**Totem Pole for use in Ceremonies**

**The Meaning of the Totem Pole Symbols**

**Overview:** This ceremonial component can be used if the Longhouse has a totem pole that they would desire to include both visually and in words into a ceremony rather than it just standing there. The wording is written to specifically match the images of the totem pole, so what is presented here is more for example than for exact use, unless, a Longhouse were to create a totem with these exact symbols. The possibilities are limited only by your creativity.

**Participants:**

* Longhouse Chief, or other as the leader/main presenter.
* Medicine Man

**Totem Pole Ceremony**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief | Bring forth the totem pole and listen to the words of (Medicine Man Indian Name), our Medicine Man. |
| Assistants | *(Carry the totem pole to stand it in the visual front of the ceremony.)* |
| Medicine Man | On this totem pole, are many pictures and symbols, the meaning if which I will now explain.  This pole represents the virtues and ideals of the Native Sons & Daughters Program.  *(Pointing to the symbols as they are mentioned)*  Here on the pole you see images of the sun, the moon and the stars. These to the Native American Indians are symbolic of the Great Spirit. To us, they too are symbolic of a supreme being.  As true Native Sons & Daughters, we see the Great Spirit in the grace of the Weeping Willow, the strength of the Sturdy Oak, the singing of the Stream, the power of the Mighty River, the songs and colors of the Birds, the cunning and agility of the animals and the beauty and sweetness of the flowers.  The broad base that support our totem pole, gives the pole the power to stand strong and firm. So too, does the success of our lives depend on the breadth and depth of our moral character.  The beaver and his dam shown here are symbolic of sincere and honest work. He is the engineer of the animal world, for he had ability to build long before man did. There are no lazy ones in the beaver colony. We too, believe that all Native Sons and Daughters should do their share of useful work for the good of all.  In this scene of the campfire with people gathered around it shows peace and contentment which are the aims of the Native Sons and Daughters in their home and among their friends.  Do you see the images of the squirrels playing? This is one of the most important parts of our program. We not only believe in Sons & Daughters playing, but in their fathers playing with them.  Here at the top sits the eagle, “King of the Air”. He has always been a symbol of majesty, courage, and high ideals to all mankind. So too, he stands for Native Sons and Daughters. |
|  |  |

Contributed by: Unknown