



NATIONAL LONGHOUSE DRUM BEATS

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF NATIVE SONS & DAUGHTERS PROGRAMS



January, 2023

Great Spirit Moon

gichi-manidoo-giizis

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

Yá'át'ééh Native Sons and Daughters!

Gather round. I have a little story to tell... My friend, Chief Two Dogs & I met up last afternoon to test out our old canoe. It needed some work, so I patched it up over the weekend and asked Ol' Two Dogs if he wanted to get out and enjoy the Great Spirit's work with me for a few hours on the lake. The weather was perfect, the colors of the sunset reflected brilliantly across the lake, and with any luck, we might bring home a couple of the Great Spirit's tasty fish for dinner!

So we grabbed our fishing poles and headed to the lake. No sooner had we launched the canoe and began our journey to the deep, than we saw that a fisherman on the shore had hooked a bird way out in the water. Ol' Two Dogs and I were in just the right place at just the right time! We raced our old canoe over to the flipping, flapping grey wings of the large bird struggling in the water and Two Dogs gently reached overboard to help the poor animal. Whoah! He jumped back a little! He reached back in and carefully brought back aboard, a frightened, young Great Blue Heron... and a slimy, wriggly, hideous and fang-toothed green eel. It was 3 feet long and wrapped up, in and all around the heron's body and legs, gripped on like a boa constrictor, with its teeth bitten into the bird's feathered body.

Both the bird and the eel were in turn, wrapped up in steel fishing leader and several feet of tough fishing line. We surmised that the eel had bitten the fisherman's bait and then the Heron swooped down out of the sky to catch the eel, only to get tangled up in the fishing line, and ultimately wrapped up in the eel too! What we had onboard was like a "bird nest" of bird, eel and fishing line. The heron could not move its bound legs and certainly would have sunk and drowned in the lake with the heavy eel tethered to it by the fishing line.

Swiftly and carefully, with the last of the day's light, Chief Two Dogs used his knife to cut away some of the fishing line while I held the heron's head and feet still. Then he unwrapped the slippery, slithery eel from around the bird, pulling the animal's long body through the bird's legs, between loops of fishing line, and even through loops of its own, wrapped up, slimy body, like untying a knot in a rope. The eel was free! Two Dogs set it back in the water and it bolted away. The heron was still tangled in fishing line and immobile. With the eel gone however, it was much easier to cut away the rest of the fishing tangle.

After Two Dogs removed the rest of the fishing line and the bird's legs were free, I had the honor of setting this gorgeous Great Blue Heron back onto the surface of the water, where it quickly gathered itself, shook off the whole experience and began a slow swim in the direction of shore.

The sun was down. Both the eel and the heron were safe and sound. Chief Two Dogs was happy and proud to have been able help the two unfortunate creatures. And I was reminded of an old, familiar line from our 6 Aims:

To Seek and Preserve the Beauty of the Great Spirit's Work, in Forest, Field and Stream.

Highlights In This Issue

- Longhouse Reports
- Joe Friday Award Presentation
- 2023 NLL Annual Meeting Update
- Community Service Project & Activity Report
- Rituals & Ceremonies Manual
- National Talley Keeper Needed
- NEW NSD 20th Anniversary Patch
- GLRAL Meeting Report
- Kids Korner-American Indian Word Search
- Tribal Totems
- Indian Symbols

**In Service,
Ray "Creaking Oak" Junk, NS&D Nat'l Chief**
nationalchief@nationallonghouse.org

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National Longhouse

National Council of Officers



These are your 2022-24 National Council of Officers.

