



POW WOW ETIQUETTE

Important Cultural Knowledge

- The correct term for a Pow Wow dancer's clothing is "regalia." Please do not refer to regalia as costumes.
- Indigenous people earn their Eagle Feathers through ceremony in recognition of the work that they do to support their communities. It is a symbol of high regard.
- If you see a dropped eagle feather, please inform the Master of Ceremonies or Arena Director; please do not touch, as a specific song will be sung to retrieve the fallen feather.
- Tradition is to respect the chief, veterans and elders by giving them priority for all matters of etiquette.
- Participants are asked to respect the Arena Director, head male dancer and head female dancer.
- All Pow Wows are alcohol and drug free. Smoking is also prohibited near the arena.

How to Participate Respectfully

- Wait for the Master of Ceremonies (MC) to give instructions during the Pow Wow.
- Some parts of the event are sacred and prohibit any photography or videography.
- Pictures should not be taken during the Flag, Prayer, Honour Songs and when an individual is honouring a drum through a whistle.
- Pictures are allowable during "intertribal" songs. Everyone is also invited to dance.
- Before taking photos of Pow Wow dancers, ask for their permission.
- Children are welcome to enjoy this event, but cannot play in the Sacred Circle.
- Guests are asked to stand and remove your hat for certain songs. You do not have to remove your hat if you have an eagle feather in it.
- Pets are not permitted in the Pow Wow arena. Service animals with appropriate documentation are welcome.

Dancing at a Pow Wow

- The Master of Ceremonies will announce when everyone, including non-Indigenous guests, may join the dancing.
- It is OK to make up your own Pow Wow steps while dancing.
- The dance area may have many people. Please be mindful to avoid bumping into fellow dancers.
- Please do not crowd around the drummers.