

10 Important Things to Know About the Pow Wow

1. The Pow Wow is an ancient tradition among Aboriginal peoples.

2. Today's Pow Wow is a time of socializing, dancing, feasting, having fun, remembering the old ways, and taking pride in traditional heritage as old friendships are renewed and new ones made.

3. The Pow Wow Grand Entry follows a specific order: Eagle Staff, Flag bearers, dignitaries and Princesses, male dancers, female dancers, and youth.

4. Spectators at a Pow Wow stand and remove their headgear during the Grand Entry, Flag songs, Honour songs, and opening prayer.

5. The Eagle Staff is an important part of the Pow Wow. It represents farsightedness, strength, speed, beauty and kindness. The Eagle Staff symbolizes reverence for the Creator.

6. During the Pow Wow, special songs are sung to honour veterans who have fought under various flags. These veterans, as Flag bearers, are also honoured by being called upon to retrieve dropped eagle feathers.

7. Giveaways, a special part of the Pow Wow, are held at the end of the event. The giveaway tradition embodies the value of sharing with others. Gifts such as blankets, beadwork and crafts are given to visitors and friends. Appropriate songs and dances follow the ceremony.

8. If an eagle feather falls from a dancer's outfit during a dance or Pow Wow, the event stops and a ceremony is quickly performed to restore the feather's power.

9. Did you know ...
That you must never refer to Native dress as a costume, especially at exhibits and/or at a Pow Wow. The proper term is "Regalia." This term applies to all North American dancers.

10. The Pow Wow Trails starts in mid-April and usually runs until October. For more information on where to find a Pow Wow near you, refer to www.ammsa.com/ammsaevents.html



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