Hoocąk in Teejóp
Ho-Chunk History, Language & Culture in Waunakee & Westport

The Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk Nation, People of the Sacred Voice) have existed in Teejóp since time immemorial, spanning at least three ages. There are ~20,000 Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk people) and 12 Hoocąk clans: Cuwįk (Eagle Clan), Nągi (Warrior Hawk Clan), Wičeré (Water/Spirit Clan), Ho (Fish Clan), Wąąkshiko (Snake Clan), Shįχxoy (Wolf Clan), Cu (Bear Clan), Hąχq (Eel Clan), Cąχy (Buffalo Clan), Šįχxi (Ox Clan), and Wąąhókó (Thunder Clan).

In 1825, a temporary U.S. federal treaty map (shown to the right in red) was imposed on the Hoocąk. These boundaries were designed to assist the colonial government negotiating inter-tribal rivalries and impose American land ownership norms on the tribes. These boundaries were disrupted and supported cultural erasure and genocide. In pre-colonial times, the Hoocąk lived in and moved through these landscapes in cyclical migrations, following seasonally available resources. These migration routes were hand-drawn cross-generationally, and were imbued with cultural meaning and significance.

Today as a sovereign nation, the Hoocąk have their own executive, legislative, and judicial government branches. The legislative branch has three districts (jičip hooįśna) in Wisconsin (shown and numbered to the right in yellow). The fourth includes all regions outside of state. The Nation also has a general council open to anyone 18 years or older. These branches blend with a traditional chief- and clan-based system and adhere to the Nation’s constitution.