



# NATIONAL LONGHOUSE DRUM BEATS



March 2021

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF NATIVE SONS & DAUGHTERS PROGRAMS

Broken Snow Show Moon  
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Welcome to the latest edition of National Longhouse Drum Beats, the national newsletter of Native Sons & Daughters Programs. The purpose of this newsletter is to broadcast news and information, both fun and important, to the membership in all Longhouses across this great program of ours. Be proud in knowing that you belong to a growing program that is coast-to-coast across our great country.

## From the Teepee of your National Chief

### Greetings Native Sons and Daughters!

Wow, what a year! It was almost exactly a year ago as I'm writing this, that my family and I arrived back home in the U.S. on one of the last flights out of Europe before the COVID-19 travel ban took effect. It was a late on a Friday night when we landed, and we learned almost immediately that my 7<sup>th</sup> grader would have to quarantine for 2 weeks before she could return to school after being out of the country. Before the weekend was out, school was canceled for both my 7<sup>th</sup> grader and my 10<sup>th</sup> grader until the school districts could engineer an option for widespread virtual schooling. I've often wondered what life was like in the U.S. during that final week before one by one, the schools and businesses were shuttered across the entire country & world.

And here we are a full 12 months later. We've been through toilet paper hoarding, meat rationing, bare shelves in our grocery stores, job losses, and political and economic turmoil; all while enduring millions of illnesses around the nation.

Our Native Sons and Daughters family has been impacted by the pandemic just as all social clubs and institutions have. While many of our local Longhouses are back to attending events and meetings, many others are in areas still experiencing frightening case numbers and under tight social restrictions. I have had the honor of meeting with Longhouse leaders virtually, on multiple occasions this year and I am humbled at the level of dedication and creativity that leaders nationwide have displayed in making their programs safe and successful in this challenging environment.

This great parent-child program remains strong, but we're still not entirely through the COVID-adversity. Because travel and socialization is still difficult in many areas of the country, we have decided not to hold an in-person National Meeting this year, and instead, will be sharing details around a National Conference call to be scheduled in the coming weeks.

I am proud of each and every member who has made it a priority to keep building family memories and family bonds through the Native Sons and Daughters programs this year. Your passion and dedication is inspirational, and has helped so many others in your sphere of influence during this time of need.

The Great Spirit smiles upon you. Thank you all for all that you do. Because of you, the best days of this magnificent parent-child organization are still ahead.

**Yá'át'ééh!**  
**Chief Creaking Oak**

### Highlights In This Issue

- National Elders & Chief Meeting
- Joe Friday Award Honoree
- Longhouse Special Events
- Florida Statewide Pow-wow
- Zoom Tribe Meetings
- Kids Korner-Native American Word Search
- Ideas to stay connected during the pandemic
- NSD Heritage-An Indian Closing Prayer with hand signs





## **Special Meeting of the National Board of Elders & National Council of Officers to take place March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Westgate Ranch, Kissimmee, FL**

With the Covid pandemic still limiting activities, it was of no surprise that the 2021 Annual National Longhouse Meeting had to be scrubbed for this year. It is sincerely hoped to resume this important annual gathering of National, Regional and Local Longhouse program leadership next year.



In Florida, the annual Statewide Pow-Wow is taking place March 25<sup>th</sup>-28 (see separate article). Since much of the national leadership will be present at this event, National Chairman Don "Brave Eagle Bittala" has decided to take this opportunity to call a joint meeting of The National Board of Elders and the National Council of Officers. This meeting is to discuss topics very important to the Native Sons & Daughters Programs at this very moment. Of utmost importance is discussion of how best to encourage membership back to active status. Only a small number of Longhouses have conducted activities this year, with the majority of them being in Florida. With the pandemic (seemingly) gradually easing up, planning must occur that will help to encourage the Longhouses back to actively conducting NSD Program activities once again.

## **Calling all Florida Longhouses!! Attend the 2021 Sunshine State Pow-Wow March 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Westgate Ranch, Kissimmee, FL**

Florida Longhouses, here is your opportunity to attend the premier camping event of the year!!

- 3 days of Family Fun!
- Lots of activities!
- Air Boats and Rodeo
- Demonstrations & Ceremonies

For more information and to register, go to...

