**Induction Ceremony**

**Longhouse Officers & Tribal Chiefs**

**Overview:** This ceremony is a slightly more dramatic version of what can be used to induct and welcome new Longhouse Officers and Tribal Chiefs. Generally performed by the current or outgoing Longhouse Chief but could also include each outgoing officer, 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
* Other outgoing officers if it is desire do to include them.
* All new Longhouse Officers and Tribal Chiefs

**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**

**TRIBAL CHIEFS**

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| Chief | I call forward the old and new tribal chiefs and their Sons & Daughters representing the Tribes of the (**Longhouse Nam**e) Longhouse. *(PAUSE)*  Tell us your Indian Name, if you are an old Chief or a new Chief and the name of the might tribe you represent. *(PAUSE*) |
|  | The Great Spirit has been careful in helping your tribes to select Chiefs. They are the most important link to the Longhouse, as they attend the monthly meetings and return with important information for each tribal member.  Will you, as new Chiefs, continue to support your Longhouse, with your presence and hard work throughout the coming year? If so, say I WILL! *(PAUSE)* |
|  | Will you, as the Chiefs Sons & Daughters, continue to follow the Six Aims and help the new Chief, your father, with the requirements of this important office? If so, say, I WILL! *(PAUSE)* |
|  | I ask that the old chiefs son or daughters give each new Chiefs son or daughter an Eagle feather, representing this important position. *(PAUSE)* |
|  | New Chiefs, please kneel to your son or daughter to receive this feather in your headband.  A big (**Longhouse salutation**) for all these old and new Tribal Chiefs. |
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| **SCRIBE (The Passing of the Rug)** | |
| Chief | I call forward the old and new Longhouse Scribe and their Sons & Daughters. *(PAUSE)*  Oh Great Spirit, you have watched over our Smoke Signals with great diligence and guided (**Old scribe Indian Name**) to keep us informed. Will you (**New Scribe Indian Name**) follow in these footsteps and continue to make certain that we are always informed? If so, say I WILL! *(PAUSE)* |
|  | And will you, all members of the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse, endeavor to supply our Scribe with correct information so that he will be able to perform his task? If so, say I WILL! *(PAUSE)* |
| Old Scribe | *(Hands new Scribe the ceremonial Rug)* |
| Chief | I charge you as the New Scribe to prompt our Longhouse to be sure we are well informed.  A big (**Longhouse salutation**) for these old and new Scribes. |
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| **Tally Keeper (The Passing of the Quill)** | |
| Chief | I call forward the old and new Longhouse Talley Keepers and their Sons & Daughters. *(PAUSE)*  Oh Great Spirit, you have watched over (**Old Talley Keeper Indian Name**) and helped him keep the minutes of the Longhouse meetings accurate and timely. Will you (**New Talley Keeper Indian Name**) continue to supply us with these important minutes and keep each Tribe Chief properly informed? If so, say I IWILL! *(PAUSE)* |
| Old Talley Keeper | *(Hands the New Talley Keeper the Quill)* |
| Chief | I charge you as the New Talley Keeper of the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse to take accurate minutes of all Longhouse meetings and functions.  A big (**Longhouse salutation**) for these old and new Talley Keepers. |
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| **WAMPUM BEARER (The Passing of the Wampum Bag or Belt)** | |
| Chief | I call forward the old and new Longhouse Wampum Bearers and their Sons & Daughters. *(PAUSE)*  Oh Great Spirit, you have watched over (**Old Wampum Indian Name**) and continued to allow us a favorable balance. Will you (**New Wampum Indian Name**) continue to show integrity and trust in the keeping of our important Longhouse funds? If so, say I WILL! *(PAUSE)* |
| Old Wampum | *(Hands the New Wampum the Wampum Bag or Belt)* |
| Chief | I charge you as the New Wampum Bearer to maintain accurate and readable books, and to be a good steward our funds, so that the Longhouse can continue to be strong.  A big (**Longhouse salutation**) for these old and new Wampum Bearers. |
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| **MEDICINE MAN OR SACHEM (The Passing of the Horns)** | |
| Chief | I call forward the old and new Longhouse Medicine Men and their Sons & Daughters. *(PAUSE)*  Oh Great Spirit, you have watch over (**Old Med Man Indian Name**) as he performed the important duties of being the mighty Medicine Man and protecting us in the absence of our Chief. And now, will you (**New Med Man Indian Name**) also endeavor to learn the ways of the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse and lead our children with their parent s to a safe and fulfilling future in our Longhouse? If so, say I WILL! *(PAUSE)* I ask that you Medicine Men kneel. |

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| **MEDICINE MAN or SACHEM (cont.)** | |
| Chief | I ask the Old Medicine Man’s son or daughter to remove your father’s horns and pass them to the New Medicine Man’s son or daughter *(PAUSE)* I ask that our New Medicine Man’s son or daughter place the horns onto the head of your father.  I therefore charge you watch closely after this Longhouse to see that it does not stumble and to uphold the traditions and rituals of the Native ways.  A big (**Longhouse salutation**) for these old and new Medicine Men |
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| **LONGHOUSE CHIEF (The Passing of the Headdress)** | |
| Outgoing Chief | I call forward the new Longhouse Chief and their Sons & Daughters. *(PAUSE)*  It is with a sad heart that I now must leave you to become the ELDER. I however, leave it in capable hands.  Will you (New Longhouse Chief Indian Name) continue to lead this (Longhouse Name) Longhouse so that it does not falter? If so, say I WILL! *(PAUSE)*  Will you continue to look after our most precious gifts, our Sons & Daughters? If so, say I WILL! *(PAUSE)*  Will you strive to make this (Longhouse Name) Longhouse the strongest it ever has been? If so, say I WILL! *(PAUSE)* |
|  | *(The Old Chief and the New Chief kneel so that their son or daughter may pass the headdress. Old Chief child passes removes headdress and passes it to the New Chiefs child who then places it on the head of their father.)* |
| Outgoing Chief | I charge you (**New Chief Indian Name**) as our Great Chief, to continue to uphold the Six Aims for which our Longhouse stands.  A big (**Longhouse salutation**) for our new Chief. |
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|  | CONTINUE WITH OTHER PARTS OF CEREMONY |
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Contributed by: Big Walnut Longhouse, Columbus, OH