

During the Alaska Federation of Natives I met Sandra Shaginoff. She was one of with the Ahtna Dancer group leaders. When this group danced, a young man or woman first introduced themselves in Athna and introduced the song. I was impressed with their introduction, strong singing and dancing, and energy.

The text below is how to introduce yourself in Ahtna and Dena'ina Athabascan languages. There are dialects to both languages, but I don't know which dialect this is. The fonts in bold are specific to Sandra's introduction. A learner should replace all those names with their own families information.

Introduction in Ahtna

Nts'e doxt'ae. How are you?
Sondra Shagnoff-Stuart s'uze' dilaen. My name is **Sondra Shagnoff-Stuart**.
Kaggos Tsakae suze' dilaen. My Athna name is **Swan Lady**.
Qesqa Vey' suze' dilaen. My Dena'ina name is **Rich man's daughter**.
Taltsiine etaen. My clan is **Taltiine**.
Kahtnu zidaa. I live in **Kahtnu**.
Nay'dini'aa na' **Tsinyaaden**. I'm from **Chickaloon**.
Johnny Shaginoff stsiye. My grandpa is **Johnny Shaginoff**.
Mara Shaginoff stsucde. My grandma is **Mara Shaginoff**.
James Shaginoff sta'. My dad is **James Shaginoff**.
Karen Nugent snaan. My mom is **Karen Nugent**.
Lee Stuart skon'. My husband is **Lee Stuart**.
Dillon, Kyle, Cory, Stuart siiyaaze'. My boys are **Dillon, Kyle, Cory Stuart**
Ughelizet dzaen nakteszet, tsin'aen. Have a good day, thank you.

Introduction in Dena'ina

Yagheli ilan du? How are you?
Sh' shi da **Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart** shi'izhi. My name is **Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart**
Sh' shi da **Qesqa Vey** shi'izhi. My native name is **rich mans daughter**
Tulchina efan shida. I'm the **water clan**.
Nuk' dini' aa nu' shu gu shqayeh qilanda. I am from Chickaloon.
Johnny Shaginoff sh'chada. My grandpas' name is **Johnny Shaginoff**.
Mary Shaginoff sh'chuda. My grandmas' names is **Mary Shaginoff**.
James Shaginoff sh'tutda. My father's name is **James Shaginoff**.
Karen Nugent sh'untada. My mother's name is **Karen Nugent**.
Lee Stuart sh'qen. My husband's name is **Lee Stuart**.
Dillon, Kyle, Cory Stuart sh'kił gguya. My boys' children are **Dillon, Kyle, Cory Stuart**.
Gheli jan qilan. Have a great day.
Chiqinik Thank you

Photo by Susan Paskvan

Sandra Shagnoff introduces herself in Ahtna during the Alaska Federation of Natives convention.