**Induction Ceremony**

**Longhouse Officers-Short Form**

**Overview:** This ceremony is used to induct and welcome new Longhouse Officers. Generally performed by the current or outgoing Longhouse Chief and Assistant/Medicine Man. It can be used by itself or as a part of a larger ceremony. Adjust wording as necessary to fit needs.

**Participants:**

* Chief: Ceremonial Leader
* Medicine Man (or Assistant Chief): Co-leader of ceremony
* All new Longhouse Officers

**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.

* Parade to Ceremonial Location
* Sacred Fire Lighting
* Inductions or Graduation of members
* Special Awards
* Ceremonial Closing

**CEREMONY**

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| Drum | 12 Beats |
| Chief | We are in the spring season, at time for new things to grow. The tribes we have just inducted are also just beginning to grow in the true fellowship that only a father and son/daughter may know. Tonight, we see the fruits of last spring in the men that volunteered to lead this Longhouse and sit at this Council fire. |
|  | *(The names, Indian names and the tribe names that each outgoing officer is from are read aloud)* |
|  | These Officers have serves the Longhouse well. They have brought many new tribes with many new members into the Longhouse. They have directed and guided us, and helped to add much wampum to our belts. |
|  | These Officers will now assist me in starting the growing process for next year’s leaders. The seed is good that you have chosen. The opportunity for them and this Longhouse to grow in our community is great, the ultimate harvest we seek from them is guidance toward better father-child relationships. |
| Medicine Man | Will the following fathers and their sons/daughters please come forward:  *(Announce the name, Indian name, Officer title and then child’s name/Indian name)*  *(The father and child shall come forward to the front of the council fire. Direct them as necessary)* |
|  | You have been chosen (or have volunteered) to lead and direct our Longhouse for the coming year. This honor, this responsibility has been given to you because your interests and your abilities will be an asset to the position you will hold. The Longhouse cannot help but to benefit from your talents. A father’s leadership of Native Sons & Daughters is the vital force that directs it. |
|  | Please answer “I will”, loudly to the following questions…  Do you, as Officers of your Longhouse, pledge to give your Nations your whole-hearted support? (I Will)  Will you put forth your best efforts to help other fathers and children find the joys of the father-child relationship? (I Will)  Will you make every effort to attend all meetings required by your office and carry out those responsibilities assigned to you, to the best of your ability? (I Will)  Will it be your aim to be Pals Forever and Friends Always with children as a living example of the Native Sons & Daughters movement? (I Will) |

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| Chief | Having pledged yourself to these things, you are directed to lead the Longhouse so they will continue to be solid units of fathers and children striving to preserve the family unit as the guiding force in the lives of our children. This being our united concern, and having accepted your responsibility in front of our Longhouse, you are hereby inducted as Officers of our Longhouse. |
| Medicine Man | *(Presentation of the Peace Pipe and/or any emblems (patches, pins, etc.) that represent the officers and their positions. If officer position patches are given, it is also fitting to present each child with that patch as well along with a “My Dad Is” rocker patch to accompany the patch)* |
| Medicine Man | Oh Great Spirit, we ask your blessing on these fathers and their children here today, and especially these new Longhouse leaders. Guide them in your service, strengthen their hearts and make them steadfast with firmness of mind. Help them in the guidance of our program, in their leadership in the days to come. We ask this in Your Name… Amen. |
| Chief / ALL | I ask the Longhouse to applaud these new Officers. (*Chief shouts the Longhouse salutation, then all repeat/shout in approval)* |

Contributed by: Dearborn Michigan Federation