

Royalty attends Gathering of Nations Powwow

This was my second time attending the Gathering of Nations Powwow in New Mexico as a Tribal Royalty representative for Grand Ronde.

My favorite part of the trip was watching the traditional talent, speaking and dance portions of the Miss Indian World Pageant, and I got to meet my fourth Miss Indian World. We got to take a picture with all the other Royalty queens and Miss Indian World, and we took a picture with all of the 24 contestants competing for Miss Indian World.

We were able to meet a lot of other Royalty queens and take pictures. We also got to do a scavenger hunt in Old Town Albuquerque and that was fun.

I danced in all four grand entries and there were so many dancers that we didn't get to introduce ourselves because there were so many queens, but I probably would have been nervous because there was so many people in the crowd.

My mom and I liked looking at all of the vendors. There were so many that we had to walk through like four times. I had a lot of fun and enjoyed the powwow and the time I got to spend with the other girls on Royalty.

I'm very thankful for the opportunity to travel and represent my Tribe, and one day I hope to be a candidate for Miss Indian World.

Hayu masi,

Kaleigha Simi

2016-17 Little Miss Grand Ronde



Courtesy photos

2016-17 Grand Ronde Royalty, from left, Senior Miss Grand Ronde Iyana Holmes, Junior Miss Grand Ronde Isabelle Grout, 2016 Miss Indian World Danielle Finn, Little Miss Grand Ronde Kaleigha Simi and Little Miss Princess Sophia Grout at the Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, N.M., last month.

I really enjoyed watching the contestants of the Miss Indian World Pageant perform. I learned how important it is to stay connected with your culture and really enjoyed watching their traditional talent portion. It made it so much more exciting that I actually knew some of the girls participating having seen them along the powwow trail.

My favorite part of the actual powwow was watching the head boy Sonny Little Head's Boys Fancy Special. The winner received a real live paint horse that they brought into the arena. The head girl, Tia Wood, did a Jingle Red Dress Special and it was very beautiful to see all those red dresses on the dance floor.

One of the best parts was getting to spend more time bonding with Iyana Holmes and Kaleigha Simi. We had a good time together. I want to say thank you to all of you who helped us fundraise for our trip and thank you to our coordinator Chelsea Clark for planning everything.

Isabelle Grout

2016-17 Junior Miss Grand Ronde



Grand Ronde Royalty, from left, Senior Miss Grand Ronde Iyana Holmes, Little Miss Grand Ronde Kaleigha Simi and Junior Miss Grand Ronde Isabelle Grout at the Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, N.M., last month.

This was my first time flying in an airplane and it was really cool sitting by the window. Walking in both grand entries on Friday was an experience I will never forget because there were more dancers than I have ever seen in my life.

It was really cool to watch the Miss Indian World Pageant and getting to take pictures with them. The new crown is so pretty!

I had a lot of fun in downtown Albuquerque running around doing the scavenger hunt Chelsea set up for us. Thank you to my family for helping me pay for the trip. It was really fun!

Sophia Grout

2016-17 Little Miss Princess



Grand Ronde Royalty took part in a group photo with other Royalty in attendance at the Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, N.M., last month.