

GROUP DANCE COMPETITION

DEFINITION

1. Group dance teams shall be made up of 4 or more (at least three of whom must be dancers). All team members must be from the same lodge. A team may perform a maximum of two (2) specific group dances. However two dances for presentation are not necessary; it is an option. The judges look for quality rather than quantity. Also, consider that if a single dance is done it should be long enough for the judges to properly evaluate the presentation.
2. The dance(s) must be historical group dance(s) of specific tribes~ therefore northern plains or pueblo are not appropriate because they are culture areas, not tribes. Inter-tribal is even less specific. The dance(s) and costuming should represent one particular tribe during a particular time in their history.
3. All team participants must be younger than 21 at the time of the conclave, be registered members of the Order of the Arrow, and registered conclave participants.
4. Team dancing is a coordinated group effort. It is not a series of solos grouped under one title.
5. No preference is given to large or small teams and there is no reason to separate them. The judges look for quality of presentation and the selection of dance(s) suitable to the lodge dance team and the resources available to them.
6. dance competition.

ACCEPTABLE HISTORICAL GROUP DANCES

In choosing the dance(s) to perform, consider the following:

1. Dances must be **NON-RELIGIOUS** and in good taste.
2. Society, clan, or family dances are acceptable ONLY if written permission is granted by the Tribal Council, society, clan or family of the specific tribe from which the dance comes. Note: **SUCH TYPEWRITTEN PERMISSION MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE BOUND PACKET REQUIRED FOR REGISTRATION.** Therefore, permission must be requested far enough in advance to meet the registration packet deadline. Without permission the dance will not be allowed.
3. Tribal councils have asked that Scouts refrain from performing the following dances (**THESE DANCES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR CONCLAVE COMPETITION**):
 - Masked dances of: Pueblos, Apache, Iroquois, Creek, Cherokee Creek, or Northwest Coast tribes. A mask is defined as anything that covers the face of the wearer, hiding his true identity.
 - The Ghost Dance, The Pipe Ceremony, The Pipe Dance, The Sun Dance, The Hopi Snake Dance, and the Peyote Ritual.
4. Dances that are kept so secret that information on them is incomplete should be avoided. The team must have accurate information.
5. **NO PARTS OF ANY PROTECTED SPECIES ARE PERMITTED ON ANY OUTFIT.** Violation of this rule will result in automatic disqualification. Please be aware of any federal and state laws regarding endangered species parts. (See Chapter 4, Section Conclave.)

6. **Within the guidelines found in the US. Code pertaining to the American Flag, flags is not to be used as wearing apparel with this in mind no type US flag(s) will be permitted as a part of dance attire. If a dancer has these items on his outfit, they must be removed prior to the conclave.** Flag motifs in quillwork and beadwork are acceptable.
7. **National Order of the Arrow Face Paint Policy: National Order of the Arrow conferences and activities conducted beyond the individual lodge will not permit face paint, body paint or wigs to be used in social or competition dancing competition dancing or in ceremonies.** (See Chapter 4 Section Conclave~)

The Boy Scouts of America policy regarding weapons will be followed.

TIME LIMIT

Fifteen (15) minutes is the total time permitted on stage. Total time begins with the announcement by a team member. Total time includes prop/scenery set up (if any), narrative, dance(s) plus costume changes (if any), and the removal of any props or scenery.

NOTE: Scenery is not necessary. No score will be reduced for lack of it. Some teams have enhanced their score for general effect and impression with the creative use of Scenery produced and moved by other lodge members who want to participate in a different way in the presentation. This is fine however if the team does choose to use scenery, keep it simple. Set-up and take down of scenery will reduce team dance time since, as stated above, everything must fit the 15 minute time slot. Without scenery top scores can be earned with excellent dancing, spacing, regalia, and hand props.

NOTE: *All team members should be prepared to talk with the judges (if asked) after their presentation.*

REGISTRATION

In order for a lodge to participate, the following information must be submitted in advance (late submissions will result in a deduction of scoring points):

1. A description of the dance(s) as they will be performed.
2. The historical background of the dance(s).
3. The historical background of the song(s) used in the dance(s).
4. A clear description of the props used (include pictures and/or drawings).
5. A clear description of the outfits to be worn for the dance(s) (include pictures and/or drawings).
6. A description of the music and accompaniment that will be used (see 3, above).
7. A complete bibliography of references used to research the dance(s), (Le. , books, publications, people).
8. A copy of the letter of permission from the tribal council, society, clan, or family as required for certain dances.
9. Name, address, and phone number of a contact person representing the team.
10. NOTE Xeroxed pages from any published works are NOT acceptable Due to a lack of VCR equipment videotapes are NOT acceptable.
11. Research booklets should be a minimum of 8 typewritten pages, not to exceed 15 typewritten pages. Photos and drawings/diagrams are not part of this limit.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

1. Awards may be given to the top finishing teams according to the judges' discretion.
2. Awards for authenticity may be given
3. Certificates may be awarded to each entering team.
4. The top team may be given the opportunity to perform at the evening show.

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR GROUP DANCE COMPETITION

The following is the criteria the judges will use to score each team entering the Group Dance Competition:

A. **AUTHENTICITY**

Teams will be evaluated as to whether the dance(s) performed are acceptable, non-religious dances. The current use of the dance(s) and their proper interpretation by the team will also be considered.

MAXIMUM POINTS -10

B. **RESEARCH**

Teams will be evaluated on the quality of the research booklet they have done for their particular dance(s). This research should include: book sources, other published sources, people, letters of permission (see Acceptable Historical Group Dances, above), pictures/drawings of outfits, descriptions/diagrams of the actual dance(s). Information and historical background of the dance(s) and songs should also be included.

MAXIMUM POINTS -20

C. **AMERICAN INDIAN ATTIRE**

Teams will be judged on the authenticity and completeness of the attire. If a particular dance does not call for special attire, teams will be judged on the quality and appropriateness of each participant's attire. In the event of a team performing more than one dance, points will not be subtracted for using the same attire for both dances, if from the same culture area.

MAXIMUM POINTS - 15

D. **PERFORMANCE OF DANCE**

Teams will be judged on the quality of the interpretation and presentation of their dance(s). Good use of allotted dance time will be considered. Teams will lose one (1) point for every minute that they exceed their scheduled dance time.

MAXIMUM POINTS - 15

E. **ABILITY TO PERFORM AS A TEAM**

Teams will be judged on their ability to perform their dance(s) so as to exhibit a true oneness and feeling for the dance(s). Teamwork and perceptive interpretation of the dance(s) by the team as a whole will be considered.

MAXIMUM POINTS - 15

F. **MUSIC**

Teams will be judged on their use of drumming, singing and any other necessary musical accompaniment that should be used for their particular dance(s). As always, quality as well as authenticity of the dance(s) will be considered. The use of recorded music will be allowed, but it will cost the group a significant deduction of points in this judging category.

MAXIMUM POINTS -15

G. **GENERAL EFFECT AND IMPRESSION**

The overall general effect and impression of the dance(s) will also be considered.

MAXIMUM POINTS -10

H. **CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS (NOT SCORED)**

JUDGING CRITERIA ARE SUBJECT TO THE INTERPRETATION OF THE JUDGING COMMITTEE. ALL JUDGES' DECISIONS ARE FINAL