**Birthday Feather Ceremony**

**Colored Feathers to Recognize Childs Age**

**Overview:** This ceremony be performed on its own or within a larger overall ceremony. It is based on recognizing the age of each child and honoring them with a specific colored feather for each age year. The intent would be to perform this once per year so that all children eventually are honored with all the colors.

Gather the Longhouse in a circle seated two rows deep (children in the front row with parents seated behind).

Prepare for enough of each colored feather as within.

**Participants:**

* Longhouse Chief, or other as the leader/main presenter.
* Assistants as desired.
* Drumbeater if desired.

**Birthday Feather Ceremony**

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| Scene | *(Longhouse is seated in a circle, two rows with children in front)*  |
| Drumbeater | *(Leader signals drumbeater when to start / stop).*  |
| Chief | Great Spirit, our heavenly Father, Creator of all, we gather to honor the children of our Longhouse in a special way. We ask that you be present with us here.Sons and Daughters, as you grow in body, you also grow in mind. As you young braves grows in spirit, so you add wisdom to your Tribe. |
| Chief | Will all Sons and Daughters who are 5 years old, and their father, please stand. You Sons & Daughters will receive the **ORANGE** feather. **ORANGE** shows that you are growing and changing as the colors of nature constantly change.*(Walking to each child)* Young Brave, what is your Indian name? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSE)Receive the **ORANGE** feather that represents you at age of 5. (Present Feather to father) I ask your Big Brave father to hold this feather. (Complete all 5 year old children. Once complete…) Sons and Daughters, turn and face your fathers. Fathers, please place the ORANGE feather in the headband of your Son or Daughter. (PAUSE) The (Longhouse Name) Longhouse applauds you. You may now be seated. |
|  | *(REPEAT ABOVE FOR ALL AGES & MEANINGS AS BELOW)* |
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| ***AGE*** | ***COLOR*** | ***MEANING*** |
| 6 | YELLOW | Shows that you grow in warmth and learn how to be true friends and share what you have with others. |
| 7 | RED | Shows the heart in you that grows with each passing year as you learn to love your family and your fellow man. |
| 8 | GREEN | Shows that you are learning of nature and respect for it and of all the things around you. |
| 9 | BLUE | Shows that you have a calmness and peace about you as you grow in mind and spirit. |
| 10 | BLACK | Shows that you continue to learn and grow and mature. It represents the ties that bind parent and child together as “Pals Forever-Friends Always”. |

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| Chief | O Great Spirit, as our young Sons & Daughters have received their feathers, they ask for your guidance on every path along life’s way. And now, Sons & Daughters, our young Braves, it is our hope that you accept encouragement, seek to understand others, receive confidence, learn humility, practice fair play and good sportsmanship, earn the respect and accept the love of your father, become a good citizen, and moreover, accept spiritual guidance. O Great Spirit, hear this our prayer to you!! (Shout Longhouse salutation) |
| Drumbeater | *(Drumbeats as desired)*  |

Adapted from Sylvania, OH