<https://2021SunshineStatePowWow.com>



# National Longhouse

## National Council of Officers



Name	Position	Email
Ray "Creaking Oak" Junk	National Chief	<a href="mailto:nationalchief@nationallonghouse.org">nationalchief@nationallonghouse.org</a>
Michael "Wild Eagle" Ryan	Nat'l Assistant Chief	<a href="mailto:nationalassistant@nationallonghouse.org">nationalassistant@nationallonghouse.org</a>
Aaron "Fishing Bear" Olson	Nat'l Wampum Bearer	<a href="mailto:nationalwampumbearer@nationallonghouse.org">nationalwampumbearer@nationallonghouse.org</a>
Jeff "Tall Cedar" Huston	Nat'l Talley Keeper	<a href="mailto:nationaltalleykeeper@nationallonghouse.org">nationaltalleykeeper@nationallonghouse.org</a>
Stewart "Running Wombat" Morris	Nat'l Web Spinner	<a href="mailto:nationalwebspinner@nationallonghouse.org">nationalwebspinner@nationallonghouse.org</a>
JJ "Howling Wolf" Sutphin	National Sachem	<a href="mailto:nationalsachem@nationallonghouse.org">nationalsachem@nationallonghouse.org</a>

**These are your 2020-22 National Council of Officers.**

**Thank You for your service to Native Sons & Daughters Programs!!**



## Visit the National Longhouse Website and Facebook Page

Check out the National Longhouse website for beneficial resources and information.

Find us on Facebook! Go to and "like" our page to get frequent updates from National Longhouse and featured articles about our program's activity nationwide.

National Longhouse

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Native Sons & Daughters Programs®

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COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The Native Sons And Daughters Programs® seek to strengthen the foundations for a positive lifelong relationship between parent and child.

**PALS FOREVER**  
*Friends Always®*

TELLING OUR STORIES

Native Sons and Daughters are meeting regularly across the country to take on new challenges, seek adventure, serve their communities, and have loads of fun. With [Our Stories](#), we spotlight individual programs and report on their recent activity.

<http://www.nationallonghouse.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/nationallonghouse>



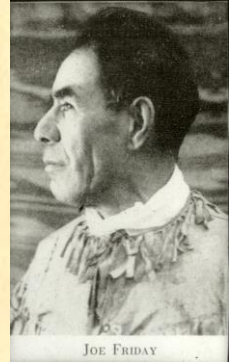


# **Joe Friday Award Presentation**

## **Great Sun Longhouse Elder- Tony "Staggering Buffalo" Bonitatibus Honored**

On January 17, 2021, a number of National and Florida Regional Elders & Chiefs gathered at the fire ceremony of the Great Sun Nation Campout to (along the Great Sun Council) present the Joe Friday Award to longtime Great Sun Elder Tony "Staggering Buffalo" Bonitatibus. The ceremony took place during the Great Sun Campout, held at the Circle F Dude Ranch, which is located between Orlando and Tampa, in Lake Wales, FL.

*The Joe Friday Award is given in recognition of extraordinary service to the National Longhouse parent-child programs. Administered by the National Board of Elders, the award honors the memory of Joe "Ahtik" Friday, Ojibway Indian and close friend to Harold S. Keltner. Joe Friday was an instrumental in the founding and development of the parent-child programs that began in 1926 and the inspiration of the Native American Theme.*



Tony Bonitatibus receiving the award. National Chief Ray Junk (center), National Board Elder and FLRAL Sachem Brian Quirk (right)



Ceremonial Fire Lighting or Rocket Launch?

As a longtime Chief & Elder of Great Sun, Tony's list of accomplishments over the past 10+ years are as his Indian name implies... "Staggering". Most notable of these are that Tony was a strong proponent of bringing back the North American Indian theme, was instrumental in moving the program away from the Adventure Guides and starting Great Sun as an NSD Longhouse in 2011. Tony guided Great Sun toward implementing several new activities, from Pinewood Derby to organizing charity events within the community. An event that stands out is the GS partnership with the Wayne Barton study center. Tony led volunteering efforts during a food drive and later a school supply giveaway. Tony also guided GS in setting up succession planning for Great Sun Longhouse to prosper for years to come.



L-R: FLRAL Chief Pat Hart, Nat'l Elder Brian "Flaming Arrow" Quirk, Tony "Staggering Buffalo" Bonitatibus (w/award), Nat'l Chief Ray "Creaking Oak" Junk).



