**Induction Ceremony**

**Longhouse Officers-Long Form**

**Overview:** This ceremony is longer, a more dramatic version of what can be used to induct and welcome new Longhouse Officers. Generally performed by the current or outgoing Longhouse Chief and the other outgoing Officers (i.e. Outgoing Wampum inducts incoming New Wampum, etc.). It can be used by itself or as a part of a larger ceremony. Adjust wording as necessary to fit needs.

**Participants:**

* Current Chief: Ceremonial Leader
* Current 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
* Induction or Graduation of members
* Special Awards
* Ceremonial Closing

**CEREMONY**

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| Medicine Man | Great Chief, the sun has left to make a place for the moon, and the forest is covered with the dark blanket of night. It is now time to honor those Chiefs who will serve on the Council of Elders for the coming twelve moons.  |
| Chief | You speak with a straight tongue. But it is fitting that those who have served on the old Council help us in bringing our brothers into the new Council and that they direct their footsteps along the pathways they will be responsible for. Call the old Council members and their children into the mystic circle.  |
| Med. Man | (**Indian Name**) Assistant Chief |
|  | (**Indian Name**) Wampum Bearer |
|  | (**Indian Name**) Talley Keeper |
|  | (**Indian Name**) Sachem |
|  | *(ADD OTHER OFFICERS AS NECESSARY)* |
| Chief | Members of the Council, you have served our brothers well. The decisions you have made have been just and wise and helped to strengthen the ties of our tribes. By example, you have encouraged us all to be better people. On behalf of the Fathers and children in our Longhouse, I thank you for a task well done. |
|  | It is good that we assemble in friendship to welcome our new brothers to the Council of the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse. |
|  | Your new Longhouse Chief for the coming moons is (**name/Indian name**) of the (**Tribe Name**) tribe |
|  | *(New Chief steps into the circle with their children and face the Longhouse. The present Longhouse Chief and his child faces them. Current Chief removes his headdress bonnet and hands it to his son.)* |
|  | I charge you, (**New Chief Indian Name**), to faithfully and honestly represent all Fathers and children as the new Chief of our Longhouse. As Chief, you shall preside at all Longhouse meetings with fairness; you shall appoint certain fathers from our tribes to assist you in your duties. For the common good of the Longhouse; you should toil diligently to further Native Sons & Daughters in our lands and the lands of our neighbors, and you should cause the sun to shine in the hearts of all our Fathers and children, as long as the grass grows and the water runs. Do you solemnly agree to this? |
| New Chief | I do !! |

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|  | *(Chiefs son hands headdress to New Chief’s son)* |
| Chief | As the symbol of the office, you shall assume on the first day of the (**Moon name of Month**) Moon, your son will place this headdress of eagle feathers on your head.  |
|  | *(New Chief’s son places headdress on his father, they then stay in place)* |
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|  | *(New Assistant Chief is led forward with his son and faces the Longhouse. Current Assistant Chief and his son move into position and he removes and hands his headdress bonnet to his son)* |
| Assist Chief | As Assistant Chief of our Longhouse, I charge you (**New Assistant Chief Name**) to support and assist the Chief in his duties. I further direct you to well and faithfully bring new members into our Longhouse, and through your instruction, guide their footsteps along the pathway of true companionship. Do you promise to do all this? |
| New Assist | I do !! |
|  | *(Assistant Chief son hands headdress to New Assistant Chiefs son)* |
| Assist Chief | As a symbol of the high office you will hold, I transfer this emblem into your safekeeping, and instruct you to be mindful of your duties whenever you see it. |
|  | *Assistant Chief and his son retire, New Assistant and his son remain in place)*  |
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|  | *(New Wampum Bearer is led forward with his son and faces the Longhouse. Current Wampum and his son move into position and he removes and hands his headdress bonnet and/or Wampum pouch to his son)* |
| Wampum Bearer | The labor and concerns of the Wampum Bearer are many. His patience must be that of a pine tree, and his strength like the North wind. The welfare and security of the Longhouse wampum is placed trustingly into your hands. (**New Wampum Bearer Name)**, do you pledge to faithfully, dutifully, and wisely protect and control the wampum of our Longhouse? |
| New Wampum | I do !! |
|  | *(Wampum’s son hands headdress and/or pouch to the New Wampum’s son)* |
| Wampum | New Wampum, your son now places into your hands, the Longhouse wampum pouch (and/or headdress) as a sacred symbol of your place on the new Council. |
|  | *(Wampum and his son retire; New Wampum and his son remain in place)* |

