



Pow Wow Know How

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Wacipi

- The term Pow Wow is traced to the Algonquin language and thought to have been used by non-Indians as a term for a meeting or council.
- Before reservations, bands would come together to celebrate the seasonal renewal of life, hunts and harvests, and sing, dance and maintain relationships.
- In the Lakota/Dakota language, wacipi, literally translates "they dance."

The Pow Wow Trail

- Today, Pow Wows start as early as March. In our area, the season usually runs every weekend from June until September.
- During this time, many families will pack up and go on the "Pow Wow circuit." This is a time to renew the old ways and preserve a rich heritage.
- Dancing has become a specialized art and dancers will compete for prize money. There are, however, social dances in which everyone can participate, even for children under the age of 6.
- Drum groups also participate for prize money.

Etiquette

- Everyone is welcome and we relish the opportunity to share about our culture and traditions.
- No drugs or alcohol
- Keep pets leashed and out of the dance arena
- Ask questions
- Photos should only be taken with permission, as well as video recording. Absolutely NO recording of any kind of Honor Song, prayer, or anytime the MC specifies.
- The Arena is blessed before dancing and should be treated with respect, as you would a church. Profanity and unacceptable behavior should not be used. Never cut across this area to get to the other side. The MC will specify who is to dance and when they will dance. Intertribal dancing is open to anyone, but pay attention to the MC's instructions before entering the Arena.

The Grand Entry

- The Wacipi begins with a Grand Entry of all the dancers entering the Arena.
- Here is the order of the Grand Entry (everyone stands and remove their hats).
 - > Flag Bearers
 - > Tribal elders, royalty, dignitaries
 - > Male dancers
 - > Female dancers
 - > Children
 - > Once everyone is in the Arena, the Entrance song ends and is immediately followed by a song to honor the flag and the veterans and ending with an invocation.

Grand Entry



"Specials"

Eagle Feather/Fallen Warrior (no photos)

The eagle (wambdi) is held in the highest regard. It's a special honor to possess an eagle feather which is generally a gift from a relative, spiritual teacher or the eagle itself.

Eagles carry prayers to Wakan Tanka (the Creator).

When a feather falls to the ground, there is a special ceremony to retrieve the fallen warrior.

"Specials" cont.

Giveaway

Families will accumulate items for an entire year. These include everyday items such as laundry baskets, towels, socks, blankets and also star quilts. Items are given to individuals who have helped a family.

Honor Song

Sung for those passed on to the Spirit World, graduated from high school or college or received a special honor of some sort.

Naming Ceremony

An individual receives a spiritual or "Indian name," given by a spiritual leader or elder. This is sometimes followed up with a Giveaway and Honor Song.

Dance Styles/Male

Traditional--Tells the story of the hunting warrior or searching for enemies. Regalia is made of natural materials, not brightly colored.

Fancy--Brightly colored feathers and beaded regalia. Often use face and leg paint and carry a dance stick, hoop or other items. Fancy dancers display stamina through quick footwork and jumps.

Grass--Regalia consists of shirt and trousers with fringe attached. Today colorful yarn is used for the fringe. Legend says young boys were send out to trample down the grass in the area of the celebration. They'd then tie grass onto themselves which imitated the swaying of the grass as the wind blew across the prairie.



Dance Styles/Female

Traditional—Regalia is made from buckskin and a colorful shawl is draped over the arm. An eagle feather is carried in the other hand. Movements are slight, yet dignified.

Fancy Shawl—Fairly new style which originated with northern tribes. Dancers wear a brightly colored shawl with long, colorful fringe over their shoulders. The fringe moves beautifully as the dancer jumps and spins.

Jingle Dress—Initially, jingle dress dancers were called upon to dance for the sick or injured, so it's revered as a healing dance. The jingles are made from tobacco lids and placed strategically on a beautifully made dress.



Heartbeat of the Nation



The Drum

- ◉ Not just a musical instrument
- ◉ Has a life of its own and represents the heartbeat of the Nation
- ◉ Helps bring the physical and mental side of a person back in touch with the spiritual side
- ◉ Brings balance and renewal
- ◉ Sacred
- ◉ Host drum and guest drums

Materials used to compile this summary

- ◉ <https://www.lowerbrulesiouxtribe.com>, Kul Wicasa Oyate, June 12, 2017
- ◉ <http://santeesioux.com>, The Pow Wow and its meaning, May 23, 2107
- ◉ <http://www.stjo.org>, Lakota Powwow Dance Styles, June 19, 2017
- ◉ <http://aktalakota.stjo.org>, The Native American Drum, July 26, 2017