

**2009 NOAC-AMERICAN INDIAN ACTIVITIES
Fancy Dance Outfit**

NAME _____ LODGE # _____

JUDGE _____ CONTEST# _____

MAXIMUM SCORE 110

Scale (except for Item 7 - Overall): 0 = Missing or Incorrect Item; 1-3 = Acceptable;
4-6 = Good; 7-9 = Excellent; 10 = Superior.

Item 1: HEAD - Roach, Roach Feathers, Rocker Spreader or Spinners, **SCORE**
(10)_____
Scalp, Feathers, Roach Crown, Headband.

Superior: Roach—well made, worn correctly, appropriate flare, length should not conflict with neck bustle, colors coordinated with outfit, with rocker or spinner spreader and 2 roach feathers (can be decorated), optional scalp feather or roach crown can be worn. Porcupine hair roaches are preferred. Headband, beaded or other decoration method, colors should coordinate with the outfit. Forehead rosette and side drops preferred.

Acceptable: Fiber roach, un-coordinated color roaches, inadequate length, poorly constructed or worn out roach. Contemporary feather crests if coordinated with the style of the outfit.

Incorrect: Un-coordinated feather crests, bandannas, no roach, war bonnets, animal skin headgear, missing or single feather spreaders, feather visors, missing items.

Item 2: CHEST AREA - Cape, Shirt, Vest, Scarf, Necklace, Harness. (10) _____

Superior: Cape with coordinated colored designs in fabric appliqué, sequins, or beaded, ribbon fringe, 8-14" in length, adequate length and width to cover upper body. Colored neck scarf or necklace optional. Beaded harness, coordinated colors with outfit, adequate length. Contemporary vest and/or ribbon shirt if coordinated with the outfit.

Acceptable: Items that do not coordinate well with the outfit, inappropriate length of cape, fringe, or harness. Plain or undecorated items.

Incorrect: Beaded fringe, no fringe, ribbon shirt with no cape or vest, yarn fringe, breastplate, bandoliers, OA sash, missing items.

Item 3: BUSTLES - Neck Bustle, Back Bustle, Arm Bustles, Scarves. (10)_____

Superior: Matching neck and back bustle, hackle or swing type. 2-3 tip color hackles, full hackle coverage, streamers of lightweight material, coordinated colors, adequate size and cup (not flat), quill shaft decoration, center rosette, properly worn—neck bustle should be high coming well above shoulders, back bustle should be tied to waist and not conflict with neck bustle. Arm bustles, hackles, coordinated colors with back and neck bustle, center rosette, scarves tied underneath.

Acceptable: Smaller bustles, thinner hackle coverage, un-coordinated colors, no streamers on back bustles, no scarves on arm bustles.

Incorrect: No bustles (back, neck, or arm), poorly made bustles as to not hold up during dancing, traditional style bustle, missing items.

Item 4: HANDS - Whip Sticks, Fan, Mirror Board, Scarves. (10)_____

Superior: Whip sticks, beaded or other decoration with coordinated colors. Streamers, feathers, or scarves at tips with adequate movement. Optional fan or mirror board can be used with, or in place of, whip sticks, must fit with the overall look of the outfit.

Acceptable: Undecorated whip sticks, poor movement of streamers or scarves, un-coordinated colors.

Missing/Incorrect: No hand articles. Traditional style dance sticks, hoops.

Item 5: MID-BODY - Aprons, Belt, Side Tabs (10)_____

Superior: Aprons with coordinated colored designs in fabric appliqué, sequins, or beaded, ribbon fringe, 8-14" in length, adequate length and width to cover mid body. Belt, beaded or other decoration, coordinated colors. Side tabs, beaded or imitation, cloth, fringed, coordinated colors, adequately covers space between front and back aprons.

Acceptable: Un-decorated aprons, scarves for side tabs, plain belt.

Improper: No aprons, belt or side tabs. Breechcloths, no fringe on aprons, missing items.

Item 6: LEGS & FEET - Goats, Bells, Knee Bands, Moccasins (10)_____

Superior: "Goats" angora or other long-haired animal, white, appropriate length, worn correctly. Bells, sheep bells, below knee or at ankle, do not interfere with goats, properly attached. Knee bands, beaded, cloth, or other material, colored scarves. Moccasins, hard sole leather moccasins, colors coordinated with outfit.

Acceptable: Goats of questionable length or size. Undecorated moccasins or colored water shoes.

Missing/Incorrect: No goats, bells, or moccasins. Leggings, jingle bells, tennis shoes, leather soft sole moccasins, missing items.

Item 7: OVERALL

Scale: 1-5 Good start, room for improvement; 6-10 Solid basic outfit, lacking some items; 11-15 Excellent; 16-20 Superior

Does the outfit have the right "look"? Does it look complete? (20)_____
Is it consistent? Is the movement appropriate?

FINAL SCORE (80)_____

Ribbon Scale

White 1-21 Red 22-44 Blue 45-65 Gold 66-80

A note about outfits:

The most important thing about a modern Fancy dance outfit is its overall look. Outfits are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your outfit should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual outfit components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for—such as beadwork—an adequate substitution of cloth, fabric appliqué, sequins, painted material, or plastic canvas cross-stitch can be use. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points from the judge.

This form is not just a scoring sheet, it is a resource for you to constantly improve your outfit to be the best that it can be. When you look at the individual scores on items 1-7 as well as the overall score, think of what you could do differently next time to improve each item by just a few points. Our goal as the NOAC Fancy Dance staff is to elevate your outfit to a higher level of quality each time you dance. By continually improving your outfit, your individual dance style will improve as well.

A Note to all contestants:

This form is designed to outline what a Fancy Feather dancer would wear at a contemporary powwow. It represents the norm as defined by modern dancers in Oklahoma, the northern plains, and across the country. Some relevant works on the subject of Fancy Feather dancing outfits include:

- (1) "The Modern Fancy Dancer" by C. Scott Evans and J. Rex Reddick, Book Publishing Co., 1998.
- (2) "Fancy Dance." DVD/VHS video, Full Circle Communications.
- (3) "Powwow Trail, Episode 6-Fancy Dance." DVD, Powwow Trails video series.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, the Fancy Dance is an ever-changing dance style and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to Fancy Dance outfits of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as powwows.com and YouTube to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's outfits. Model your outfit after contemporary dancers, but do not copy specific designs.

The history of the Fancy Dance is one of the most fascinating and well documented of all the men's dance styles. While Fancy Dance outfits of the past have their place in history, many of the components are not appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up-to-date on your outfit style.