

**2009 NOAC-AMERICAN INDIAN ACTIVITIES
Old Time Sioux 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.

STANDARD ITEMS

SCORE

Item 1: HEAD - Roach, Roach Feathers, Spreader, Wapegnaka (Bull tail),
or other period-appropriate headdress. (10)_____

Superior: Northern style porcupine/deer tail hair roach, well made and correctly worn. Usually less than 14 inches in length. Bone or rawhide spreader with bone/wooden sockets and one or two imitation/reproduction golden eagle tail feathers properly attached. Lane stitched or quilled bull's tail w/proper colors and designs. No bull's tail needed if neck bustle is worn. May include scalp feathers, quilled wheels, etc. A warbonnet may be worn if the rest of the outfit matches; i.e., warbonnets were worn by older men with more elaborate outfits. Roach pins may be worn, but they are of the shorter, older style; 6" and longer modern style roach pins do not meet the standard. "Simple" feather headdresses worn at the back of the head meet the standard if they are of the appropriate design and construction.

Acceptable: Northern style hair roach of poor construction or fiber imitation, improper spreader (German silver, etc), ribbon, or other decoration in lieu of bull's tail or neck bustle, poor quality or missing roach feather.

Incorrect: Top hats, bowlers, porkpie hats, Civil War hats, bandanas, fur turbans, non-vintage roaches, granny glasses, sunglasses, northern traditional visors, etc. missing items.

Item 2: NECK - Choker, Peace Medal, Necklace, Neck Bustle, Cotton, (10)_____
or Silk Neckerchief.

Superior: Properly constructed hair pipe, bone tube, otter, or dentalium choker with harness leather-type spacers. Choker should minimum of three rows, preferably four. Ca. 2 1/2" backed mirror or conch shell disk may be used in the center of the choker. No penalties for plastic vs. bone. Beads may be brass, old style tile, Crow, Russians, etc., but aurora borealis beads do not meet standard. Authentic or reproduction Peace Medals of proper date/era may be worn either around the neck or on the breastplate. Neck bustles must be properly constructed and sized with a variety of feathers and feather treatments

Acceptable: Lower quality, but properly made examples of all the things listed above.

Incorrect: Scout neckerchiefs, non-Peace Medal medallions, poor construction does not meet the standard, colored pipes or tubes, missing items.

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

Superior: Buttoned, store bought shirt or union suit. Shirts are plain, light-colored cotton or have simple print designs or stripes: such shirts are typical of commercial shirts available in the

early 1900's; a modern plain or striped dress shirt is a good substitute. A leather warshirt may be worn if it is consistent with the rest of the dancer's outfit. Otter "breastplate" with metal-backed mirrors, quilled wheels, ribbons, quilled or beaded panels meet the standard. (Otter fur or high quality fake otter fur meet the standard.). Bone Breastplates with two or three sections of 4-inch pipes, or two sections of 4-inch pipes with a center section of 1-2 inch pipes or appropriate beads (see Item 2 for bead standards). Harness-type leather spacers are used to separate sections and along each edge. In addition commercial cloth or fully beaded vests meet standard. Cloth vests can be trimmed with beadwork, metal sequins, cowry shells, elk teeth, or quillwork. Fully beaded vests must be done with proper colors, designs, and beading technique to meet standard. Quilled breastplate made with real quills meets the standard. Bandoliers made of beads (see Item 2 for bead standards), or of deer toe/dew claw dangles, or of "junk" dangles meet the standard. If a "junk" type is chosen, the materials should be era-appropriate.

Acceptable: Lower quality/alternative but acceptable materials, properly made examples of all the things listed above.

Incorrect: Modern ribbon shirts, improper materials or prints, bare chest, incorrect beads, etc. , missing items.

Item 4: ARMS - Arm Bands, Cuffs

(10)_____

Superior: Fully beaded (Lane stitched) or quilled armbands and cuffs with proper colors, designs, and technique meet the standard. Brass armbands meet the standard. Beaded, quilled or appropriate brass cuffs can be used, but are not mandatory. Beadwork or quillwork on cuffs does not have to match that on the armbands.

Acceptable: Lower quality beadwork/quillwork that is still correct for designs, colors, and technique. Loom beadwork is acceptable with proper colors and designs. Raffia-simulated quillwork is acceptable.

Missing/Incorrect: Improper colors, designs or construction techniques do not meet the standard. Gauntlets, German silver, plain leather cuffs or cuffs decorated with sequins, tacks, etc. do not meet the standard. Faked beadwork does not meet the standard.

Item 5: HANDS - Wing fan, rope, quirt, pipe bag, or other appropriate hand objects as listed below.

(10)_____

Superior: Appropriately-sized wing fan (Canada goose, for instance). Coiled rope, sweet grass braids and hoops, tomahawk pipes (non-metallic head), quirt, Lane stitched or quilled pipebag, cane (commercial cane of wood with semi-circular handle or straight ivory handle).