Name	Position	Email
Ray "Creaking Oak" Junk	National Chief	nationalchief@nationallonghouse.org
Michael "Wild Eagle" Ryan	Nat'l Assistant Chief	nationalassistant@nationallonghouse.org
Chris "Laughing Bear" Williams	Nat'l Wampum Bearer	nationalwampumbearer@nationallonghouse.org
OPEN-see article below.	Nat'l Talley Keeper	nationaltalleykeeper@nationallonghouse.org
Stewart "Running Wombat" Morris	Nat'l Web Spinner	nationalwebspinner@nationallonghouse.org
JJ "Howling Wolf" Sutphin	National Sachem	nationalsachem@nationallonghouse.org

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

Welcome New National Longhouse Wampum Bearer

National Longhouse welcomes new National Wampum Bearer Chris "Laughing Bear" Williams. Chris is a longtime member and officer of the Cuyahoga Valley Longhouse and has stepped forward to give of his time and talents to this very important position for National Longhouse. Chris recently received the NLL Joe Friday Award in recognition for his years of continuous service to Cuyahoga Valley LL.



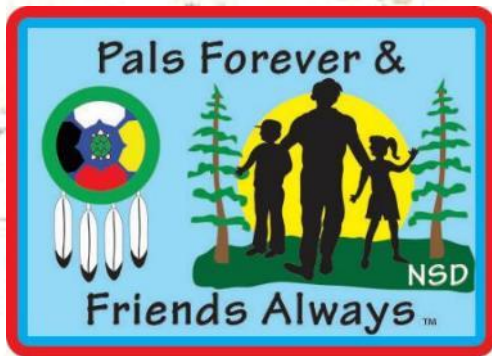
Volunteer Needed! National Talley Keeper

The National Talley Keeper position is currently open. The primary responsibilities of this national officer position are to attend National Council of Officers meetings (the annual in-person national meeting and other virtual meetings) and take the minutes of the meetings. The Talley Keeper also has charge over the National Drumbeats Newsletter (what you are reading☺) with the goal of 3-4 editions per program year. The newsletter is certainly a place to let your creativity shine. National Longhouse is looking for an energetic and creative volunteer to fill this position.



If you have potential interest in this position and would like more detailed information, please contact National Chief Ray "Creaking Oak" Junk at nationalchief@nationallonghouse.org

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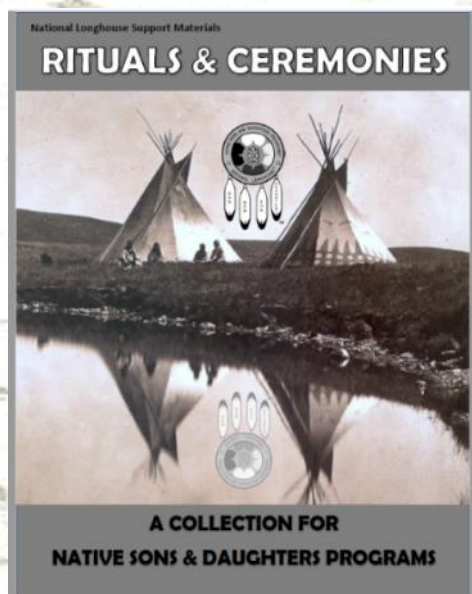
National Longhouse Website and Facebook Page

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.

<http://www.nationallonghouse.org>

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



Rituals & Ceremonies Manual for NSD

Download it from the NLL website.

A vast resource of helpful materials for all Tribes & Longhouses. Ceremonies, Rituals, Devotions & Stories, all geared to enhance your program. Download the entire book or any individual file to customize to your program needs.

<https://www.nationallonghouse.org/resources/program-theme-support/>



**NATIONAL
LONGHOUSE®**

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 2ND, 3RD & 4TH 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!



2023 NATIONAL LONGHOUSE ANNUAL MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED

NLL announces that the 2023 National Longhouse in-person Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for March 3rd-5th, 2023 at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, Tennessee HAS BEEN CANCELLED, due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.

National Longhouse will be working with Regional Chiefs and Local Longhouse leadership to put together some form of a virtual meeting in the coming months.

“Share the Stories, Spread the Spirit”

In the National Longhouse Drum Beats Newsletter

Does your Longhouse or Tribe have a great story to share? Share the news and pictures of your special events with all of Native Sons & Daughters membership.

