**Induction Ceremony**

**Longhouse-New Members-NSD Packet**

**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. In this setting, the new members are presented with the NSD New Member Packet. New members should also have chosen Indian names prior to this ceremony.

**Participants:**

* Chief: Ceremonial Leader
* Assistant Chief: Co-leader of ceremony
* Drum Beater

**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
* Officer or other Inductions
* Special Awards
* Ceremonial Closing

**CEREMONY**

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| Assistant Chief | (**Longhouse Salutation**) Will the Council of the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse please come to order! |
| Drum Beater | *(12 Beats of the Drum)* |
| Chief | Will new members, fathers and their children please come forth to the induction stage. Son and Daughters, please stand in front of your fathers. |
|  | *(allow time for new members to assemble on stage or other location)* |
|  | I speak for all these dads and their children who have heard the call of the Great Spirit, maker of all things. They have seen the wisdom of spending more time together and wish to become members of the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse Native Sons and Daughters Program |
| Assistant Chief | 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 |
| Assistant Chief | Fathers, please stand side by side with your children on your left, holding your child’s right hand with your left. *(allow a few moments)* |
| Chief | A famous person was once quoted as saying that “there is no need in childhood as strong as a father’s protection, attention, interest and understanding” |
| Assistant Chief | Fathers, take a quarter turn to your right so that your back faces your child.  *(allow a few moments)* |
| Chief | The father is the leader, setting the example for how their child should treat their friends, family & tribe. |
| Assistant Chief | Fathers, take another quarter turn to your right. Side by side once again.  *(allow a few moments)* |
| Chief | Remember that you are starting something new together, each responsible for the memories that you will make. |
| Assistant Chief | Fathers, take another quarter turn to your right and stand behind your child. Place a hand on your child’s shoulder.  *(allow a few moments)* |
| Chief | Fathers, remember to watch over your children as they learn, grow and experience new things. Always be there to support and gently guide them. |

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| Assistant Chief | Fathers and children, face each other and give each other a hug.  *(allow a few moments)* |
| Chief | The purpose of the Native Sons & Daughters Program is to strengthen the bond between father and child. **(Longhouse Salutation)** |
|  | As we call your names, come forward to receive your Native Sons & Daughters New Member Packet. (Please hold applause until all names are called)  In this packet are the symbols of the Native Sons and Daughters Program. They are the patch & feathers and the headband.  You will also find a welcome letter from your national chief and program elders as well as a few other treasures.  The final part in your packet is the Native Sons & Daughters Handbook. This will explain the symbolic meaning of these emblems as well as your being your guide along the path in this great program you have joined. |
| Chief | New Fathers, Sons & Daughters, please repeat after me… using your newly chosen Indian name… |
|  | I *(state your name)* am ready to accept the duties that come with membership in the Native Sons & Daughters Program. The officers of the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse would like to welcome you. We are pleased to have you as members of the Longhouse and know that you will create many great memories together. Congratulations! **(Longhouse Salutation**) |
| All | *(Applause is given)* |
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|  | INSERT ADDITIONAL CEREMONIAL COMPONENTS AS DESIRED |

Contributed by Cuyahoga Valley Longhouse, Independence, OH