



# UNITED TRIBES INTERNATIONAL POWWOW

2026 marks the 56th Annual United Tribes International Powwow held at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, North Dakota. The Powwow is held annually in the Lone Star Arena and has become one of the premier cultural events of North Dakota, receiving numerous awards over the years. Representing over 70 tribes, featuring over 1500 dancers and drummers, and drawing over 20,000 spectators the Powwow has become a must-see event! The Powwow is always the Friday – Sunday after the USA’s Labor Day weekend in early September; September 11-13, 2026.

## **SAMPLE Itinerary:**

### **Friday:**

10:00 a.m. YOUTH DAY ACTIVITIES  
6:45 p.m. DRUM ROLL CALL/PRAYER  
7:00 p.m. **FIRST GRAND ENTRY**  
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION  
Introductions of Special Guests and Dignitaries  
INTERTRIBALS  
TINY TOTS  
DANCE CONTEST BEGINS  
Committee Special  
ADULT DANCE CONTEST

### **Saturday:**

12:45 p.m. DRUM ROLL CALL/ PRAYER  
1:00 p.m. **SECOND GRAND ENTRY**  
Introductions of Special Guests and Dignitaries  
2:00 p.m. Golden Age Women Special  
INTERTRIBALS  
TINY TOTS  
DANCE CONTEST CONTINUES  
4:30 p.m. Free Feed  
6:45 p.m. DRUM ROLL CALL/PRAYER  
7:00 p.m. **THIRD GRAND ENTRY**  
Introductions of Special Guests and Dignitaries  
8:00 p.m. INTERTRIBALS  
TINY TOTS  
9:00 p.m. Committee Special  
ADULT DANCE CONTEST CONTINUES



## **Sunday:**

10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP SERVICES: ALL NATIONS ASSEMBLY OF GOD WORSHIP SERVICE
12:30 p.m.	DRUM ROLL CALL/PRAYER
<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>FOURTH GRAND ENTRY</b> Introductions of Special Guests and Dignitaries
2:00 p.m.	Veteran's Honor Song and Dance Special TINY TOTS DANCE CONTEST CONTINUES Committee Special Tie Breakers
4:00 p.m.	FREE BUFFALO/BEEF FEED (Everyone Invited: Visitors, Guests, Spectators, etc.)

AWARDS PRESENTED TO ALL SINGING/DANCING POWWOW "CHAMPIONS"

### **What is a powwow?**

The word powwow, is a noun an Eastern Algonquian language used to describe a gathering of Native people; however, in Indian Country, the event is defined as a cultural celebration that features group singing and dancing by men, women and children. Cultural traditions such as values and spirituality are passed from generation to generation during these social gatherings. Skilled Native American artisans travel across the country to attend various powwows to display and sell their hand-made goods. The powwow is a welcome opportunity to visit with friends and relatives, trade or sell Native arts and crafts, and enjoy great traditional and contemporary foods.

### **Grand Entry**

The first to enter the Arena are veterans carrying Eagle Feather Staffs, national, state and tribal and veterans' flags. Visiting dignitaries and royalty are next. Men's traditional dancers enter first behind the dignitaries followed by the remaining dancer categories, moving clockwise around the arena. After all the dancers have entered, then comes a prayer followed by a flag and victory song (you should remain standing until the flags are posted).

### **Intertribals**

Everyone is invited to join the dancers in the arena when an intertribal dance is announced. You need not be in regalia but are asked to be respectful at all times. Walk in time with the beat and watch others around you to see what they do. Always be mindful of others.

### **Regalia**

There are many dance types with categories divided by age and gender. The regalia worn by each dancer is determined by the category in which they compete. Please do not touch any part of the dancer's regalia without permission.

### **Ceremonies and Traditions**

**Fallen Warrior Ceremony:** If an eagle feather from someone's regalia inadvertently falls to the ground, an Eagle Ceremony is conducted by veterans to retrieve what they consider the Fallen Warrior. Tribal People have the highest respect for the eagle as they believe the eagle flies higher than any other being and carries prayers to the Creator. Possession of an eagle feather is an honor. Please, no photography during this ceremony.

### **Powwow Etiquette**

Please show respect during the Grand Entry and prayers by removing your cap or hat and standing. You may sit if you are elderly or have a medical condition that prevents you from standing. Please refrain from talking during prayer. Listen to the master of ceremonies.

- Clothing worn by participants is known as regalia and not to be called a costume.
- Do not touch the dancers or their regalia.
- Please ask dancers before you take their photo. Be polite by asking permission as some dancers may have spiritual reasons for avoiding photos.
- Photographers are asked not to enter the dance arena to take photos, nor are they allowed to photograph during prayers and ceremonies.
- When a blanket dance is announced, be prepared to donate a few dollars when the blanket passes. The money will be donated to the person or drum group being honored.
- Leave the lawn chairs around the area alone; they're for the dancers. You may bring your own; please make room for others.
- Don't be afraid to ask people around you to explain things that you may not understand. People are friendly and will be eager to share their knowledge.
- Shaking hands is an important acknowledgement of another person. This is done gently not forcefully. Native children learn this custom at a young age.
- Because this is a sacred gathering, drugs and alcohol are not tolerated on powwow grounds under any circumstances.