Send them to NSDNewsletter@nationallonghouse.org

Community Service

Orange Spirit Longhouse (CA) Double R Ranch Volunteer Project

Submitted by: Jon "Big White Tiger" Keefe, Eagle Eyes Tribe Chief

The Dads & Daughters of the Eagle Eyes, Roadrunners, Red Tailed Hawks, Phoenix and Penguins Tribes of the Orange Spirit Nation; about 46 in total, participated in a volunteer service event at the Double R Ranch, located in the hills of Warner Springs, CA in support of the ranches mission to *provide for the least, the last and the lost*. They performed cleanup, gardening and fire prevention work as directed by camp personnel. The crew of dads & daughters worked a combined 138 service hours.

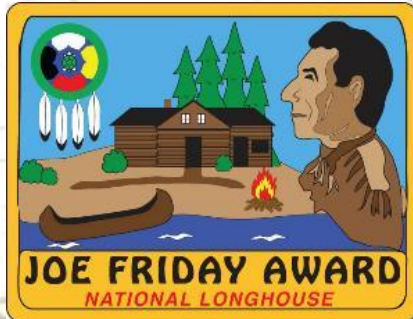
The following is the mission statement from the Double-R website

The Double R Ranch is a working horse ranch where men have a unique faith-based, educational opportunity to experience the healing effects of hard work in the outdoors and with animals. The Double R Ranch educational program is based on the biblical principles shared in the Wild at Heart message, coupled with a Christian, equestrian-therapy program. This amazing facility gives its residents a safe place to heal, learn, and start a new life. And, it also serves as a weekend retreat for Village of Hope families.



Joe Friday Award Presentation

Presented to George "Sage Wolf" Skerritt, Crooked River Longhouse



George, "Sage Wolf" Skerritt was presented the National Longhouse Joe Friday Award this past October 30th, 2022 as a special part the Crooked River Local Longhouse' Induction ceremony held at the Albion Woods Picnic Area of the Strongsville Metro Parks in Strongsville, NE Ohio. George was nominated for this national award by CRL. Presenting the award were; from Crooked River, Longhouse Chief Jon Daniel and representing National Longhouse and Great Lakes Regional Lodge, GLRAL Chief Tom Kundmueller.

Following submitted by CRL Elder Tarik Labib

George joined the Native Sons and Daughters program in 2010 after seeing a flyer his daughter brought home from school. In a very natural form, George began volunteering his time across many roles of increasing responsibility for the Crooked River Local Longhouse over the past 12 years. It started with George and his daughter Sophie's induction into the tribe. George "Chief Sage Wolf" led the Seneca tribe where Sophie "Dancing Butterfly" and other members embraced the core values, traditions and adventures that the Native Sons & Daughters Program has to offer. Whether camping, fishing, pinewood derbies, parades, rocket launches and various family events throughout the years, consistently supporting and leading, Chief Sage Wolf was a major contributor to countless experiences and ultimately an expansive book of happy memories.



Dancing Butterfly and Sage Wolf



L-R: CRL Chief Jon Daniel, George Skerritt and GLRAL Chief Tom Kundmueller.

Leading with a "Pals Forever, Friends Always" mentality, it was to no surprise that after his first year, Chief Sage Wolf took on several concurrent roles to grow the portfolio of adventures and encourage membership. While Chief Sage Wolf remains the Chief of the Seneca Tribe to this day, he also has served as almost every local longhouse chief position, from 2011 to 2014 as Member Chief, Marketing Chief, Events Chief, Tally Chief and Assistant Chief. In 2015 serving as Chief of the Crooked River Local Longhouse, transpiring in 2016 and remaining through 2022 as Sachem, He also served as 2018-19 Great Lakes Regional Lodge Assistant Chief, and then in 2020-22 as Great Lakes Regional Lodge Chief. Not surprising, George volunteered to serve as Crooked River Wampum when the previous chief retired and continues to hold this role today.

