**Induction Ceremony**

**New Tribes into Longhouse & The Six Aims Feathers**

**Overview:** This ceremony is to induct entire (new) tribes into the Longhouse one at a time and present them with their tribal charter. It can easily be adapted to include all tribes where Longhouses present a tribal charter annually.

Then a more dramatic version of the recital of the Six Aims takes place. This ceremony in whole or in part can easily be adapted into other larger ceremonial gatherings of the Longhouse. There are a number of props required as mentioned within.

**Participants:**

* Longhouse (LH) Chief: Ceremonial Leader
* Medicine Man (or Assistant Chief): Co-leader of ceremony
* New Tribal Chief(s) and children
* (6) Feather Bearers, Big Braves with their sons or daughters: Have been selected in advance and know which of the Six Aims they will be announcing. They should each have their portion of the script in hand. Both parent and child (are intended to) have speaking parts.

**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 Inductions
* Special Awards
* Ceremonial Closing

**TRIBAL INDUCTION & CHARTERS PORTION OF CEREMONY**

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| Medicine Man | Will **(Assistant Chief Indian Name)**, our Assistant Chief please face the four corners of the earth and bring only good spirits among us. |
|  | *(Assistant Chief walks to each point, North, South, East, West, shaking rattle, then returns to position)* |
| Medicine Man | We meet here today so that we might dedicate ourselves to the challenge of the Native Sons & Daughters Programs, that is, to establish lifelong friendship between father and child. To do this, we must be accepting of each other and giving to each other. |
|  | We practice this friendship individually and through the tribes of the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse. Oh, Chief, new tribes now ask acceptance into the (**Longhouse Nam**e) Longhouse. |
| LH Chief | Do these tribes know the aims and purpose of the Native Sons & daughters Programs? |
| Medicine Man | Yes, these tribes have dedicated themselves to promote friendship and understanding between father and child through the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse of Native Sons & Daughters. To show their good faith, have each sent a Chief to seal the bond between the tribe and the Longhouse. |
| LH Chief | Will these Tribal Chief(s) please come forward to receive their tribal charter?  |
|  | *(New Tribal Chiefs and their sons/daughters, each carrying their tribal sign or shield, come forward and are positioned by the Medicine Man.)* |
| LH Chief | Chief of the (**Tribe Name**) tribe, we present you with the charter for your tribe, signifying your acceptance in to the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse. May all your Big Braves, sons & daughters, reap many benefits from the Longhouse, and may the Longhouse remain worthy of the trust you put in its guidance. Place your tribal sign/shield by the Longhouse banner. |
|  | *(LH Chief holds charter while Tribal Chief, son/daughter place the tribal shield by the Longhouse banner. Chief then hands charter to Tribal Chief and they return to position. Drum beats during this time.)* |
|  | *(Above ritual is repeated until all new tribes have been inducted & presented their charter. Medicine Man directs people as necessary.)* |
|  | *(****If desired****, the above ritual could also be repeated for existing tribes if new charters are presented annually)*  |

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| **SIX AIMS FEATHERS PORTION OF CEREMONY** |
| LH Chief | Welcome to the (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse, new Big Braves, sons & daughters of the *(recite all new tribe names)* tribe(s). May you always hold high, the Six Aims of the Native Sons & Daughters Program. Now listen carefully so that you may understand well, each of the aims which you have learned and promised to abide by. |
| *(At a special place at the front of the council fire and visible to all, is a symbolic holder for the feathers that will be brought forward to symbolize each of the Six Aims)* |
| LH Chief | Feather Bearers, come forward! |
|  | *(Six Feather Bearers (Fathers and their children) who are chosen in advance, are called forward. They stand end to end at the front of the council fire in order of the Aim assigned. The Medicine Man directs the assembly and has a list of the Indian names and tribal names of the parents and children called forward. Med. Man is also prepared with the 6 feathers that will represent the Aims.)* |
| Medicine Man | (**Parent Indian Name**) & (**Child Indian Name**) of the (**Tribe Name**) Tribe, tell us of the First Aim. |
|  | *(Parent & child step forward. Parent takes the WHITE feather.)* |
| 1st Aim-White-Parent | The Great Spirit has made this feather white to look like the driven snow. It is a symbol of purity to show the love reflected in our First Aim. |
|  | *(Parent hands the WHITE feather to their child who holds it high)* |
| 1st Aim-White-Child | The First Aim of Native Sons & Daughters is “To Be Clean In Body and Pure In Heart”. |
|  | *(Parent & child walk forward and child puts feather into the symbolic feather holder, then return to their tribe. Drum beats during this time.)* |
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| Medicine Man | (**Parent Indian Name**) & (**Child Indian Name**) of the (**Tribe Name**) Tribe, tell us of the Second Aim. |
|  | *(Parent & child step forward. Parent takes the BLACK feather.)* |
| 2nd Aim-Black-Parent | The Great Spirit has made this feather Black to look like the darkness of night. It is a symbol of the friendship and trust that parent and child must show one another such as to find their way in the night. This friendship and trust is reflected in our Second Aim. |
|  | *(Parent hands the BLACK feather to their child who holds it high)* |
| 2nd Aim-Black-Child | The Second Aim of Native Sons & Daughters is “To Be Always be Friends with my Dad/Mom/Son/Daughter”. |
|  | *(Parent & child walk forward and child puts the feather into the symbolic feather holder, then return to their tribe. Drum beats during this time.)* |

