

2009 NOAC-AMERICAN INDIAN ACTIVITIES
Contemporary Traditional Style Dance Clothes

NAME _____ LODGE # _____

JUDGE _____ CONTEST# _____

MAXIMUM SCORE 110

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

Item 1: HEAD - Roach, Visor, Roach Feathers, Spreader, **SCORE**
Waapegnaka (Bull's Tail), Mandan Style Feather Headdress (10) _____

Superior: Northern style porcupine/deer tail hair roach, well made and correctly worn. No set length, but fits the dancer's body. Fully/partially beaded, German silver, or bone spreader with two sockets and two imitation eagle tail feathers properly attached. Lane stitched Beaded or quilled bull's tail to match the rest of the beadwork. May include scalp feathers, quilled wheels, etc. Roach pins are usually worn with a large cluster of imitation eagle plumes attached to the end. Feather visors made of imitation eagle feathers, Mandan style headdress, and beaded roach crowns that match the rest of the beadwork in design and style.

Acceptable: Northern style hair roach of poor construction or fiber imitation, excessive in length. Plain leather spreader, ribbon, or other decoration in lieu of bull's tail. Poor quality or missing roach feather, poorly constructed feather visors, poorly constructed Mandan style headdress ("Dog Soldier Headdress")

Incorrect: Feather Roach, animal skins, missing items.

Item 2: NECK - Choker (Bone or Beaded), Scarf with Slide (10) _____
(Beaded or German Silver), Beaded Necktie, Necklaces

Superior: Properly constructed hair pipe, bone tube, dentalium choker with harness leather or bone spacers, or beaded choker that matches the rest of the beadwork in design and style. Appropriately sized metal backed mirror or disc conch shell in the center may be used. No penalties for plastic vs. bone, but no colored pipes or tubes. Beads may be any sort of glass or plastic bead that matches rest of outfit's colors and design. Fabric scarf and a scarf slide which should be of German silver or beaded to match rest of beadwork. Beaded neckties with matching beadwork. If fringe is added it needs to match all other fringe.

Acceptable: Poor construction or doesn't match or coordinate with the rest of outfit

Incorrect: Scout neckerchiefs, improper or missing items.

Item 3: CHEST AREA - Shirt, Vest, Otter, Breastplate, Bandoliers, Cape (10) _____

Superior: Shirts are satin or cotton can be a solid color with an elaborate fabric appliqué design down the sleeves and over the shoulder or a colored print with simple ribbon decoration. Fully or partially (front panels) beaded vests must be done with colors, designs, and beading technique which matches the rest of the outfit's beadwork. Bone Breastplate with two or three sections of 4-inch pipes, or two sections of 4-inch pipes separated by a section of 1-2 inch pipes or appropriate beads. Harness leather spacers with appropriate bead embellishments decorated with beaded or quilled beaded rosettes or pendants, ribbons, hawk bells, etc.

Bandoliers made of bones and beads (see Item 2 for bead standards), or of deer toe/dew claw dangles. “Junk” dangles meet the standard (not as common among contemporary dancers). Loop style or bone and bead necklaces that match the rest of the outfit. Split otter “breastplate” with metal-backed mirrors, quilled wheels, ribbons, and/or quilled or beaded rosettes or pendants that match the rest of the beadwork. Quilled Breastplate made with real quills (not as common among contemporary dancers). Fully or partially beaded cape that matches rest of beadwork set. Cape is fringed with leather or ribbon that matches the rest of outfit.

Acceptable: Lower quality, but properly made examples of all the things listed above. Old time otter “breastplates”. Beadwork that doesn’t match the rest of the outfit.

Incorrect: Bare chest or missing items.

Item 4: ARMS - Arm Bands, Cuffs (10)_____

Superior: Armbands - Fully beaded, German silver/brass, or tooled leather decorated with ribbon, beadwork, quillwork, brass tacks, or mirrors. Fully beaded cuffs with matching colors, designs, and technique of rest of the outfit. Cuffs fringed with leather or ribbon fringe which matches all other fringe. Armbands are not mandatory, especially with elaborately decorated shirt sleeves.

Quilled armbands made with real quills that match or coordinate with rest of the outfit (not as common among contemporary dancers).

Acceptable: Lower quality beadwork that is still correct for designs, colors, and technique, but does not match. Low quality materials.

Incorrect: Brass or German silver cuff or bracelets, missing items.

Item 5: HANDS - Wing or Northern Style Flat Fan, Dance Stick, Shield, or Other. (10)_____

Superior: Appropriately sized wing or Northern style flat fan (Canada goose or turkey for instance). Dance hoop wrapped in otter skin with feather dangles, ribbon, or ermine. Dance stick with imitation eagle claw, cane, mirror board, gunstock war club, or other appropriate. Dance sticks are decorated with beadwork of proper colors, designs, and technique (gourd/peyote stitched or bead wrap) that matches rest of beadwork. Appropriately decorated rawhide shields. Properly constructed pipebags that match the rest of the outfit.

