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.

Junior Girl Scouts

Complete at least 6 activities.

1. Regalia, Not Costume

Explain why *regalia* and *costume* do not mean the same thing.

2. Powwow Etiquette

Learn four expectations for respectful powwow behavior and explain why one is important.

3. Learn About a Nebraska Tribal Nation

Choose one tribal nation connected to Nebraska. Learn where its community is located and two facts about its history, culture, or life today.

4. Listen to the Drum

Listen to a drum group and observe how the singers, drum, dancers, and arena activities connect.

5. Explore Dance Traditions

Observe two dancers or dance styles and identify similarities or differences.

6. Discover Beadwork

Find an example of beadwork and learn something about its materials, patterns, or use.

7. Explore Quilts and Textiles

Look for quilts, star quilts, clothing, or another textile art. Learn something about the design, craftsmanship, or how the item may be used.

8. Explore Native Foods

Try or learn about a Native food represented at the Powwow. Identify an ingredient, preparation method, or something you learned about the food.

9. Learn About the Powwow Princess

Learn about the Powwow Princess and what her role represents. Identify two qualities you think someone representing a community should demonstrate.

10. Learn from the Emcee

Listen to the emcee and identify two things you learned.

11. Attend a Demonstration or Study Circle

Attend an educational activity or demonstration and share two things you learned.

12. Fort Omaha and Standing Bear

Learn why Fort Omaha is important in the story of Ponca Chief Standing Bear.

13. Native Nations Today

Identify three things at the Powwow that show Native cultures are living and active today.

14. Grand Entry — Optional

If you are present, observe Grand Entry and discuss why it is an important part of the Powwow.

15. Share What You Learned

Teach a friend or family member three things you 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.