**Induction Ceremony**

**Longhouse-New Members-Corn & Eagle Feather**

**Overview:** Induction ceremonies are typically held in the beginning moons of the program year and are primarily to honor new membership but it is also good to have all members reaffirm their pledge to the program and each other as well. This ceremony is generally written to be used in a group setting such as a Fall Longhouse Campout. The Eagle feather, presented to new members in this setting is meant to symbolize the parent/child union and concern for one another. Dried Corn is given to the new members during the ceremony to use when instructed as a sacrifice to the fire. There are a number of props required as mentioned within. New Members have received their packets in advance. All fathers and children are expected to wear the Native Sons & Daughters headband to the ceremony. This should be announced and encouraged in advance.



**Participants:**

* Chief: Ceremonial Leader
* Sachem Co-leader of ceremony
* Assistant Chief (Co-leader of ceremony)
* Medicine Man: Provides the sign the Great Spirit has heard the call.
* Drum Beater
* (4) Big Braves or older sons & daughters are chosen to represent the 4 winds. They will read the meaning of their wind and will have with them that portion of the script.

**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.

* Enhanced Sacred Fire Lighting
* Officer Inductions
* Special Awards
* Ceremonial Closing

**CEREMONY**

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| ***SCENE:*** *Chief is not present yet. The Sachem and Assistant will gather the Longhouse at dusk, at a specific location in camp away from the Council Fire site, such as the flagpole, bank of a stream, lakefront, etc. Members/Tribes are formed in a semi-circle. Medicine Man is also present.* |
| Sachem | (*Gives the Longhouse Salutation*) Oh Great Spirit, maker of all things. You who can see beyond the great mountains and through the dark clouds. We ask that you look with favor upon these Braves, Sons & Daughters who have followed the trails to this council. Show and point the way to these new Braves, Sons & Daughters that they may ever know the happiness and good life which they are sure to find as they follow the paths of the Native Sons & Daughters.  |
| Assistant | The (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse welcomes you to this council. Chief (**Chief Indian Name**) has heard that new Braves, Sons & Daughters have traveled many trails to this council and wish to become members of this Longhouse. All new Braves, Sons & Daughters, please step forward inside the circle to receive the ceremonial paint, so that our Chief will know you and know that you wish to follow the true trails of Native Sons & Daughters. All new Braves, Sons & Daughters, please step inside the circle. *(Pause)* (Medicine Man Indian Name) our Medicine Man will now paint the markings of purity on the new Braves, Sons & Daughters. |
| Medicine Man | *(Applies white lines of paint to the cheeks of all new Braves, Sons & Daughters)* |
| Assistant | *(Presents each new member with the corn sacrifice)* |
| Drumbeater | *(Drum beats during the above time period, then stop)* |
| Sachem | All new Braves, Sons & Daughters, please return to your place in the circle. |
| Assistant | Members of the (Longhouse Name) Longhouse, we have word from our scouting party that our Chief has returned and wishes to welcome you. Let us go to meet him  |
| Sachem  | *(Leads the tribes to the ceremonial council fire gathering place)* |
| Sachem | (*Now at the Council Fire site*) Look to the sky for a sign of our Chiefs coming! |
|  | *(Fireworks, smoke cloud or other theatrics occur... Chief and his children appear)*  |
| Chief | Greetings Mighty Sachem, you who have hidden powers as one looked upon with favor by the Great Spirit. Welcome Braves, Sons & Daughters of the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse, I see among you, those who wish to become members of our Longhouse, as shown by the wearing of the sacred paint and carrying a sacrifice. I also see Braves, Sons & Daughters who have been with us in past councils Let us begin the ceremony that will bring these Braves, Sons & Daughters into the mighty (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse |

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| Sachem  | *(Purifies the ground to make ready for the council fire and to make ready for the Chief. There may be words spoken here or not.)* |
| Chief | (**Sachem Indian Name**), Sachem of the (**Longhouse Nam**e) Longhouse, I, Chief (**Chief Indian Name**) requests that all evil spirits be driven from our council fire. Has this been done?  |
| Sachem | Yes, Mighty Chief, it is safe to enter! |
| Chief | (*Raises Eagle Feather*) The Eagle Feather has been raised. Let there be silence around the council fire |
| Drumbeater | (*12 Beats of the Drum*) |
| Chief | The ground will be blessed and our Council Fire lit.  |
| Medicine Man | (*Dances/walks around fire and either lights fire himself or fire magically comes to life*) |
|  | *(There are 4 unlit stake torches, places around the council fire at the 4 compass points, North, South, East, West)* |
| Chief | The Great Spirit is pleased and smiles upon his children. There are 4 torches around our council fire representing the four winds. Send in the torchbearers of the 4 winds. Listen carefully as the torches are lit |
|  | *(Each wind will come forward and one at a time, read their portion, then from the central fire, light their torch. Officers can assist as necessary.)* |
| North | From the central fire, I light the North lamp, the lamp of love. From it extends three rays:BE KIND – Do one act of unselfishness each day.BE HELPFUL – Do your share of the work willingly.BE JOYFUL – Seek the joy of being alive. |
| East | From the central fire I light the East lamp, the lamp of fortitude. From it extends three rays:BE BRAVE – courage is the noblest of qualitiesBE SILENT – in listening to other who wish to learn.BE OBEDIENT – This is the first duty of those who wish to learn. |
| South | From the central fire, I light the South lamp, the lamp of beauty. From it extends three rays:BE CLEAN – Both of yourself and your surroundings.BE RESPECTFUL OF YOUR BODY – It is a temple.BE A FRIEND TO NATURE – Conserve the flowers and woods. |