Acceptable: Poor quality fan or poor quality construction on dance sticks, etc.

Incorrect: Improper fans (small straight dance style fans) improperly constructed pipebags, mirrorboards, missing items. Pipes, calumets, sabers, rifles.

Item 6: MID-BODY - Aprons, Side Tabs, Belt, Sash, etc. (10)_____

Superior: Aprons are fully/partially beaded that matches rest of beadwork. High quality selvedge edged wool decorated with appliqué fabric designs, ribbons, metal sequins, ribbon or leather fringe which matches rest of outfit or a combination. Fully beaded side tabs that match in design and color cover the sides with leather or ribbon fringe that matches. Length of aprons and side tabs is personal preference, but should match each other. Belt can be fully/partially beaded, concho or tack belt. Assumption sashes of appropriate color (not as common among contemporary dancers). Beadwork matches rest of beadwork.

Acceptable: Wool without decorations. Beadwork that doesn't match the rest of the outfit.

Improper: Plain felt aprons, Old-style breechcloths, finger woven straight dance sashes, missing items.

Item 7: LEGS - Leggings, Knee Bands, Socks, Tights, (10) _____
Angora Anklets, Bells.

Superior: Leather or fabric leggings decorated with beadwork that matches designs. Fringed with leather or ribbon fringe that matches the rest of the outfit or combination of the two. Beaded knee bands that match the rest of the outfit. Quilled knee bands are rare, but appropriate. Leather or ribbon fringe is attached and matches all other fringe. Solid color athletic socks are worn with or without stripes. Appropriate colored compression pants (tights – usually black) can be worn. Large brass or nickel plated bells (ca. 1" Dia-1 1/2" dia) or sheep bells, or deer toes mounted on harness leather and worn in straps at ankles, leg bells extending from the waist to the ankle can be worn, as appropriate. Ankle fur is of angora or Icelandic sheep and can be dyed a color that matches the rest of outfit. Buffalo fur is also seen. Anklets are not mandatory if wearing leggings.

Acceptable: Plain leggings. Knee bands with no beadwork or doesn't match rest of beadwork. Good quality fake fur representing correct species.

Incorrect: Knee high angora hides like that of a Fancy Dancer, missing items.

Item 8: BUSTLE (10)_____

Superior: Properly sized and constructed U-shaped bustle. Can be one or two rows. Decorated fluffs, hackle tips, angora, spots and/or horsehair. It is made of imitation eagle feathers (hand painted, dyed, goose, hybrid turkey). Two upright spikes can be decorated with hawk bells, quilled strips, and/or fluffs. The bustle will include properly sized trailers of fabric that matches the rest of the outfit. Decorations of feathers, beadwork, fabric appliqué, ribbon, metal sequins etc. Centerpieces made of beaded/quilled rosettes, mirrors, feather clusters. Old-style mess bustles with modern colors can be worn (not as common among contemporary dancers).

Acceptable: Poor quality construction or materials.

Incorrect: Hackle bustles, butterfly bustles.

Item 9: FEET - Plains hard sole moccasins. Fully or partially beaded/quilled. (10) _____

Superior: Properly designed and constructed two-piece, hard sole Northern Plains mocs. Fully or partially beaded/quilled, with proper colors, designs, and techniques. Matches rest of the outfit.

Acceptable: Properly designed and constructed two-piece, hard sole Northern Plains moccasins, undecorated. Or lower quality quill and beadwork.

Improper: Barefoot, tennis shoes, sandals, water socks, etc.

Item 10: 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? Can the dancer correctly answer questions about his outfit’s components?

FINAL SCORE (110)_____

Ribbon Scale

White 1-30 Red 31-60 Blue 61-90 Gold 91-110

A Note to all contestants:

This form is designed to outline what a male contemporary traditional dancer wears at a modern day powwow. It represents the research done by the use of photos and personal experiences at powwows.

It also relied on two excellent written works for “Lakota” style dance clothes:

- (1) The Northern Traditional Dancer by C. Scott Evans, Crazy Crow Trading Post, 1990. Revised 1998.
- (2) The Contemporary ‘Traditional Style’ of the Lakota by Ronnie Theisz, February 13, 1974.

Beyond these two references we have relied on many other reference materials to cover the description of contemporary traditional dance clothes other than Lakota. Numerous books are now available with photos of Contemporary Traditional Dancers. Publications such as *Whispering Wind* also provide excellent information. Many websites were used as references such as www.gatheringofnations.com and www.powwows.com.

The concepts in this form represent the norm with a broad distribution. If a Scout-dancer can document items that fall outside this range, he will receive the appropriate amount of points. It should be said, though, that documentation can be a difficult task and needs to be carefully done. Photos are an excellent first step, but one needs to exercise careful judgment when using photos because many designs and colors have family histories. The combination of photos, authoritative articles, and attending modern day powwows will serve the Scout-dancer well.