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|  | *(New Talley Keeper is led forward with his son and faces the Longhouse. Current Talley and his son move into position and he removes and hands his headdress bonnet and/or writing quill to his son)* |
| Talley Keep | It is good to keep a record of what our Big Brave, sons and daughters have done and are doing. This art of picture writing, the creation of our Smoke Signals and the messages sent far across this land are duties of the Talley Keeper. As an emissary of our Longhouse, he must be ever mindful of the power of his words.**(New Talley Keeper Name)**, do you pledge yourself to fulfill these obligations to your brothers? |
| New Talley | I do !! |
|  | *(Talley Keeper’s son hands headdress and/or quill to the new Talley’s son)* |
| Talley Keep | Receive then, this quill (and/or headdress) from your son as a symbol of the new position on our Council that your brothers have decreed for you. |
|  | *(Talley Keeper and his son retire; New Talley Keeper and his son remain in place)* |
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|  | *(New Sachem is led forward with his son and faces the Longhouse. Current Sachem and his son move into position and he removes and hands his headdress bonnet and/or other sacred symbol of wisdom to his son)* |
| Sachem | Friends shall we be, in sun and storm we will point our arrows together. But what good is it to point arrows if they have no purpose to serve or duty to perform? It is better that wisdom come little by little so that a purpose is always evident. The Sachem shall, through his wise counsel, help us to point our arrows along the pathway of truth and light. He shall both receive and give direction in counsel with our Chief, and serve all our brothers as best he can. (**New Sachem) Name**, will you thus faithfully help your brothers? |
| New Sachem | I will !! |
|  | *(Sachems son transfers symbol of wisdom to New Sachem’s son)* |
| Sachem  | As a symbol of your new place of honor in this Council, your son will transfer this into your safekeeping.  |
|  | *(New Sachem’s son passes the symbol of wisdom to his father; the New Sachem remains in place. Old Sachem and son retire)* |
|  | *(New Medicine Man is led forward with his son and face the Longhouse. Current Medicine Man and his son move into position and he removes and hands his headdress to his son)* |

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| Medicine Man | Our friends are many, as the leaves on the trees are they—yes, they are like the grass. And yet, we must never forget the Great Spirit who has brought us together as friends. The Medicine Man must help us to be ever mindful of the Great One. He must instruct us about the ways of our people, and he must counsel us to follow the right trails. Do you, (**New Medicine Man Name)** pledge to do all this? |
| New Med Man | I do !! |
|  | *(Medicine Man’s son transfers the headdress to the New Medicine Man’s son)* |
| Medicine Man | Let your son present you with the symbol of your duties to the Longhouse. |
|  | *(Old Medicine Man and his son retire)* |
| New Chief | Members of the Longhouse, I speak with a straight tongue when I tell you that it is good to gather here in this Council ring, for a circle is power. Together we are strong, like many arrows held together, but one by one, we are weak. These Braves have stepped forward to lead our Longhouse in the moons ahead, even as each Indian village would select those that would lead them. But I tell you that they cannot function alone—each and every Brave here must assist and support our Council in the times ahead. As a token of our unity with these leaders, let us recite together with our Medicine Man, The Six Aims of the Native Sons and daughters Program.  |
| New Medicine Man | *(Leads the Longhouse in reciting the Six Aims)* |
| New Chief | The sun shines strong in my heart as I tell you that these Braves have honorable been brought into the longhouse Council and will begin their duties on the first sun of the (**Moon Name of Month**) Moon.  |
|  | *(Raises his hand over the Longhouse)* |
|  | May the peace of the forest, the song of the birds, the inspiration of the hills, the warmth of the sun, the strength of the trees, the fragrance of the flowers, the joy of the wind, and the calm of the lake – in all of which is the Creator of all good things, be in our hearts tonight and always. |
| Chief / ALL | *(Chief shouts the Longhouse salutation, then all repeat/shout in approval)* |

Contributed by: Northwest Detroit, Michigan Federation