Acceptable: Lower quality wing fan, etc. Neatly applied loom beadwork on a pipe bag is acceptable if the colors and designs are correct.

Incorrect: Improper fans (macaw, loose fans, modern fans, etc.) Improperly constructed pipebags, mirrorboards, peace pipes, calumets, shields, spears, lances, sabers, rifles, contemporary traditional dance sticks, Peyote beadwork, missing items.

Item 6: MID-BODY - Breechclout or aprons, tack belt, sash, small pouch, etc. (10)_____

Superior: Breechclout/aprons of high quality wool. Trade cloth or stroud cloth not required: wool is fine. Decorations and materials appropriate to the period (quillwork, ribbons, metal sequins, bone buttons, era appropriate coins, metallic fringe, etc.).

Acceptable: Wool without decoration, wool felt with or without decoration.

Incorrect: Non-wool, incorrect designs, materials, or construction (i.e., contemporary traditional beaded clouts, modern ribbon work, BSA items, etc.), missing items.

Item 7: BUSTLE (10) _____

Superior: Properly sized and constructed Sioux mess bustle appropriate to the period meets the standard. The bustle will typically include a variety of feathers and a variety of treatments i.e.: trimmed, stripped, shaved quills, different sizes in concentric circles, fluff tips, dyed (red, green, purple, orange, etc.) Spikes should be prominent and decorated with fluffs, sweet grass braids, hawk bells, quilled wheels, etc. Properly designed and constructed pheasant bustles meet the standard.

The bustle will include properly sized trailers of wool or buckskin. Decorations of ribbon, metal sequins etc. should be period-appropriate.

The belt can be a tack belt or sash. The sash may be woven or a strip of wool; it can be decorated with a limited number of circular mirrors.

Acceptable: Poor quality construction or materials.

Incorrect: Contemporary bustles, butterfly bustles, other era/tribe-inappropriate bustles, missing items.

Item 8: LEGS - Leggings, long johns, correct fur knee bands or anklets, bells, quilled knee bands, bells, fur. (10)_____

Superior: Wool or hide leggings (properly constructed). Fully or partially beaded Lane stitched or quilled strips, with proper Sioux or northern plains colors, designs, and techniques. If hide leggings are worn, they may be painted with appropriate stripes, etc. Wool or cotton long johns/union suits, plain or dyed, decorated or not. Large brass or nickel plated bells (ca. 1 ¼" Dia-1 ¾" dia.) should be mounted on harness-type leather and worn in straps at knees and/or ankles, and/or legs, as appropriate. Fur knee bands or anklets can be angora, otter, or skunk; bands should be at either knee or ankle but not both (High quality fake fur meets the standard). Bells can be worn in conjunction with the fur knee bands or anklets. If leggings are worn, bells are optional.

Acceptable: Knickers (with plain socks), felt leggings, bells that are too small or improperly worn. For this category, loom beadwork legging strips with correct dimensions, appropriate colors and designs are acceptable.

Incorrect: Non-northern plains leggings, improper colors, designs, techniques; cotton or canvas leggings, jeans, shorts or pants; cow or sheep bells, fur or fake fur from improper species (In particular, the use of coyote will need to be well-documented.) missing items.

Item 9: FEET - Plains hard sole moccasins

(10)_____

Superior: Properly designed and constructed two-piece, hard sole Sioux-style moccasins. Fully or partially beaded or quilled, with proper colors, designs, and techniques meet the standard.

Acceptable: Properly designed and constructed two-piece undecorated hard sole moccasins. Properly designed and constructed two-piece hard sole moccasins with lower quality quill and/or beadwork. Painted deck shoes that imitate Plains hard sole moccasins are acceptable.

Incorrect: Bare feet and improper footwear such as slipper-type moccasins

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? Is the dancer knowledgeable 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 Sioux dancer would have worn from ca. 1890-1930. It represents the research done by the use of vintage photos and articles of clothing in both private and museum collections. It also relied most heavily on two excellent written works:

- (1) "Old Time Sioux Costume" by Norm Feder, The American Indian Hobbyist, Nov.Dec. 1957.
- (2) "Old Time Sioux Dancers" by Mike Tucker, 1969.

Beyond these two references we have relied on many other reference materials. Numerous books are now available with vintage photos and photos of the many items used by Old Time Sioux dancers that are now part of museum or private collections. Publications such as Whispering Wind also provide excellent information.

Of course, there were Sioux dances in earlier and later years than 1890-1930 and the outfits varied somewhat from what is described here. These dates are not "hard-edged" and there can be exceptions. However, 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. Vintage photos are an excellent first step, but one needs to exercise careful judgement when using photos that were posed. This is especially true of what are termed, "studio photos" since many of these feature items that belonged to the photographer and were loaned to the Native American being photographed.

The combination of vintage photos, photos of items from collections, both public and private, and authoritative articles will serve the Scout-dancer well.