

Native Student Alliance
presents

POWWOW ETIQUETTE!



Created by Rosie Molina

What is a Powwow?



A Powwow is a gathering of nations and celebration of life that includes dancing, singing, and eating. It is healing and a honoring of ancestors and future generations.

Powwows have a deep history that includes Indigenous resistance, resilience, and ceremony. Use to be a ceremony practice of Northern Plains tribes but is now a social gathering.



Components of a Powwow

01

Drummers
and Singers

02

Dancers

03

Arena

04

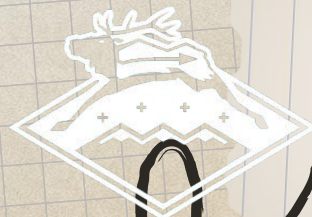
Staff

05

Spectators

06

Vendors



When you arrive!

Seating:

Seating closest to the area is reserved for the drums, dancers, elders, and those with mobility problems.

- Do not sit in the drum circles + do not cross through them etc.
- Chairs with blankets or shawls covering them are reserved!

MC | Announcer

Pay attention to the announcer, they will give direction and guidance

- Do not enter the arena unless directed by the MC (intertribal, social dances, etc)



Dancing/Duration of the Powwow

Grand Entry

When dancers enter the arena for the first dance/ beginning of powwow or after dinner break.

- **Please stand and remove hats during Grand Entry and during all other honor songs (Veterans, Elder, Senior etc.)**
- Do not enter during grand entry

Dancing as a Spectator/Guest

Yes, you can dance with us during an intertribal song, this song is to bring people together.

- MC/Announcer will announce when it is ok to enter the arena
- Clockwise
- Include those in 'streetwear', guests, all ages etc.



Cultural Awareness

Regalia

- Do not refer to peoples regalia as “costumes”, making and providing clothing/regalia is its own ceremonial practice.
- Do not touch our regalia
 - Do not touch our hair.

Photos

- Photos during competition are usually acceptable
- The MC will announce when it is acceptable/unacceptable to take photos
- Please ask an individual before taking their photo. Please ask before posting.

Fallen Feathers/Regalia

- If a feather falls, do not pick it up. Staff/elders will follow proper cultural protocol/ceremony.
- If someones regalia falls off, staff or a family member will retrieve it.

Cultural Sensitivity

- Do not mock/mimic the drumming, singing, dancing out of respect.
- Please do not cosplay, you can wear nice/normal everyday wear.





This is a sober event

Do not bring drugs or alcohol.
In respect to our community and values, you also
need to be sober while attending our event.



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I wear Native jewelry?

Yes, only if you buy from a Native artist. Please also asked as some jewelry has some ceremonial purposes.

Can I dance?

Yes, the MC will announce when it is okay to join.

Are Powwows open to the public?

Yes, and most are free to attend.





Mvto!
(Thank you)

