**Tribal Chartering Ceremony**

**Annual Longhouse Recognition of Tribes and Presentation of Charter Certificates**

**Overview:** This ceremony is used when a Longhouse desires to recognize its tribes (late fall is used here) in one annual ceremony, and present to each tribe, their official charter for the program year. This would be done at an event where the entire Longhouse is gathered. Regalia would be in order, especially by the Longhouse officers conducting the ceremony and the Tribal Chiefs representing their tribes and receiving their charter.

A **sample** of the NLL/NSD Tribal Charter is included at the end of this document. The live template is available in the separate Word Doc file on the NLL Website. The template can be filled in with Tribal Names, Longhouse names and the Longhouse officer’s names who officiates the charters. It should be printed on quality cardstock paper.

The charter certificates are to be prepared in advance of the ceremony for presentation. You may consider framing the charter certificates for brand new tribes or if performing this ceremony for the first time, to frame them all.

The importance of attending this ceremony is stressed to each tribe chief. A list of all tribe chiefs and their Indian Names is needed for this ceremony.

**Participants:**

* Longhouse Chief
* Medicine Man
* Tribal Chiefs
* Drumbeater

**Relevant Ceremonial:**

You may consider adding the short version new member induction ceremony for any members that missed out or joined after the main Induction Ceremony was held.

**CEREMONY**

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| Scene | *(Tribes have gathered in meeting area and are ready.)* |
| Drumbeater | *(Chief signals drumbeater when to start / stop. Chief & Medicine Man enter.)* |
| Chief / ALL | *(Chief shouts the Longhouse salutation, then all repeat/shout in approval)* |
| Chief | We call together this council of the **(Longhouse Name)** Longhouse for a special purpose. As the fall season draws to a close, we are to take a moment to see that the Great Spirit, in this time of the Harvest Moon, has given us many things to be thankful for. The harvest has brought us many new members. It has brought many old members back to us. Many friendships will be made, many will grow. Many memories will be created. We believe the Great Spirit to be truly watching over us, keeping this Native Sons & Daughters Program alive for those here now, and those yet to come. |
| Medicine Man | Tonight, the **(Longhouse Name)** Longhouse will recognize our tribes, as the most important unit of our nation, for without them, this Longhouse would not exist.  To honor each tribe of our Longhouse, I will now call forth one at a time, the Chiefs who represent our tribes....  Will Chief **(Indian Name)** of the **(Tribe Name)** Tribe please come forward *(PAUSE)*  *(REPEAT ABOVE FOR ALL TRIBE CHIEFS / TRIBES)* |
| Chief | *(Looking at the Longhouse)* These Tribe Chiefs and fathers you see here, have volunteered to lead their tribes for the coming year. This is an honor as well as a responsibility.  *(Looking at the Chiefs)* As tribal chiefs, it will be your responsibility to lead and guide your tribes, enlist their support for nation activities, and most important, to assure that the aims and ideals of the Native Sons & Daughters Program are upheld within your tribes. The Longhouse will benefit greatly from your service and your willingness to give. |
|  | To recognize each tribe as an official and important part of the Longhouse, I will now present each Tribal Chief with an official charter for their tribe. |
| Chief | *(Presents each Tribe their Charter while calling their Tribe Name.)* |
| Medicine Man | As officially chartered tribes, all members of all tribes must agree to the Aims set forth by these charters. All members, please repeat the following…  As a member of my tribe, I pledge myself…   * To uphold the Aims and Ideals of the Native Sons & Daughters Program. * To foster the parent and child relationship. * To strengthen the family and home. |
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| Chief | Tribes, these charters are official tribe property. Display them proudly each time you meet as a tribe, as a reminder of the pledge you have made here tonight.  *(MEDICINE MAN BRINGS PEACE PIPE FORWARD)*  I ask all the tribal chiefs to place one hand in holding our peace pipe.  *(Tribal Chiefs, Medicine Man and Longhouse Chief each place a hand on the peace pipe holding it in the air together.)*  By placing hands together with this pipe, instrument of peace and friendship, symbolizes all the tribes, joined together as one, which make up this Mighty **(Longhouse Name**) Longhouse.  Great Spirit, we ask you to give these Chiefs strength to guide their tribes, to be strong in spirit, strong in heart, and humble as they carry out their duties.  Great Spirit, we ask you to give all these tribal members the strength to be living examples to each other as Father and Child, striving to preserve the family as the guiding force in our lives, and to uphold the ideals of our slogan... "Pal's Forever, Friend's Always".  *(All but Medicine Man let go of pipe stem)* |
| Medicine Man | *(HOLD THE PEACE PIPE ABOVE HIM)*  All tribe members once again, what is our slogan?  (ALL REPEAT): PAL'S FOREVER, FRIENDS ALWAYS !! |
| Chief | I congratulate you all on being officially chartered tribes of the (Longhouse Name) Longhouse.  This council of the **(Longhouse Name)** Longhouse is now closed. |
| Chief / ALL | *(Chief shouts the Longhouse salutation, then all repeat/shout in approval)* |
| Drumbeater | *(Drumbeats to signal close of ceremony)* |
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Contributed by: The Cheyenne Nation, Bedford, OH

SAMPLE CERTIFICATE ON NEXT PAGE

