



PROTOCOL 101

A HOW-TO OF POWWOWS, FEASTS & GIVEAWAYS

POWWOWS

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW IS THAT YOU ARE A GUEST, AND AN OBSERVER OF ANCIENT CEREMONIES AND TRADITIONS THAT HAVE SURVIVED EVERY POSSIBLE ADVERSITY.

- #1 - UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ALLOWED AT A POWWOW
- #2 - THE AREA FOR DANCING AND CEREMONIES IS CALLED THE ARENA
- #3 - TIPIS SET UP ON THE GROUNDS ARE USUALLY NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- #4 - DO NOT RANDOMLY TAKE PICTURES, THE ANNOUNCER WILL SAY WHEN ITS OKAY
- #5 - THERE ARE 6 TYPES OF DANCES, EACH WITH ITS OWN THINGS TO REMEMBER:

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE ABORIGINAL

GRAND ENTRY (THE FIRST DANCE - WHERE DIGNITARIES AND OTHERS TAKE PART, FOLLOWED BY THE DANCERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CATEGORIES. EVERYONE SHOULD STAND FOR THE DURATION OF GRAND ENTRY CEREMONIES)

INTERTRIBAL (EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO DANCE - EVEN IF YOU DONT HAVE REGALIA ON OR YOU'RE NON-ABORIGINAL. YOU ALSO DO NOT NEED TO KNOW HOW TO DANCE ... SLOWLY WALKING ALONG IS ALSO ACCEPTABLE)

HONOR SONG (TYPICALLY HONORS A FAMILY, INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP - THE FIRST ROUND IS FOR FAMILY, AFTER THAT ANYONE CAN SUPPORT BY JOINING THE GROUP AND WALKING WITH THEM. SPECTATORS SHOULD STAND.)

OWL DANCE OR RABBIT DANCE (A DANCE OPEN TO EVERYONE - IT REQUIRES A PARTNER THOUGH)

ROUND DANCE (EVERYONE IS WELCOME. BASICALLY, EVERYONE JOINS HANDS, FORMS A LARGE CIRCLE AND DANCES SIDWAYS. SOMETIMES - IF YOU'RE LUCKY - AN INNER CIRCLE WILL FORM, GOING THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, AND PEOPLE WILL THEN SHAKE YOUR HAND AS THEY PASS BY YOU)

COMPETITION/EXHIBITION DANCES (FOR DANCERS ONLY, YOU NEED REGALIA ON .. AND SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO EVEN BE REGISTERED WITH A NUMBER ON. THESE DANCES SHOWCASE THE SPECIFIC STYLES OF TINY TOTS, JUNIOR, TEENS, ADULTS, GOLDEN AGE ... A GREAT TIME TO SIT BACK AND WATCH HOW THE PROS DO IT)

POWWOW SURVIVAL GUIDE. HERE IS HOW A TYPICAL POWWOW IS RUN

DRUM ROLL CALL (LIKE ATTENDANCE FOR DRUM GROUPS)

GRAND ENTRY PARTICIPANTS BEGIN TO LINE UP

SPECTATORS ARE ASKED TO STAND FOR GRAND ENTRY

GRAND ENTRY BEGINS ...
EAGLE STAFFS AND FLAGS ARE BROUGHT IN FIRST PARTICIPANTS ARE USUALLY IN THIS ORDER:

- #1 - POWWOW HOSTS AND DIGNITARIES
- #2 - OTHER HONORED MEMBERS
- #3 - COLOR GUARD OF VETERANS
- #4 - ELECTED ROYALTY (PRINCESSES)
- #5 - YOUNG PEOPLE BEING HONORED
- #6 - ELDER DANCERS
- #7 - MEN'S TRADITIONAL & CHICKEN DANCERS
- #8 - MEN'S GRASS DANCERS
- #9 - MEN'S FANCY DANCERS
- #10 - WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL DANCERS
- #11 - WOMEN'S JINGLE DRESS DANCERS
- #12 - WOMEN'S FANCY SHAWL DANCERS
- #13 - TEENAGE BOYS AND GIRLS DANCERS
- #14 - JUNIOR AGE DANCERS
- #15 - TINY TOT DANCERS

DRUMMING STOPS AND AN ELDER SAYS A PRAYER

A FLAG SONG STARTS, FLAGS ARE RAISED ...

THE FLAG SONG ENDS AND THEN BECOMES AN INTERTRIBAL. SPECTATORS CAN SIT DOWN AND GRAND ENTRY PARTICIPANTS CAN LEAVE THE ARENA

THE NIGHT ENDS WITH A FINAL FLAG SONG. DANCERS TAKE DOWN THE FLAGS AND "DANCE" THEM OUT OF THE ARENA. IF YOU'RE STILL AT THE POWWOW, THIS IS ALSO A TIME YOU SHOULD STAND UP. YOU JUST SURVIVED YOUR FIRST POWWOW ...

THEN ALL SORTS OF DANCES CAN HAPPEN, JUST LISTEN TO THE ANNOUNCER. ROUND DANCES, INTERTRIBALS, COMPETITION, HONOR SONGS, OWL DANCES, EXHIBITION, RABBIT DANCES ETC. SOMETIMES THERE ARE GIVEAWAYS & FEASTS TOO

FEASTS

MOST FEASTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ... AND ARE COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE ... OCCASIONALLY THERE WILL BE INVITATION ONLY FEASTS FOR DANCERS & DRUMMERS ETC

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT ELDERS ARE SERVED FIRST ...

COMING BACK FOR SECONDS ISN'T USUALLY FROWNED UPON, JUST WAIT FOR EVERYONE TO GET THROUGH THE LINE ... THERE'S ALWAYS FOOD LEFT ... DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED

IF YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FEAST AHEAD OF TIME, BRING SOME TUPPERWARE FOR LEFTOVERS

FEASTS CAN EVEN BE A SIMPLE BAG LUNCH THAT IS HANDED OUT TO ALL THE SPECTATORS, ELDERS, DANCERS, DRUMMERS ETC. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO REFUEL FOR THE REST OF THE POWWOW ...

GIVEAWAYS

GIVEAWAYS HAPPEN ANYTIME DURING A POWWOW ... THERE'S ALWAYS AN ANNOUNCEMENT GIVEAWAYS ARE PUT ON (AND PAID FOR) BY FAMILIES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO HONOR THE COMMUNITY ... BY GIVING THEM ALL SORTS OF USEFUL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

GIVEAWAYS VARY, BUT TYPICALLY THEY GIVE AWAY STUFF LIKE: TUPPERWARE, PENDLETON BLANKETS, HAND TOWELS, KNICK KNACKS, MONEY, SOCKS, LOONIE STORE ITEMS ETC

SOME GIVEAWAYS CAN EVEN LAST FOR A COUPLE HOURS

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER AT A GIVEAWAY IS TO NOT REFUSE ANYTHING GIVEN TO YOU. IT IS AN HONOR TO GIVE AND NOT ACCEPTING JUST MAKES THINGS WEIRD FOR EVERYONE (JUST RE-GIFT IT IF YOU GOTTA) ...