

Welcome to the Nawakwa Lodge Dance Team.

We thank you for your interest and enthusiasm in the Nawakwa Lodge Native American Indian Dance Team. There must be something in the Drum Songs, or Dance, or the Regalia, or the thought of sleeping in the Tipi that was exciting enough to pursue further interest.

You have seen much of our existing team; a lot of the Dance Team members borrowed their early regalia from the Team Box. Your first Dance steps were a simple Toe-Heel. As a new member of the dance team, you now have a choice to make as to what Tribe you wish to represent, and what style of dance to depict. Make these selections soon, but we are not rushing you.

Native American Indian Tribes are many, major areas are the North East Eastern Coastal, Eastern Mountains, East of the Mississippi, the Western Plains, Southwest, Rocky Mountains, California Valley, Northwest and I am sure there are more that can be mentioned. Within these areas are the actual Indian Nations, like the Cherokee, Delaware, Iroquois, Crow, Powhatan, Seminole, and Lakota Sioux. Open up the many picture books, and look them over, pick several and take a photo copy of those that interest you. Keep the copies in a simple binder as a collection of the style that interest you and you can refer to as you begin to construct your regalia.

Now to pick a dance style, there are five styles accepted, Old Style, Traditional, Grass, Straight, and Fancy. As you flash through the many picture books, take note of the Style represented and include that in your gathering notes. We will not pick your style, but we can offer many suggestions to help you pick one.

Now comes the fun, crafting of your regalia or outfit (note, it is never referred to as a costume, you will understand in time). Your first items to construct should be, Breech Cloth, Hand Items, Moccasins, More Hand Items, Leggings, Shirt. Then for each, the application of decorations, from Bead or Quill work to Feathers. When choosing any animal part to apply to your regalia, BSA prescribes that the animal is not on any endangered list, like our Eagle or Birds of Prey, or mammals like Mountain Lions or grizzly Bears. Anything a Hunter can go after legally, you can apply to your outfit.

We have found that a dance team member will make at least two outfits while he is an active scout and will continue to craft other parts as an adult. The first outfit might be a "Quick get something together" and then craft detailed replacement parts or the second outfit as time and money allows. Be imaginative in your sources. Have your mom take you to the Good Will store or Fabric Store to look over the heavy Wools or Calico's of one color cotton fabrics. Old Style uses Plain and Simple natural fabrics, up to the Fancy style which will use bright and colorful materials. Does your mom have a Sewing machine or do you know someone

that does. we have patterns that can be used to assist you in planning and preparing outfits to be sewn together.

Your Regalia is yours forever, unless you decide to give the items away. This was a tradition of the Native Peoples when they saw troubled people in need of clothing and food to stay alive. We ask that you consider giving your starter outfit to the Nawakwa lodge dance team as you replace your starter outfit pieces with your detailed replacements. These parts will be used to assemble the outfits of future new dancers of the team. Just as you were fit and clad in an outfit on your first day as part of the dance team. Take care of the remaining pieces of your regalia, from moisture and excessive heat or cold.

The current roster is available on our website for all members of the Dance Team. This roster will allow you to freely communicate with one another, E-mail is another great way to stay in contact and discuss bits and parts or troubles in assembling your regalia. Be sure to copy your advisor and Dance Team chief when crafting your regalia, we might just have a suggestion or a source to help you create that right touch that you are looking for which might have matched your reference. In the fall and winter months we try to sponsor several crafting weekends. During these weekends, we can focus and spend time on our outfits and learn new dance techniques. This can be as fun and relaxing as you wish to have them.

Go now, and relive a part of our real American heritage, collect your feathers, collect your Animal parts (be sure to discuss with your mom where and how you wish to care for them until it becomes a part of your regalia), ask your hunting friends to collect these parts and you store them properly until our crafting weekends.

As a team, you and your team chief will decide who is able to go to display your regalia and dance to the drum. Let the Dance Team Chief know of your availability. Our crafting session will be in a warm place. Our dance steps must be practiced so we look like a team.

Welcome brothers to our Nawakwa Lodge