Specifically, Chief Sage Wolf has been a constant for the program, our foundation who offers support, guidance, kindness, humor and a genuine sense of togetherness for fellow chiefs and all Longhouse members alongside leading the financial aspects of the Local Longhouse. The contributions have been endless with Chief Sage Wolf.

ANNOUNCING!

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Great Lake Regional Advisory Lodge

Recap of the GLRAL In-Person Meeting, January 7th, 2023

Independence Library, Independence, Ohio

Submitted by: Tom "Eagle Eye" Kundmueller, GLRAL Chief

Our first in-person regional meeting for the current program year went very well. Thanks to everyone who participated in the collaborative discussions which took place throughout the day. Three of the five total active longhouses currently operating in the Great Lakes Region were represented: Crooked River, Western Reserve & Cuyahoga Valley. In addition, National Longhouse Chairman Don Bittala and National Longhouse Elder Greg Measor joined us as well.



Many topics were covered, including the following:

- State of the GLRAL as well as the National Longhouse
- Future regional events which can include members of all local longhouses
 - Potential snow tubing in February, 2023, at Brandywine - depending upon many variables - details to follow when available
 - Summer campouts - possibly rotating between three venues:
 - East Harbor
 - Mohican
 - Roundup Lake Campground in Mantua, OH
- Various locations to hold longhouse campouts throughout the year
- National Longhouse Program Support for the current program year
- Roundtable discussion including some best practices addressing current local longhouse challenges:
 - Best public representation of group (all mediums - electronic, in-person, print, etc.)
 - Internal longhouse communications
 - Leadership recruitment
 - Retention of current membership

In order to perpetuate the positive momentum which we created at the meeting, I am going to schedule a quarterly conference call for all longhouses to join in the future. Ample notice will be provided and each longhouse will need to have at least one leader on the conference call. More details to follow.

Collaboration and communication throughout the region will be my main focus as long as I am your regional chief. We can all help each other and our own longhouses will benefit simultaneously. Did you know that the word "TEAM" is an acronym? It is comprised of the following:

- T - Together
- E - Everyone
- A - Achieves
- M - More

Contact Tom at GLRALChief@nationallonghouse.org

Find Past Issues of National Longhouse Drum Beats:

<http://nationallonghouse.org/> use the Nat'l Drum Beats tab

Longhouse Special Events

Space Coast Expedition (Cocoa Beach, FL) Winter 2022 Activities

Submitted by: Kristina "Water Lily" Watkins, Navigator

The Space Coast Expedition Adventure Maidens have had a busy winter full of activities. We kicked off November with our Friendsgiving by volunteering at a local wildlife rehabilitation center, enjoying a potluck Thanksgiving lunch and then taking a hayride to meet some of the animals. Many members participated in our monthly mother/daughter challenge in November which was to honor a veteran. December started with a trip to Mount Dora to check out their popular light display and watch the Christmas boat parade.



We also met up at a local nature preserve for our December meeting where we designed ornaments using wood slices from a tree lost in hurricane Nicole. The maidens all decorated sugar cookies and we had our first cookie exchange.

We ended our meeting with a nature hike to the Indian River and were blessed with cool weather for Florida! Our December challenge was to participate in a winter sport, which is a little hard in Florida, so we had a meetup at a local ice rink where we were able to complete the challenge. Adventure Maidens are looking forward to our next adventure which is an overnight trip at SeaWorld! We are looking forward to creating unforgettable mother/daughter memories!



Longhouse Special Events

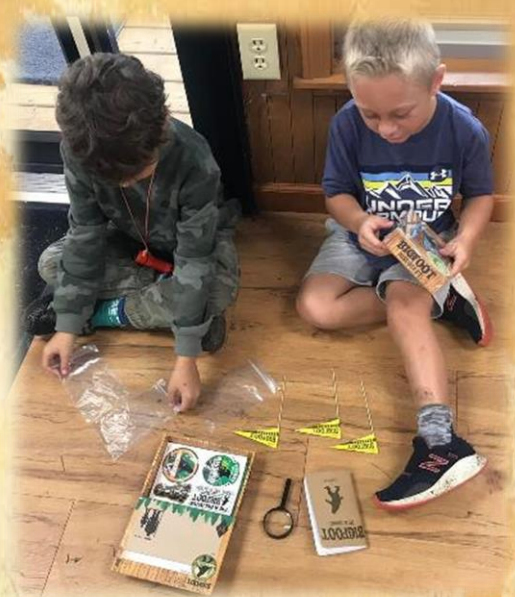
Kitchinodin-Lazy Snails Tribe (Columbus, OH)

