**Torch Parade Ceremony**

**Calling and Gathering the Tribes for Parade to the Council Fire**

**Overview:** Although not really a ceremony in the truest sense, what is presented here is the framework for gathering the tribes along the trail in camp for a parade to the grounds of the Longhouse Council Fire. It can be used at a traditional cabin camp or in a tent-camping setting.

The tribes will have been instructed in advance to gather at a pickup point outside their cabins or at the edge of their tent area, along what is naturally a good path for a parade. Tribes should be in full regalia and ready with shields and banners for parade.

A Longhouse Elder or Sachem should lead the parade and allow for the Longhouse Chief to remain at the Council Fire site to make any final preparations and possibly to be out of site when the membership arrives at the site. The Medicine Man will also remain at the council fire site to receive the parade into the grounds.

The parade can include torches for greater effect. Can-style torches are the safest approach. Fire safety should be of the utmost importance. Longhouses can decide if all membership will carry torches, or one per family, or one per tribe.

**Participants:**

* Elder(s) or Sachem: Leader of Parade
* Medicine Man or Assistant Chief: Receive the Longhouse membership at the Council Fire site.
* Tribal Chiefs
* Drumbeater

**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.

* Council Fire Opening & Lighting
* Inductions, Graduation, End of Year or Other Council Fire Ceremony
* Officer Inductions
* Special Awards
* Ceremonial Closing

**CEREMONY**

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| Drumbeater | *(Parade lead officer signals drumbeater when to start / stop. If Longhouse has a parade drum that can be carried, Drumbeater can be a part of leading the parade. If Longhouse drums are large ceremonial drums, the drum beaters can stay at the Council Fire area and let the sound carry to all the tribes. Or, both scenarios can be used as well.)* |
| Tribes | *(At the initial sounds of drum beats, each Tribe gathers at its assigned pickup area and are ready for parade. Tribal torches area NOT yet lit. Each Tribal Chief insures that his tribe is ready. Tribal Chief should be out in front of pickup area.)* |
| Elder | *(Proceeds with any support people to the first tribal pickup point. If torches are being used, the Elder lead party must carry a special torch already lit, signifying the light of the Great Spirit.)* |
| Elder | *(At first Tribal pickup point, stops and shouts the Longhouse salutation and exhorts all to respond)* |
| Elder | What is the name of this tribe? *(ALLOW TRIBE TO RESPOND)*Louder, what is the name of this tribe?? *(ALLOW TRIBE TO RESPOND)* Does the (**Tribe Name**) Tribe wish to participate in the (Longhouse Name) Longhouse Parade of Light? *(ALLOW TRIBE TO RESPOND)*Tribe Chief… Come forward and light your torch from the ceremonial parade torch that carries the Light of the Great Spirit. Spread that light to the members of your tribe. *(ALLOW CHIEF TO LIGHT HIS TORCH)*(**Tribe Name**)Tribe, please join in and let us walk the trail on our Parade of Light. Let the light from our torches call the Great Spirit to be with us. |
|  | *(WALK TO NEXT TRIBAL PICKUP. ONCE ALL TRIBES ARE GATHERED INTO THE PARADE)* |
| Elder | (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse, let us walk the trail together to the grounds of our Sacred Council Fire! |
|  | *(PARADE REACHES THE ENTRY POINT TO THE GROUNDS OF THE COUNCIL FIRE)* |
| Med. Man | *(Shouts Longhouse salutation)* Who wishes entry into the grounds of the Sacred Council Fire? |
| Elder | (**Medicine Man Indian Name**), I (**Elder Indian Name**), bring to you the fathers and children of the Mighty (**Longhouse Name**) Longhouse. They come with peaceful and joyful hearts and are ready and excited to be a part of this Sacred Council Fire. |
| Med. Man | (**Elder Indian Name**) Please lead these fathers and children into the grounds of the Sacred Council Fire. Please have them extinguish their torches as they enter. *(Shouts Longhouse salutation)* |
|  | **CONTINUE WITH OPENING CEREMONY** |

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