# Thoughts & Ideas to Keep your Tribes & Longhouses Active during the Pandemic

Submitted by Ray Junk & JJ Sutphin

Capture these moments... Learn from them. Build your programs from them. If your favorite parks and venues are currently closed, come up with something creative and exciting for the kids that is a unique fit.

In one great example, Scott Klueppel, (Timucuan Longhouse) suggested that his Longhouse host a "Build something with your dad" event, where dads and kids design and build something together... anything! Once completed, they receive a patch. That is a patch that both father and child will always remember.

Who in your organization is a gardener? A beekeeper? A farmer? A woodworker? What other valuable knowledge and skills exist within the treasure trove of the minds and experiences of your local membership and local neighborhoods? What can you and your sons & daughters learn from them? What projects, events and contests can you design into your local Longhouse that will capitalize on this valuable information in your community and benefit your Native Sons and Daughters families? Put them to use building your local program, your local community and your own sons and daughters.

## JUST A FEW POSSIBILITIES...

### VIRTUAL ROCKET LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

Rocket League is a multiplatform video game where you play soccer, but as a vehicle.

### SOCIAL DISTANCE NATURE HIKE

This one is pretty straight forward. Get together at an outdoor park and go for a walk/hike but maintain proper distancing. (\*please follow your local/state guidelines)

### MAKE AND DONATE FACEMASKS

There are many places to find instructions on how to make facemasks. Get your members to participate on their own at home with their families. Either make the custom masks for themselves, or find a local recipient to donate to. See Zoom Tribe Meeting below.

### WRITE THANK YOU NOTES/CARDS TO FRONT LINE WORKERS

This is a great one that can be done by members at home. Have them write THANK YOU notes to our first responders (Doctors, Nurses, Fireman, Police, even local grocery workers). This greatly raises the spirits of all involved. Do this as a tribe meeting craft. See Zoom Tribe Meeting below.

### PARADE

I've seen several forms of the parade and it makes me smile each time. Decorate your cars/trucks, all get together and simply wave and send out love to the people you see on your "parade route".

### ZOOM TRIBE MEETING

Get your tribe together on ZOOM (see next page) and conduct a virtual meeting. Let the kids see/talk to each other and have activities. Perform your tribal rituals for all to participate. **Keep those traditions alive!!**

***We invite you all to share your own family's shutdown stories with our national Native Sons and Daughters community. We all have an interesting story to tell about our time in isolation; what we've learned, how we've grown, what we've done together with our families without all of the distractions of modern life. Send us a quick story and a few pics of what shutdown life has been like in your homes for publication in the National Drumbeats newsletter.***

Email your stories to [NSDNewsletter@nationallonghouse.org](mailto:NSDNewsletter@nationallonghouse.org).



# Longhouse Special Events

## Timucuan Longhouse (Jacksonville, FL) Fall Campout, City-Wide Pow-Wow & Car Race Events

Submitted by: Rick "Storm Cloud" Murphy

**2020 Combined Fall Longhouse:** The Timucuan Nation held its first ever co-ed Longhouse November 6-8, 2020 at Camp Winona near DeLeon Springs, Florida. The Great Spirit blew a strong east wind among us keeping us all safe. Federation Chief Red Bear and Medicine Man Storm Cloud were instrumental in planning and executing a successful and safe weekend! Many Big Braves convened together to plan, organize, set up, and take down events such as: The Campfire Story, Egg Toss, Lake Swimming, Archery and BB Guns, Zip Line (Big Hit!), Photo Scavenger Hunt, and the ever popular Big Red's Critter Race.

The Great Spirit looked with much favor on this special Great Fire! New Big Braves, Little Braves, and Little Princesses sent acorn smoke to the heavens to initiate and symbolize their lifelong bonds. Older Braves and Princesses "broke arrow" to start their journey to greater responsibility and independence. The Federation Council and Elders were very pleased to have a tremendously successful first Longhouse of the 2020-2021 season!



