

## TAKING A NAWATL NAME

Taking on a Nawatl name (or a name in ANY Indigenous language which you are connected to) is a very noble and serious thing to do. The decision should be based on your desire to reclaim who you are as a Native person, and to be recognized as such by others. It is not some game or "cool" thing to do so that you may "play Indian" along with the new agers. Your name should be a proud reflection of who you are as a Native person, and reveal certain characteristics about yourself.

First of all, It is highly recommended that the time and effort be made to travel to Mexiko, find a Tonalpokeh who is able to provide your Tonalamatl and get your Nawatl name from them. However, it is entirely understood that not everyone has access, time or money to make this trip happen. Therefore, we have compiled the following information so that you can take on a Nawatl name with some reasonable structure in place.

### Things you should do before taking on a Nawatl name:

1. - Take the time to develop a basic understanding of the traditional philosophy and cosmology of our people. A basic introduction to Anawak cosmology can be found [BY CLICKING THIS LINK](#).
2. - Develop an understanding of the Nawatl language system so that you can pronounce your name correctly and know what it means. It does little good to have an Indigenous name and not be able to say it correctly or understand what it means. A basic introduction to the Nawatl language can be found [BY CLICKING THIS LINK](#). Also, a comprehensive page of Nawatl language resources can be found [BY CLICKING THIS LINK](#).
3. - Learn the history of our people. Not just by reading books, but by taking the time to analyze and interpret historical events so that the greater truth may be arrived at. It is not enough to simply read history books written by white men and accept what they say at face value. We must learn to question what we have been told. A page dealing with the need for a re-evaluation and critical interpretation of our history can be found [BY CLICKING THIS LINK](#). A page of Mexikah history links can be found [BY CLICKING THIS LINK](#).

Once you have taken the time to do these things, you should be able to select a Nawatl name which you feel reflects who you are as an individual and which shows your pride in being an Indigenous person. It is important that you not mix Nawatl and Spanish in your name, and that you do not take on names of great philosophical importance, as they were often TITLES of honor which were granted to our people after they had been EARNED. Names such as Ketzalkoatl, Witzilopochtli, Xipe-Totek, Tezkatlipoka, Ometoel, Ipalnemoani, etc. should be avoided for these reasons.

Also, the suffix TZIN is added to the end of names as a sign of love and respect. For example, Kuauhtemok is often called Kuauhtemoktzin, or "beloved and respected Kuauhtemok." It is something which is given to OTHERS. You should never call yourself a name which ends in TZIN - as it would be seen as a sign of arrogance and ignorance.

---

## NAWATL NAMES

AKAPICHTLI : handful of reeds  
AKATL : water reed  
AKAUXOCHITL : sunflower  
AKAZIHTLI : hare of the reed bed  
AKETZALLI : precious water  
AKOLNAWATL : near the water's bend  
AKOWATL : aquatic serpent  
AKZAYAKATL : universe observer  
AMEYALXOCHITL : spring flower ( water spring )  
ATLANXOCHITL : sea flower  
ATLETL : fire and water ( life, multiple force )  
AWACHTLI : morning mist  
AXIUHTLI : turquoise  
AXOLOWA : he who has ajolotes ( type of lizard )  
AYOTOCHTLI : turtle rabbit ( armadillo )  
CHALCHIWITL : that which is precious  
CHIAUKATL : caterpillar serpent  
CHIKOEHEKATL : seven wind  
CHIMALAXOCHITL : water flower shield  
EHEKAKOWATL : air serpent  
EHEKATL : the wind  
ILWIKATL : cosmos  
ILWITEMOK : descending cosmos  
ITZAKOYOTL : white coyote  
ITZAKPAPALOTL : white butterfly  
ITZKOWATL : obsidian serpent  
ITZPAPALOTL : butterfly of light  
IXTLILIPAKATL : happy face  
IXTLILTON : black face  
IXWALXOCHITL : flowery plant  
IZPAPALOTL : obsidian butterfly  
IZTAKAZTATL : white stork  
IZTAKECHOLLI : white flamingo  
IZTAKIAWITL : white rain  
IZTAMIXKOWATL : cloud serpent  
IZTAMIZTLI : white cloud  
IZTAMOTZAN : white horse  
IZTATLOTLI : white sparrowhawk  
IZTAZONTLI : white hair  
IZTATLAOLLI : white corn  
IZTAXOCHITL : white flower  
KECHOLLIKETZALLI : precious flamingo  
KETZALIWITL : precious world  
KETZALIZTLI : emerald  
KETZALKEN : ketzal clothing  
KETZALKIWITL : precious rain