Big Foot Basecamp Weekend at Pleasant Hill Lake Park

Submitted by: Audrey Nicolas



Last September 22nd, some members of the Kitchinodin Longhouse-Lazy Snails Tribe made a trip to the Big Foot Basecamp overnight event, held at Pleasant Hill Lake Park, near Perrysville, Ohio. Bigfoot Basecamp Weekend is full of family-friendly activities and selected events featuring Matt MoneyMaker, Founder / President of the Bigfoot Field Research Organization (BFRO) and host of the "Finding Bigfoot" TV series on Animal Planet.



We learned a lot about Bigfoot, his smell, what he looks like from people who assure that they saw him!!! We used the researcher kit given to us, to look for evidence of the creature. We kept "squatchin" but did not find or hear Bigfoot. We also went night sighting looking with a lot of believers, it was so much fun!



KITCHINODIN
LONGHOUSE

Longhouse Special Events

Tanasi Longhouse (Nashville, TN) Apache Tribe Fall Camp-Powwow



Submitted by: Mike "Steel Stud" Nolan, Apache Tribe Chief

After months of planning for fall campout 2022, it is finally just a few days away for the Tanasi Apache Tribe. The itinerary is laid out and responsibilities assigned. The highlight on the docket is the broken arrow ceremony for long time tribe members, Zach and Stella, better known to the tribe as Soaring Eagle and Star Dancer. Excitement has reached its climax for dads and daughters with equipment packed: tent – check, sleeping bag – check, vests – check. Now, the weather forecast... uh oh! The weather forecast changed unexpectedly and will now drop down into the 20's accompanied by rain. Cold weather and rain are not necessarily ideal conditions for tent camping. As we know, things don't always go as planned, but that just presents opportunity.



Tribe leaders scrambled to find last minute camping venues that could accommodate 20 dads and daughters with cabins, but that was too much to hope for. Time to continue looking for a plan B. Rescheduling was not an option, given the age-out of long-time members Soaring Eagle and Star Dancer. We could always camp later but we would still need to recognize the important occasion for Zach and Stella over the weekend. Fortunately, Soaring Eagle generously offered his house to host the tribe and

activities that Saturday night. Instead of a campout, we would have a pow-wow.

The night was cold, but we had plenty of activities and a large fire pit to keep us warm. The evening started with some socializing and the girls (and some of the dads) making dream catchers with all the trimmings. Maybe camping conditions would have been better had we been able to use these dream catchers a few days earlier – to catch the dream of good weather. It wasn't long before stomachs were grumbling to the smell of Zach's tri-tip on the grill – a treasured recipe he acquired during his campouts in California. The food did not disappoint, with plenty of dads and daughters going for seconds and even thirds.

STORY CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Tanasi Longhouse – Apache Tribe Fall Camp Powwow (Cont.)