**2020 Citywide and Jax Cracker Race:** There were lots of smiling faces at the Citywide Pow-Wow and Jax Cracker Race on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. It was held at the North Florida Christian Camp, just outside Keystone Heights, Florida alongside Big Johnson Lake. We had over 60 program members and guests zip-lining, scream swinging, swimming, water sliding, shooting bb guns, and doing archery. This yearly recruiting tradition provides sun and fun for our Timucuan Longhouse members as well as any interested parents and friends who want to learn about our program. At the end of the day we held the Jax Cracker race with over 30 cars flying down the track at break-neck speeds....and a few rolling slowly. Awards for 1st through 3rd place were given for fastest boys' car, fastest girls' car, and best-in-show. As always, good times were had by all! After day trippers and car racers departed for home pastures, several family groups stayed to camp overnight in tents or RV's or sleep in one of the large cabins. Folks gathered 'round the big stone fire pit and spun stories, cracked wise, or roasted marshmallows for s'mores. And some of us did all of the above!





# Longhouse Special Events

## Great Sun Longhouse (Boca Raton, FL) Peace River Canoe & Camp Event

Submitted by: Rob Naylor

On March 5th-7th, 2021, the Great Sun Nation descended on Peace River Campground in Arcadia, FL for their annual Peace River Campout. Even though the rivers water level was very high prohibiting the collection of sharks teeth and fossils that this portion of the River is famous for, a great time was had by all.

A Broken Arrow ceremony was also held and Faith Parkinson, Dillon Ciphery and Colin Ciphery broke arrows with their fathers.



There was some rain on Saturday, however, that did not hold any Tribes back from preparation of their famous Saturday feasts that the Peace River Campout has become known for. The Peace River is a special place for many Great Sun families and will surely continue to be in the yearly rotation for their camping schedule.





# **Great Lakes RAL** **Longhouse Activity**

Submitted by George Skerritt, GLRAL Chief



Longhouse activities have been very limited for the GLRAL Longhouses, currently located in the states of Ohio & Michigan. Western Reserve, Crooked River and Cuyahoga Valley Longhouses all have done some Covid-limited activities.

Crooked River's "Fishing Derby On-Your-Own" brought a lot of participation and pictures in. They also did a tobogganing event while the snows allowed for that.

Western Reserve & Cuyahoga Valley were looking at snow tubing, and Western Reserve also did an online newscast/Family Show where the kids reported AND got some NSD promotional yard signs made. Crooked River used the idea and one of their own contacts to get some of these signs made up for their local area as shown below.

Some of the Longhouses seem to be planning some limited activities as Spring draws near and outdoor activities become more feasible. We look forward to our favorite camps and other activities once again.

<b>MOM or DAD NEEDS A BREAK.</b>	<b>WANT TO BE A CHIEF?</b>
Parents & Kids Creating Memories Together	Parents & Kids Creating Memories Together
	
<b>JOIN OUR LONGHOUSE CrookedRiver.org</b>	<b>JOIN OUR LONGHOUSE CrookedRiver.org</b>
<b>YOUR KIDS WANT TO DO THIS - WITH YOU.</b>	<b>CONNECT WITH YOUR KIDS MORE THAN THE WIFI</b>
Parents & Kids Creating Memories Together	Parents & Kids Creating Memories Together
	
<b>JOIN OUR LONGHOUSE CrookedRiver.org</b>	<b>JOIN OUR LONGHOUSE CrookedRiver.org</b>





# Have a Zoom Tribe Meeting



## How to sign up to Zoom

Signing up to Zoom is free and easy.

You just need a valid email address, and the willingness to accept Zoom's privacy policy and terms, which are fairly standard.

Anyone can sign up to Zoom by downloading the app, or going to the official website.

You can find the Zoom sign-up page here: <https://zoom.us/signup>



## How to Host & Join a Zoom meeting

To host a video meeting, load the website or app.

Make sure you're logged in, then click New Meeting and Start-With Video.

You can then share a link to invite other people.

If you receive a link to join a meeting, simply click it and you'll be taken to the right video conference.

There are some limitations to the free version of the app so be sure to understand those before you host a meeting.



