**Feather Ceremony of the Four Ways**

**The Feathers Representing the Four Ways or Directions**

**Overview:** This ceremony could be used as part of an opening to a council fire or as a stand-alone ceremony. It can be performed around a council fire or a smaller campfire as desired, or even without a campfire in an indoor setting.

4 large quill feathers (or a small group of each) in the colors Yellow, Green, Red and White. These should be fixed to a mount of some sort so they stand or lay, but are weighed in place such that they cannot blow away.

**Participants:**

* Chief: Leader of ceremony.
* Assistants as desired.
* Drumbeater

**Relevant Ceremonial Pieces:** You may wish to incorporate this ceremony with other ceremonial components to form your full ceremony. The following are basic suggestions. Your creativity is your limit.

* Council Fire Lighting
* Inductions, Graduation, End of Year or Other Council Fire Ceremony
* Officer Inductions
* Special Awards
* Ceremonial Closing

**CEREMONY**

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| Scene | *(Council fire is already burning. Longhouse is gathered around fire* |
| Drumbeater | *(Leader signals drumbeater when to start / stop).* |
| Chief | Great Spirit, our heavenly Father, Creator of all that is nature, we humbly come to you in the midst of nature’s splendor. We ask that you be present with us here.  The Native Americans believe that perfect manhood or womanhood is achieved in the Four Ways. These feathers are the symbols of the Four Ways. |
| Assistant | *(Walk around fire and place the feathers at the four directions, just outside the fire.)* |
| Chief | *(Walks the East point, next to the yellow feathers)*  **YELLOW**… represents the Body. Its direction is East, where the sun always rises. The body is to serve us. It is the temple of the Spirit. Develop it to its fullest extent.  Yellow also represents courage. Defend yourself. Walk safely in darkness. Say NO to that which is wrong. |
|  | *(Walks the South point, next to the green feathers)*  **GREEN**… represents the Mind. Its direction is South, from whence comes warmth and all growing things.  Know the ways of your people. Learn all you can about the world and the people in it. Learn to be honest and true, first to yourself, then to others. |
|  | *(Walks the West point, next to the red feathers)*  **RED**… represents the Great Spirit. Its direction is West, where the sun always sets.  Know the great Spirit. Live by a good moral code that represents the best of who we are. Set a good example… be friendly, be courteous, be respectful and be considerate. |
|  | *(Walks the North point, next to the white feathers)*  **WHITE**… represents Service, the most important of all. It direction is North, where Coldmaker lives. The purity of snow combines the flames of all the others.  Be of service to others by word, deed and example. |
| Chief | It is this creed by which the Native American Indian seeks to emulate, to achieve and show by example. And hopefully, each of us will exemplify this creed in all that we do with our families, and with others. |
| Drumbeater | *(Drumbeats as desired)* |
|  | **CONTINUE WITH CEREMONY** |