

POW-WOW PROTOCOL

Recent issues of *Smoke Signals* have focused on dancing and regalia, vendors, and feathers. Now you are ready to go to pow-wow! The final segment of our four-part series focuses on protocol, and how to prepare yourself for an enjoyable pow-wow experience. If you plan to attend a pow-wow for the first time, these tips may be especially helpful.

SHOW RESPECT

When you attend a pow-wow it is important to remember that you are an observer of ancient ceremonies and traditions that have survived every possible adversity. Proper behavior is very important in showing respect to others.

Under no circumstances are alcohol or drugs allowed on pow-wow grounds. Alcohol is the greatest curse ever visited on the Native American, and will not be tolerated at pow-wow. People bringing alcohol into a pow-wow will be escorted out by tribal security. If you can't stay sober for a few hours, you are in the wrong place.

The area for dancing is called the arena, and it is usually in the form of a circle. There is a sheltered area, which can either be in the form of an arbor, or simply a canopy, which designates a resting place for the Elders, the dancers and singers, and pow-wow officials. Take care not to sit in these places. They are easy to identify.

It is common to set up tipis on the pow-wow grounds. These are not open to the public. Some participants live in them for the duration of the pow-wow. Tipis and other structures set up for classes and demonstrations will be clearly marked.

Don't take pictures or shoot video at random. If there is a particular dance you want to photograph, ask permission of the announcer. If you see a dancer who is especially striking, ask permission to take their photo. It would be a courtesy to take their name and address and send them a copy of the photo. Human kindness and consideration are always long remembered and deeply appreciated.

A dancer's clothing is regalia — not a costume — and is a prized possession. Some regalia has been handed down through generations and is priceless. When a dancer decides to "come out" in a particular style, the regalia reflects the spirit and customs of the people being honored. A "coming out" ceremony for a new dancer is a cause for great celebration. The regalia is handmade, usually by the dancer, friends, and family. Every article has special meaning. Do not ever touch a dancer's regalia without permission. The regalia is an expression of spirit that has been prayed over and blessed. Honor it, the person wearing it, and the living history it represents.

Finally, put aside the Hollywood image of what an "Indian" looks like. Native Americans are not about physical attributes, but what is in their heritage, blood, and heart. Physical characteristics are not a clear indication of a person's tribal lineage or heritage.

BE COMFORTABLE

A pow-wow is no place to dress to impress. You will impress no one, and end up being uncomfortable. Most pow-wows are held in the country, far away from conveniences we all take for granted. The following tips will help you get the most from your experience at pow-wow.

If you are in a hurry, don't go. Forget clocks and schedules. Be in the moment, in every sense of the word.

Take plenty of water. Be aware of your body temperature, and don't get overheated. Pow-wows are usually held in the summer, but even if you are going to a pow-wow at a school campus or college that may be held indoors, it is best to be prepared with water for yourself and your family.

Wear loose, comfortable clothing that does not bind. You will be glad you did.

Remember that you will probably be walking on dusty, uneven ground and weaving your way through crowds of people. Wear comfortable walking shoes that give your feet plenty of support and protection.

Take a hat for yourself and children to protect everyone from the sun. There will likely be no shelter and very little natural shade.

Be sure your children know where the announcer's booth is. If you should get separated, tell them to go to the announcer and ask him to call for you over the loudspeaker. Don't panic if you lose someone. They are most likely safe — you just can't see them.

There are a variety of food vendors who sell dishes that are usually prepared fresh on the spot. This is the place to try an Indian taco or frybread, or other foods. If you are on a special diet, you are welcome to take a cooler of food and snacks with you.

If you take your pet, keep it on a leash. Many vendors and participants travel with dogs. But be considerate of others and take your pooper scooper to clean up any messes it makes.

Some pow-wows have campgrounds and space for RV and trailer hook-ups. Be sure to call the hosting tribe and ask before you go.

- Reprinted from *The Pow-wow Trail*, by Julia C. White

Seekers group to meet at Casino

Seekers, a community-based cultural group will meet **Saturday, July 10** to discuss geology and historical tribal documents.