# Native American Culture

## Ojibway- Traditional Dwellings

## The Traditions of Joe Friday

### OJIBEWAY BIRCH-BARK LODGES

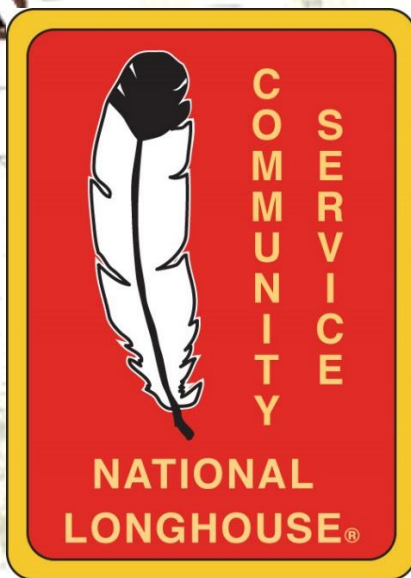
There were 2 Types :  
Angular and Domed.  
The frame-work of the former  
was made by setting poles  
in the ground at an angle to  
form a cone. The other  
was made by tying  
branches together to  
form a dome.  
They were called  
Wigwams.

Both were covered  
with sheets of birch  
bark, and held down  
by outside  
poles.



Building frame of  
Dome shaped Lodge





## NLL Community Service Project

*The process for submitting reports and receiving awards is simple...*

- Project reports can be submitted at any time.
- Project reports are now submitted online with an "easy-to-use" form.
- Awards will be processed and distributed at that time.
- YEAR BARS NOW AWARDED FOR 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR PARTICIPANTS. SEE THE EXAMPLES BELOW

See the full brochure, project detail and reporting form at...

<http://www.nationallonghouse.org/community-service-project/>

National Longhouse invites all Longhouses and tribes to participate in this worthy program-wide project. We are certain that many Longhouses are performing various service works in their communities.

**Report on your service works and be recognized!**

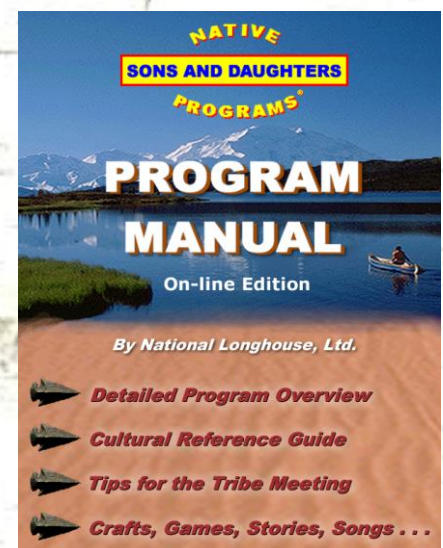


## **NSD PROGRAM MANUAL**

Download it from the NSD website.

Click on the Program Manual tab.

A vast resource of helpful materials for all membership. Program history, National Longhouse structure, Tribes, Awards, Campouts, Native American Program Theme, Culture, Crafts, Games, Stories, Songs, etc. View and/or print as you like!

