girl scouts spirit of nebraska



Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska and MCC Fort Omaha Intertribal Powwow Patch Program

The Metropolitan Community College Fort Omaha Intertribal Powwow offers Girl Scouts an opportunity to learn about Native American cultures, traditions, history, art, music, dance, foods, and contemporary tribal communities.

This patch program is designed to encourage **respectful observation, participation, cultural learning, and reflection**. Girl Scouts should spend enough time at the Powwow to meaningfully participate in the required number of activities for their level. While they are not expected to attend the entire event, completion of the patch should reflect a genuine Powwow experience rather than a brief visit.

How to Participate

Girl Scouts should complete the required number of activities for their Girl Scout level and spend enough time at the Powwow to engage meaningfully in the experience.

Before leaving, Girl Scouts should have their troop leader/adult verify completion of the activity requirements. **Patches will not be distributed on-site at the Powwow.** They're available for purchase at the Girl Scout Shop or by emailing shop@girlscoutsnebraska.org.

Before You Begin: Powwow Respect and Etiquette

A powwow is a cultural gathering and should be approached respectfully.

- Listen to and follow instructions given by the emcee and arena director.
- Ask permission before taking close-up photographs of dancers or individuals.
- Do not take photographs when the emcee announces that photography is not permitted.

- Never touch another person's regalia, feathers, instruments, artwork, or personal belongings without permission.
- Be respectful of the drum and the people surrounding it.
- Stand and remove hats when instructed during prayers, honor songs, flag songs, or other ceremonial moments.
- If visitors are invited to participate in an intertribal dance, Girl Scouts may respectfully join.
- Remember that Native American people and tribal nations are part of **contemporary American life**, not simply people or cultures from the past.

Regalia, Not Costume

Powwow dancers wear **regalia**, not costumes. A costume is generally clothing worn to portray a character or pretend to be someone or something else. Powwow dancers are not pretending to be Native American.

Regalia may include clothing, beadwork, feathers, jewelry, moccasins, and other items that can hold personal, family, cultural, tribal, or spiritual meaning.

Throughout your Powwow experience, use the word **regalia** when referring to what dancers wear.

Cadette Girl Scouts

Complete at least 7 activities.

1. Regalia and Respect

Explain the difference between regalia and costume and why using the correct word matters.

2. Powwow Protocol

Identify four expectations for respectful powwow participation and explain why they matter.

3. Learn About a Nebraska Tribal Nation

Learn about one tribal nation connected to Nebraska, including its location, history, culture, and contemporary community.

4. Listen to the Drum

Observe a drum group and describe the relationship among the singers, drum, dancers, and arena.

5. Dance and Regalia

Observe two dance styles and compare the movement, rhythm, or regalia.

6. Discover Beadwork

Choose an example of beadwork and learn about the materials, technique, use, or cultural connection.

7. Explore Quilts and Textiles

Observe a quilt, star quilt, clothing item, or other textile art. Learn something about its design, use, or cultural significance.

8. Explore Native Foods

Try or learn about a Native food represented at the Powwow. Find out something about its ingredients, preparation, history, or cultural significance.

9. Powwow Princess and Leadership

Learn about the Powwow Princess and her role. Identify three leadership qualities that would help someone represent her community well.

10. Listen to the Emcee

Spend time intentionally listening to the emcee and identify three things you learned.

11. Attend a Study Circle or Demonstration

Attend an educational session and summarize what you learned.

12. Standing Bear and Fort Omaha

Learn about Chief Standing Bear's connection to Fort Omaha and why his story is important.

13. Native Communities Today

Identify four examples showing that Native cultures and communities continue to thrive today.

14. Grand Entry — Optional

If you attend Grand Entry, observe the ceremony and discuss what makes the opening meaningful.

15. Reflect

Complete this statement:

Before attending the Powwow, I thought or wondered _____. After attending, I learned _____.

For Adult Leaders and Families

Adults are encouraged to help girls observe, ask questions, and reflect on what they experience.

Try asking:

- What did you notice?
- What surprised you?
- What did you learn?
- What would you like to know more about?
- How did you show respect?
- What was your favorite part of the Powwow?

Adults should not ask dancers, elders, artists, or other Native participants to answer questions simply so a girl can complete a patch requirement. Respect for people and the cultural gathering always comes first.

About the MCC Fort Omaha Intertribal Powwow

The Fort Omaha Intertribal Powwow is held at Metropolitan Community College's historic Fort Omaha Campus. The annual gathering celebrates Native American dance, music, regalia, oral history, artistry, food, community, and cultural traditions while providing opportunities for learning and cultural exchange.

Fort Omaha also holds historical significance through its connection to Ponca Chief Standing Bear and his people.

Come to learn. Listen with respect. Participate when invited. Leave knowing more than when you arrived.