**Induction Ceremony**

**Pathfinders-Tribe-Longhouse**

**Overview:** This ceremony in written to induct NSD Big Braves, Sons & Daughters who are graduating up to the Pathfinder level. The format here is done in the presence of the Longhouse membership. The Sachem of the Pathfinders shall present the new Pathfinders for induction. Each new Pathfinder is to receive a headdress bonnet or some other symbol (i.e. Eagle Feather) of advanced standing in the Longhouse. They will also receive the Pathfinders rocker patch. It is known in advance which Big Braves, Sons & Daughters are ready to become Pathfinders.

Another variation to this ceremony, depending on the program traditions, is that the vests are removed as a symbol of the ending their time in NSD, and a new sash is presented.

**Participants:**

* Longhouse Chief: Ceremonial Leader
* Sachem / Elder of the Pathfinders
* Medicine Man
* New Pathfinder Braves (sons & daughters)
* Fathers of New Pathfinder Braves

**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
* NSD Inductions
* Special Awards

**CEREMONY**

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| Sachem | ***Shouts the Longhouse Salutation*** |
| Chief | Who Speaks? |
| Sachem | It is I (**Sachem Indian Name**), Sachem of the Pathfinders |
| Chief | Speak! Tell the council of your desires. |
| Sachem | Chief, I speak for the Braves among the tribes of the Longhouse who will become Pathfinders of this Great (**Longhouse name**) Longhouse. They have worked hard and have done much good and are now ready to be recognized for the true Pathfinders they are. |
| Chief | It is good. But do they know that they will have much greater responsibilities upon becoming Pathfinders? |
| Sachem | They do since they have been so instructed. They will follow the trails signs to become worthy Pathfinders of our tribes and Longhouse. |
| Chief | Are these braves ready to accept these responsibilities that come to all Pathfinders? |
| Sachem | They stand ready to accept these duties. |
| Medicine Man | Will the following Braves now step forward to accept this honor. |
|  | *(Call forward by Tribe and Indian name, the Braves (sons and daughters) who will become Pathfinders)* |
| Chief | Members of the Longhouse, you have heard our Sachem speak for the Braves who wish to become Pathfinders. Shall we accept them? |
| Sachem leads All | ***Shout YES and the Longhouse Salutation*** |
| Chief | Will (**Medicine Man Indian Name**) our Medicine Man, present the Sachem’s braves for induction as Pathfinders. |
| Medicine Man | Chief, I do your bidding. |
|  | *(leads the inductees into the circle, to a position at the front of the council fire.)* |
| Chief | *(Holding up the Peace Pipe in both hands)* |
|  | Oh Great Spirit, take this pipe of peace |
|  | *(simulates blowing a puff of smoke to each of the 4 directions)* |
|  | Oh Great Spirit, this pipe is a symbol of peace, council and brotherhood. Oh Great Spirit, may these braves always remember this and put on their paint only for ceremonies such as this. |
|  | (**Medicine Man Indian Name**) please bring in the bonnets (or other symbolic items) |

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| Medicine Man | *(Brings in the bonnets (or other item) and places one on the ground in front of each brave.)* |
| Chief | Sachem (**Sachem Indian Name**), tell us the meaning of the bonnet (item) |
| Sachem | Braves, in the olden days, the bonnet was a symbol of great achievement. It was the highest honor a brave could receive. As a brave did courageous and honorable things, he was awarded an eagle feather. When they had done many good things, and had been awarded many eagle feathers, they were allowed by the council to make a bonnet. You, noble braves, have done many honorable and good things and are therefore to receive your bonnets tonight. When you wear it, hold yourself straight. Hold your head high. You have earned the right to wear it proudly because of your hard work and sacrifice in the manner of true Pathfinders. |
| Chief | Braves, our Sachem has told you the story of the bonnet and what it symbolizes. It is important that we remember this story as you take this important step forward tonight. To help you take this step, I ask our Medicine Man to bring forth the Big Braves who have sacrificed much to help you become Pathfinders. (Medicine Man Indian Name), bring forth these Big Braves. |
| Medicine Man | *(Leads the fathers of the New Pathfinders to the front of the council fire, each standing in front of their son/daughter.)* |
| Chief | Braves, are you ready to assume the responsibilities of a Pathfinder? If you are, shout (**Longhouse Salutation**) |
| New Pathfinders | (**Shout Longhouse Salutation**) |
| Chief | Then, Big Braves, place the bonnets on the Pathfinders heads. |
| Big Braves | *(Place bonnet on the heads of New Pathfinders)* |
| Medicine Man | *(Calls out the New Pathfinders by Indian Name as he extolls the Longhouse to applaud)* |
| Medicine Man | *(After the Indian names of new Pathfinders are called)* New Pathfinders, I present you with the rocker patch of the Pathfinders. It is to be placed above your NSD patch on your vest as symbol of moving onward along life’s pathway, of physical growth and of many years of creating memories between parent & child. Wear it proudly!! (**shouts Longhouse salutation)** |

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| Chief | And now, New Pathfinders, I declare that you shall sit in council with your chief, A place befitting of your rank. Let us finish by bowing our heads to the Great Spirit. | |
|  | Great Spirit, watch over these New Pathfinders. Help them find the true paths through the wilderness. Help them to fill their wigwams with food for the month ahead. Help them to grow in body, mind and spirit together as Pals Forever, Friends Always. Amen. I also bestow upon you the Pathfinders patch that fits above your NSD patch. Wear it with pride. | |
|  | | *(Shouts the Longhouse Salutation)* |
| Drum Beater | | *(Beats a slow cadence as all exit)* |

Main portion contributed many moons ago by: Northwest Detroit, Michigan Federation

Updated to fit NSD Pathfinders