

Dancing Styles

Men's Traditional

A style that developed from the original dance many years ago. Around the late 1800's, only a few dignified warriors were entitled to wear the articles of the traditional dancer: the roach and the bustle. As the dance progressed, tradition changed and more dancers began to put on a bustle and roach.

Men's Fancy

Bright and fast. It combines the popular bustles of traditional dancers, made them larger and brighter, and added feathers, fluffs, and colors. The Fancy Dance has typically been a young man's dance, although many older dancers who are still in shape participate.

Men's Grass

A very old dance rich in history. It was the job of the grass dancers to flatten the grass in the arena before a Wacipi. The name "grass" comes from the old habit of tying braids of sweet grass to the dancer's belts. The Grass Dance is very fluid and bendable; the dancers try to move their fringe in as many places as possible at once.

Women's Fancy Shawl

Similar to Men's Fancy Dance; it is the newest form of dancing. The major feature of this regalia is the brightly colored and elaborately designed shawl, worn over the shoulders. The long fringe flies around the dancer as she jumps and spins to the music.

Jingle Dress

Revered as a healing dance. Legend says the Jingle Dress was given to Indian people in a vision. Cones shaped from chewing tobacco lids are positioned upon masterfully designed cut dresses. Traditionally, a cone is secured on the dress for each day of the year (365 cones).

Woman's Traditional

The oldest type of women's dance. Two important items used by Traditional Dancers are the fan and the shawl. The fan is raised to the drum during the "honor" beats of the songs. The colorful, fringed shawl is carried over one arm. Traditional dancers move with grace and elegance. They sway to the beat of the drum and slightly bend their knees.

Answers

Lost Feathers

If you see a lost feather, or you yourself drop a feather, do NOT pick it up. Notify the nearest Head Dancer or Arena Director immediately.

Drums

The Drum is the heartbeat of Mother Earth. Check with the head singer for permission to sing. Never record a drum without permission. Ask the head singer to tape songs. The MC may also announce that no recording or photographs take place during certain songs.

Photographs

This Wacipi is a public event and taking pictures of the dancers during inter-tribal dances is acceptable. The MC will let you know when you absolutely cannot take photographs. If you wish to photograph an individual dancer in regalia, ask first. Offer to send the dancer copies. They are usually happy to give you a mailing address for that purpose.

Donations are encouraged

Donations are encouraged as a way to honor someone. Our Wacipi is not a fundraising event. We depend upon donations, button sales, raffles, blanket dances, etc for support. Any participant can drop money onto the blanket to help us pay for our Wacipi expenses.

Giveaways

Giveaways are characteristic of Dakota generosity. They are acknowledgements of appreciation. When receiving a gift, the recipient thanks everyone involved in the giving. All special giveaways must be coordinated with the MC. Please remember that it is traditional to make a monetary contribution to the Drum for this request. Clear this through the MC.

Questions

If you have a question, ask. Most dancers, singers, elders and staff are happy to help. Offer a cold drink or other small, symbolic gift to those who help you.

Vendors

At any Wacipi, you will find a wide variety of vendors selling Native American arts, handmade crafts, jewelry, and food. This is often how these vendors make a living, and they sell quality goods at a reasonable price.

Why We Dance

by MariJo Moore

**To dance is to pray,
to pray is to heal,
to heal is to give,
to give is to live,
to live is to dance.**



American Indian dance is a form of praise and worship. It is a way to experience the interconnectedness of life through motion. Dancing is an art that was here before the conception of art ever existed. It is a necessity for Indian people – a necessary spiritual action requiring dedication and a devout sense of reverence.



**Mendota's
14th Annual
Welcome
Home
Traditional
Wacipi/Pow
Wow
13, 14, 15,
2013**

**\$5 entry button donation.
Giveaway!**

**St. Peter's Church Grounds
1405 Sibley Memorial Hwy
Mendota, Minnesota 55150**

Information

Native American dances are more than the word "dance" can describe. They are a ceremony and a prayer that all life encompasses. They produce many emotional and spiritual reactions. Some dances are old, some are brand new. The culture continues to live and evolve.

Listen to the Master of Ceremonies(MC)
He will announce who is to dance and when. We welcome all people to join us in the dance circle during Inter-tribal Dances.

Grand Entry
The Wacipi begins with a Grand Entry of all dancers entering the arena. The MC will announce the beginning of Grand Entry.

Show Respect and Honor
The Head Man and Head Woman Dancers are entitled to start each song. Please wait until they have started to dance before you join in. When the eagle staff is brought in during the grand entry, everyone stands. Hats are removed in respect. That same respect is shown should an eagle feather fall during the dancing. Everything must stop until a proper returning of the feather has been performed.