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| West | From the central fire, I light the West lamp, the lamp of truth. BE TRUTHFUL – hold your word of honor sacred, and others will respect you.BE FAIR – Foul play is never good.BE REVERENT – Worship the one Great Spirit, and respect all worship of him by others. |
| Chief | These are the Laws of the Woods. |
| Assistant | Chief, I give you these new Braves, Sons & Daughters for induction. They have seen the power of the Eagle Feather. They wish to become Native Sons & Daughters. |
| Chief | (**Sachem Indian Name**) our Sachem, as the eldest one, I ask that you speak through the Great Spirit. |
| Sachem | Who wishes to speak to the Great Spirit? |
| Chief | I (**Chief Indian Name**) Chief of the (Longhouse Name) of Native Sons & Daughters These Braves, Sons & Daughters have come to hear the Great Spirits message. |
| Sachem | So be it Chief (**Chief Indian Name**) and members of the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse Are the new Braves, Sons & Daughters ready to make the sacrifice for induction? |
| Chief | Yes, these new Braves, Sons & Daughters are ready to make the sacrifice for induction. |
| Sachem | Let them come forth in voice to hear the pledge of faith by stating the Six Aims |
| Medicine Man | *(leads all in unison)*The Six Aims of the Native Sons & Daughters Program are… repeat after me:1. To be clean in body and pure in heart
2. To be Pals Forever-Friends Always, father and son
3. To love the sacred circle of the family
4. To listen while others speak
5. To love my neighbor as myself
6. To seek and preserve the beauty of the Great Spirit’s work in forest, field and stream
 |
| Chief | Prepare the ceremonial fire for the induction. |
| Sachem | *(Dances or walks around fire chanting or reciting a prayer to Great Spirit.)* |
| Chief | (Sachem Indian Name), prepare the new Braves, Sons & Daughters to make their sacrifices.  |
| Sachem | New Braves, Sons & Daughters, please step inside to form an inner circle. *(Pause)* Each of you has kernels of corn to use as your sacrifice. Listen now to the meaning of these sacrifices.  |

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| Sachem | Big Braves, there is a trait of character that could hurt your success as a parent in the Native Sons & Daughters Program. That trait is selfishness. You should try to find time to spend with your child, as they need your companionship now. The moons pass quickly and soon they will be grown.Sons and Daughters, you will soon see your Dad sacrifice the trait of selfishness, which means they are willing to take time to play and talk with you. This does not mean that they will always be able to do things when and where you want. You must learn to be patient. I now ask each of you to make your sacrifice. Throw your kernels of corn into the fire now. *(Pause…new Braves, Sons & Daughters remain in inner circle)* |
| Chief | As I come to you, speak your Indian Name as you receive your first Eagle Feather. Hold your feather in hand until instructed further. |
|  | *(Chief proceeds to pass out Eagle Feathers to each of the new Braves, Sons & Daughters. Chief’s children assist.)* |
| Assistant | Sons & Daughters, stand and face your father and hold their right hand. *(Pause)*Bib Braves, place your left hand on the right shoulder or your son or daughter. *(Pause)*This position is significant as it symbolizes the close friendship between parent and child. |
| Medicine Man | Let us now recite the pledge. Repeat after me… *(pause at each comma)*We father and child, through friendly service to each other, to our family, to this tribe, tour community and country, seek a world, pleasing to the eye of the Great Spirit. |
| Sachem | These new Braves, Sons & Daughters have heard the call of the Great Spirit and have learned well the Aims and Ideals of the Native Sons & Daughters. The fellowship they seek is the true devotion and understanding between father and child which we call by our slogan… “Pals Forever-Friends Always”. All members, repeat after me… “Pals Forever, Friends Always”Chief (**Chiefs Indian Name**) will no bestow the Great Spirits gift to these new Braves, Sons & Daughters. |
| Chief | This feather *(holds up Eagle Feather)*, this Eagle Feather, is unique in its meaning. It symbolizes our union and our concern for one another. Wear it proudly.Let each father kneel before his child now. Place your child’s feather into their headband. *(Pause)* Sons & Daughters, place your father’s feather into his headband. *(Pause)* |
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| Chief | Let everyone rise and face the council fire. *(Pause)* New Braves, Sons & Daughters, you now wear the feather of love along with all your fellow tribe members who have been heard the call of the Great Spirit before you. You are now united as official true members of the (Longhouse Name) Longhouse of the Native Sons & Daughters Program. We applaud you. *(Applause)**(Shout Longhouse salutation several times)* |
| Drumbeater | *(Drumbeats during applause & salutations)* |
|  | DISTRIBUTION OF ANY GIFTS/TOKENS  |
|  | ADD ADDITIONAL PARTS OF CEREMONY AS DESIRED |
|  | CLOSING OF CERMONY |

Contributed by: Big Walnut Nation, Columbus, Ohio