KETZALKOWATL : precious serpent  
KETZALMAKITZU : ketzal bracelet  
KETZALTOTOTL : precious bird ( ketzal )  
KETZALZIWATL : precious woman  
KETZAXILOTL : primordial corn  
KIAKETZALLI : precious rain  
KIAUHTEKATL : lord of the rain  
KIAWITLETL : rain of fire  
KOCHIPILLI : sleepy child  
KOPILLIKETZALLI : precious headdress  
KOWAPAKI : happy serpent  
KOWATLAKTOA : talking serpent  
KOWATLAWAK : celestial serpent  
KOYOTL : coyote  
KOZAUTLEKWILLI : yellow brazier  
KOZKAKUAHTLI : necklace eagle  
KUAUHIXTLI : eagle face  
KUAUHKOATL : eagle serpent  
KUAUHPITZAWAK : thin tree  
KUAUHPOPOKA : smoking tree  
KUAUHTEMOK : descending eagle  
KUAUHTLEKO : ascending eagle  
KUAUHTOCHTLI : tree rabbit ( squirrel )  
KUAUHTONAK : solar eagle  
KUAUHXIKALLI : water gourd  
KUAUHZIN : respectable water  
KUAUHZIWATL : eagle woman  
KWIKAPEUPEKAYOTL : song beginnings  
MAKWILXOCHITL : five flower  
MALINALLI : small herb  
MALINALXOCHITL : herbal flower  
MATLALWIKATL : blue sky  
MATLALKOWATL : dark blue serpent  
MATLALTOTOTL : blue bird  
MATLALXOCHITL : blue flower  
MAZAKOWATL : deer serpent  
MAZATL : deer  
MELANKAYOMEXIKA : true Mexican  
MEXIKATL : Mexican  
MEZTLIXOCHITL : lunar flower  
MIAWATL : maize ear  
MIAUHXOCHITL : maize flower  
MIKIZTLI : restless or stillness ( death )  
MIKTLANTEKUHTLI : lord of the stillness  
MIZKOWATL : cloud serpent  
MIZTLI : pluma

MOWANIPAHPAKI : with you i'm happy  
NANAKATL : mushroom  
NANZIWAN : dear mother  
NAWAYAKATL : four reed  
NAWIMAZATL : four deer  
NAWIOLLIN : four movement  
NAWITEKPATL : four stone  
NIMITZTLAZOHTLA : i love you  
NIYOLPAKI : i 'm happy  
OHTOKANI : traveler  
OMETOCHTLI : two rabbit  
OZELOPAN : ocelot banner  
OZELOTL : ocelot  
OZOMATLI : monkey  
PAINALZITLI : fast hare  
TEATZELWANI : he who brushes with water  
TENOECH : hard prickly pear  
METL : maguey  
TEOTLETL : energy of fire  
TEKITZILWITL : venerable hummingbird  
TETLAZOHTLANI : love giver  
TEZKATLIPOKATL : black smoking mirror  
TEZKAWITZIL : hummingbird of mirrors  
TEZAPAPALOTL : respectable ash butterfly  
TLAHAYESTLI : red blood  
TLAKAYAOTL : man of war ( warrior )  
TLALTEKATL : person of the earth  
TLALTEKUHTLI : lord of the earth  
TLAMAKAZKE : wiseman  
TLANEZATL : morning dew  
TLATLAUKITEZKATL : red mirror ( sun )  
TLALYOLLOTL : heart of the earth  
TLAZOZIWAPILLI : young loveful girl  
TLILKOWATL : black serpent  
TLILKWETZPALLIN : black lizard  
TLILTLOTLI : black sparrowhawk  
TLILTOTOTL : black bird ( crow )  
TOCHKWITLAPILLI : young rabbit face  
TOLTEKATL : an artist  
TONALPAPALOTL : solar butterfly  
TONALKOZKATL : solar necklace  
TOPILLI : our son  
TOTAHTLI : our father  
TOTOLANAWAK : bird of Anawak  
TOZITLI : our grandmother  
WETOCHTLI : old rabbit

WEZIPAKTLI : old caiman  
WITZILATL : water hummingbird  
WITZILLIWITL : hummingbird feather  
XIUHKOZKATL : turquoise mirror  
XOCHIKETZALLI : beautiful flower  
XOCHIKOZKATL : beautiful necklace  
XOCHILIZTLI : moon dream  
XOCHIMETL: maguey flower  
XOCHIMITL : flower arrow  
XOCHIPAPALOTL : flower butterfly  
XOCHIPITZAWAK : small flower  
XOCHITLAKETZALLI : small evening flower  
XOCHITLAKTOLL : he who possesses the waters  
XOCHITLANEXTLI : morning flower  
XOKOWATL : dear cocoa  
YAOKWIXTLI : sparrowhawk of war  
TOAZIWATL : woman warrior  
YETLANEZI : cosmic morning  
YOLOHXOCHITL : heart flower  
YOLPAKILIZTLI : happiness  
ZANTZONMEKATL : four hundred ropes  
ZEMPOWALXOCHITL : twenty flower  
ZITLALKOWATL : serpent of the stars  
ZITLALLI : star  
ZITLALMAKWAWITL : baton of stars ( makwawilli )  
ZITLALPOPOKATL : comet  
ZITLALTLAZOH : star of my love