.