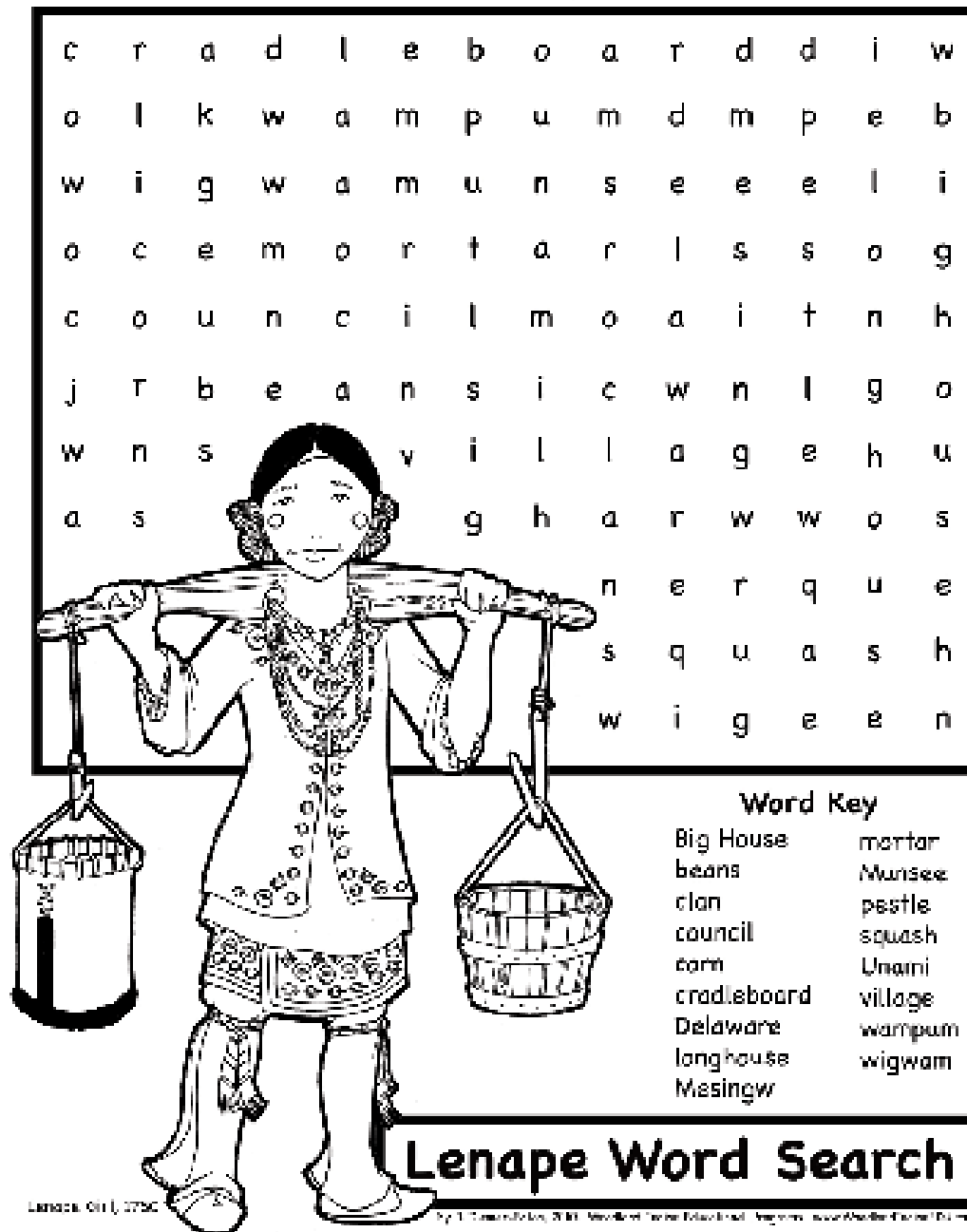




## KIDS KORNER: NATIVE AMERICAN WORD SEARCH

**PRINT THIS PAGE AND DO THIS ACTIVITY WITH YOUR CHILD**

## Find All 17 Words!



LONGHORN OIL, INC.

Fig. 1. Gamma rays from  $^{238}\text{Pu}$  recorded at the first Polaroid and  $^{238}\text{Pu}$  source, source diameter 0.5 cm, distance 10 cm.










# NSD Heritage

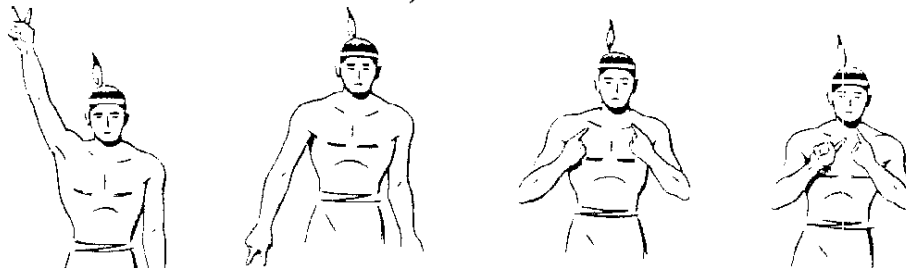
## A Special Part of Longhouse and Tribal Rituals

### BENEDICTION OR CLOSING PRAYERS

BENEDICTION IN SIGN LANGUAGE \*

And now (finger pointing to the ground ), may the Great Spirit (fingers circling up, imitating smoke , of all good spirits (arms outstretched , be with (arms in close , you (finger pointing across the circle ) now (fingers pointing down , and forever more (action of shooting bow and arrow )

(Significance of symbols should be explained in advance; the prayer to be completed in silence and with reverence)



May the Great Spirit (sign of V with right hand up and forward from shoulder) look down upon us (the V fingers bent forward and down, and wrist bent forward, so that the V fingers "look down") while we are absent (two index fingers held before body, about a foot apart, then drawn together) for a little while (index fingers drawn apart, the left forward, the right backwards, for about a six-inch space).