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| Medicine Man | (**Parent Indian Name**) & (**Child Indian Name**) of the (**Tribe Name**) Tribe, tell us of the Third Aim. |
|  | *(Parent & child step forward. Parent takes the RED feather.)* |
| 3rd Aim-Red-Parent | This feather gets it Red color from scarlet hues of the bright leaping flames of our council fire. The Great Spirit painted this feather Red to remind us of the warmth of home and family as reflected in our Third Aim. |
|  | *(Parent hands the RED feather to their child who holds it high)* |
| 3rd Aim-Red-Child | The Third Aim of Native Sons & Daughters is “To Love the Sacred Circle of My Family”. |
|  | *(Parent & child walk forward and child puts the feather into the symbolic feather holder, then return to their tribe. Drum beats during this time.)* |
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| Medicine Man | (**Parent Indian Name**) & (**Child Indian Name**) of the (**Tribe Name**) Tribe, tell us of the Fourth Aim. |
|  | *(Parent & child step forward. Parent takes the YELLOW feather.)* |
| 4th Aim-Yellow-Parent | This feather, painted Yellow by the Great Spirit, tells us that when we listen, we gain the wisdom of others, especially our elders. This wisdom will warm you like the rays of sunshine during the day, as reflected in our Fourth Aim. |
|  | *(Parent hands the YELLOW feather to their child who holds it high)* |
| 4th Aim-Yellow-Child | The Fourth Aim of Native Sons & Daughters is “To Be Attentive While Others Speak”. |
|  | *(Parent & child walk forward and child puts the feather into the symbolic feather holder, then return to their tribe. Drum beats during this time.)* |
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| Medicine Man | (**Parent Indian Name**) & (**Child Indian Name**) of the (**Tribe Name**) Tribe, tell us of the Fifth Aim. |
|  | *(Parent & child step forward. Parent takes the BLUE feather.)* |
| 5th Aim-Blue-Parent | The Great Spirit colored this feather with the Blue of the lakes to remind us of togetherness and that we must treat others as we would like to be treated, as reflected in our Fifth Aim. |
|  | *(Parent hands the BLUE feather to their child who holds it high)* |
| 5th Aim-Blue-Child | The Fifth Aim of Native Sons & Daughters is “To Love My Neighbor as Myself”. |
|  | *(Parent & child walk forward and child puts the feather into the symbolic feather holder, then return to their tribe. Drum beats during this time.)* |
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| Medicine Man | (**Parent Indian Name**) & (**Child Indian Name**) of the (**Tribe Name**) Tribe, tell us of the Sixth Aim. |
|  | *(Parent & child step forward. Parent takes the GREEN feather.)* |
| 6th Aim-Green-Parent | This feather, painted Green by the Great Spirit, tells us that we must respect and care for the lands and trails we walk. This is a great responsibility, as reflected in our Six Aim. |
|  | *(Parent hands the GREEN feather to their child who holds it high)* |
| 6th Aim-Green-Child | The Sixth Aim of Native Sons & Daughters is “To Seek and Preserve the Beauty of the Great Spirits Work in Forest, Field and Stream”. |
|  | *(Parent & child walk forward and child puts the feather into the symbolic feather holder, then return to their tribe. Drum beats during this time.)* |
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| LH Chief | Tonight, you have all heard the call of the Great Spirit and how through our Aims, we area called upon and told to care for one another and to care for our Mother Earth. Grandfather Sky, our Great Spirit is pleased. |
|  | *Closing Ceremony as desired* |
| Chief / ALL | *(Chief shouts the Longhouse salutation, then all repeat/shout in approval)* |
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Contributed by: Unknown