Discussion of: the Lachance, Norwest, and Quenelle families; 1830's baptisms; the Tribal Charter; original constitutions; present constitution; the 1954 termination roll; the restoration roll; and Catholic Church records (Mannick Books), will also be

available for inspection.

The upcoming Special Amendment vote will also be discussed.

The Tribal Council, those running for Council, and all tribal members are invited to attend.

The meeting will be July 10 at the Rouge River Room at the Casino from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call Cindy or Janet at (503) 864-4303.

Twah Sunchako

Head Start

school year 1999-2000

For an application:

Marissa Leno at 879-2161

Vikki Bishop at 879-2287

Applications must be returned

by July 16.

BIKE RODEO

Friday, July 9 • Noon to 2 p.m.

28475 McPherson Road

Grand Meadows • Grand Ronde

It's for ages 3-11. Please bring a bicycle and helmet to participate. All participants must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Wellness Program.

If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Tom at (503) 879-2016.

CULTURAL GATHERINGS

Please call phone numbers listed to verify exact dates and locations of these events to be held in Oregon, Washington, California, and Idaho.

Smoke Signals has no further information on these events.

JULY 8-11: NESPELEM CELEBRATION POW-WOW & ALL INDIAN RODEO. NESPELEM, WA. (509) 634-4711.

JULY 9-11: GRAND RONDE VETERANS' POW-WOW. GRAND RONDE, OR. Grand Entries: Sat. at noon and 6:30 p.m.; Sun. at noon. Contact: Marce or Sharon Norwest at (503) 879-5878.

JULY 9-11: PINOLEVILLE INDIAN RESERVATION BIG TIME. Orr Springs Road. UKIAH, CA. Contact: Leona Williams at (707) 463-1454.

JULY 9-11: AMERICAN INDIAN ART FESTIVAL. Mission Plaza. SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA. Contact: Sonny or Elaine Reyna at (408) 623-2379.

JULY 16-18: WALLOWA BAND NEZ PERCE DESCENDENTS FRIENDSHIP FEAST AND POW-WOW. WALLOWA, OR. 1-800-585-4121.

JULY 16-18: QUILEUTE DAYS. LAPUSH, WA. Contact: Karsten Boysen at (360) 374-6163.

JULY 16-18: NOOKSACK TRIBE'S GENESIS II POW-WOW. EVERSON, WA. (360) 966-7704.

JULY 16-18: ALL NATIONS POW-WOW. Los Vaqueros Rodeo Arena. BIG BEAR CITY, CA. Contact: Faye Roman at (909) 584-9394.

JULY 17-19: COLUMBIA RIVER ANNUAL POW-WOW AND ENCAMPMENT. Roosevelt Park. ROOSEVELT, WA. (509) 865-5121, ext. 408.

JULY 17-19: THE WHOLE BEAD SHOW. LOS ANGELES, CA. Show hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1-800-292-2577 or www.wholebead.com.

7TH ANNUAL

GRAND RONDE VETERANS POW-WOW

★ ★ ★ JULY 9-11, 1999 ★ ★ ★

GRAND RONDE POW-WOW GROUNDS

FRI., JULY 9 ---- 6:30 P.M. ----- ROYALTY PAGEANT

SAT., JULY 10 --- NOON-4:30 P.M. ----- GRAND ENTRY

4:30 TO 6:30 P.M. --- DINNER BREAK

6:30 TO 11 P.M. ----- GRAND ENTRY

SUN., JULY 11 - - NOON TO 4:30 P.M. - - GRAND ENTRY

MC: Bob Tom

Whipman: Craig Whitehead

Host Drum: Soaring Hawk from Eugene, OR

All Drums and Dancers Welcome

50-50 Drawing ---- Raffle

Open to the Public

Free Camping --- Free Parking

Vendor and Pow-wow contacts:

Marce and Sharon Norwest at 879-5878

Sponsored by Grand Ronde Veterans' Committee