Seating
The seating around the arena is reserved for dancers in regalia. Seats with blankets, shawls or regalia items on them are taken and should not be bothered. Do NOT sit on someone else's blanket unless invited. It's a good idea to bring your own folding chairs and set them up just behind the outer area of the Arbor.

Don't Touch a Dancer's Regalia
Don't touch any regalia (NEVER costumes). Ornaments have special meanings and many of the handmade ceremonial items, which can cost thousands of dollars, are cherished and sometimes are made by a respected family member. Frequently they are heirlooms and may be delicate.

About Us

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is *to preserve, protect, and promote the Dakota culture for future generations*. We are not affiliated with the other Minnesota Mdewakanton communities (Shakopee, Prairie Island, etc.).

We are a place of acceptance, understanding, and learning. The Dakota people have always shared their ways of life and worked to preserve them. We want future generations of all people to have the opportunity to learn, share, and celebrate our Dakota ways. Our commitment to sustaining Dakota language and culture for both Indian and non-Indian communities is our organization's driving force.

We have been working on federal tribal recognition since March 1996, and we expect this process to continue for several years to come. If we are successful in achieving federal recognition, our status will change, but our commitment to Dakota language and culture will continue to be a driving force.

Long-Range Goals
-Promote and support the preservation of the Dakota culture, including protecting sites of cultural significance to the Dakota people. Preserve and teach the Dakota language.
-Promote a better understanding between the Native American community and the general public.

Accomplishment Highlights
-Obtain federal recognition.
-500% increase in attendance at our annual Wacipi since the first Wacipi in 1999.
-Approximately 200 people have participated in our weekly Dakota language table since they began in 1998.
-Monthly Culture Class
-Instrumental in protecting the spring at Camp Coldwater. The spring, considered the historic birthplace of Minnesota, is part of the Dakota creation story.
-Protected Indian burial mounds from destruction.
-Initiated the establishment of a charter school, language
-Hosted the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires) meetings.
-Dakota Conference for 4 years ending in Aug 2012.

Donations

We operate solely on volunteer labor and financial donations. All donations help support our activities related to preserving, protecting, and promoting the Dakota culture. Your gift is 100% tax deductible. Will you help?

Please bring your donation to the merchandise booth cashier, or mail it to: MMDC, PO Box 50835, Mendota, MN 55150

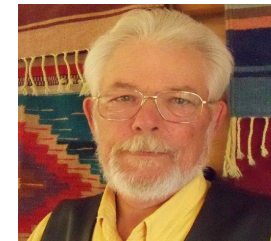
The following individuals and companies provided financial support to this Wacipi.

- Corporate Sponsors**
- Dakota Indian Foundation
 - Cherokee Park United Church
 - PCL Construction Services
 - Friends of the Sibley House
 - White Earth Reservation
 - Dakota Premium Foods
 - Kraus Anderson
 - Iron Workers Local Union 512
 - Lucky 13
 - Union 455 Pipefitters
 - Minnesota Twins Baseball Club
 - Toro
 - Sam's Club
 - Culver
 - Saints
 - Teresa's Mexican
 - Afsome MN Council 5
 - Cub
 - Lee's Education
- Others will be listed on another sheet.

Honoring



Robert Brown
MMDC Founder



Mark LaPointe
Honor Guard

Featuring

- MC:** Mitch Walking Elk
- Arena Director:** Windy Down Wind
- Host Drum:** Scotty Brown Eyes
- Co-Host Drum:** Little Thunder Birds
- Head Men's Dancer:** Nick Anderson
- Head Women's Dancer:** Mary So Happy
- Spiritual Advisor:** TBA

Schedule

Friday, Sept 13
5:05 pm Lighting the Sacred Fire
(Followed by a potluck dinner)
6:30 pm Louis Good Bird Honoring at VFW in Mendota

Saturday, Sept 14
11:00 am..... Dancer Registration
1:00 pm Grand Entry
3:30 pm Bob Brown Honoring
5:00 pm Dancer Registration
7:00 pm Grand Entry
8:00 pm Mark LaPointe Honoring
8:45 pm Registered Dancers Payout

Sunday, Sept 15
11:00 am..... Dancer Registration
1:00 pm Grand Entry
2:30 pm Joey Browner Honoring
5:00 pm Registered Dancers Payout
5:30 pm Closing Ceremony & Feast

Volunteers

It takes an enormous amount of work to host Wacipi. We could not do it without our many volunteers. You make this event, and our community successful. To all our volunteers, we say:

PIDAMAYA! THANK YOU!