After dinner, Chief Steel Stud and his daughter, Little Pony set to work on preparing the ceremony time of the powwow. It started with the Bear Claw ceremony to welcome the new warriors and their princesses and then on to the heart breaking but much anticipated broken arrow ceremony led by our Sachem Big Bear and his princesses, Little Bear and Singing Bear. The Native Sons and Daughters sacred ritual recognizing our girls' growing independence is always guaranteed to bring out the worst "allergies" in the dads. Meanwhile, the rest of the tribe gathered around the fire, lamenting the fact that one day it would be them breaking the arrow. Sachem spoke poignant words about our warriors and their unbreakable bond with their princesses and what that signifies as our princesses grow up. Sachem Big Bear brought Soaring Eagle and Star Dancer to the front. Sachem asked Star Dancer to kneel and for her dad to repeat his words. With a few lumps in the throat and pauses, Soaring Eagle managed to get through it. He then painted the blue tears on Star Dancer's cheeks, symbolizing the conflicting emotions of sadness and joy. Next, it was time to change places with Star Dancer repeating the words and painting the tears – although no tears needed painting for her dad. Star Dancer managed to complete it a little more easily than her father. It always seems easier for the daughters than it does for the dads for some reason. Is it because the end of an era means different things to dad and daughter? To the dad perhaps it means letting go and to the daughter it means becoming her own person.

The Broken Arrow Ceremony ended with dad and daughter breaking an arrow together, symbolizing recognition of a new beginning, while simultaneously holding onto the past. Although the arrow is broken, the memories created together over the 8 years camping together across three states can never be. Soaring Eagle and Star Dancer should feel comforted by the fact they will always be part of the Tanasi Apache family of the Native Sons and Daughters. To end the Pow Wow, Chief Steel Stud and his princess Little Pony, along with Medicine Man Fire Water and his Princesses Mountain Monkey and Prancing Panther, recognized Sachem Big Bear and his princesses Singing Bear and Little Bear for their years of service to the tribe, and for continuing their dedication, wisdom and guidance as their journey continues as part of the Apache Nation.



Longhouse Special Events

Talwa Longhouse (Winter Garden, FL)

Spring Campout Event-Camp Tippicanoe

Submitted by: Matt "Funky Fox" Resetar, Longhouse Tally Keeper

Our January campout this year was held at Camp Rybolt in Paisley, FL. We could not have asked for better camping weather, in the high 60s during the day and low 50s at night. Saturday morning the Mohican Tribe organized Marshmallow Gun crafting activity. The kids were able to select different PVC fittings and pipes and create a masterpiece to shoot marshmallows from. It was so fun to see all of the creativity the kids showed in crafting their guns. They were walking around proudly showing off their designs for the remainder of camp.



Saturday afternoon activity was field games which included 3 legged race and blanket pull races. The blanket pull race was a hit, we had kids pulling kids, kids pulling parent, and also a parent pulling parent race. A little rug burn was worth the laughs.

Saturday evening concluded with a Tonka ceremony and campfire stories. What a great way to kick off 2023, sharing wonderful memories with our kids and enjoying time with friends, new and old!



NSD PROGRAM LEGACY

Tribal Totems-A Long and Proud History

Tribal Totems have been a part of program tradition dating back to the early days of the original program, founded in 1926. Totems were commonly created for each tribe. Often, at the founding of a new tribe, the tribe would decide what design type of totem they would build to be part of the tribal property. A popular model was one that was constructed of wooden blocks (or any stackable configuration), that would be placed onto stem base that would hold all the blocks up as a pole. A common tradition was for each family to receive a bare wooden block (hollow or solid) and they would be responsible to carve and/or paint design on it. Often, one side was a series of letters to spell out the tribe name. Other sides would often be carved or painted to represent the Indian names of the parent & child. Additional 3D carvings (wings, claws, etc.) could be added to the outside slat surfaces as desired.



The picture above was taken in 1937 at a large gathering of tribes for the purpose of displaying their tribal property for other tribes to see and sometimes for competitive judging. These totems are a fine example of the pride and craftsmanship taken in building tribal totems and in turn building tribal spirit. These traditions live on today in many Native Sons & Daughters tribes.

**BUILD A TRIBAL TOTEM FOR YOUR TRIBE!
CREATE ANOTHER GREAT TRIBAL RITUAL & MEMORY!!**

KIDS KORNER – AMERICAN INDIAN WORD SEARCH

PRINT THIS PAGE & HAVE FUN!

American Indians



Z R I V O O E I G N F E R K M K F
A U M X U J X C P Q E S B M I X N
A C G S B L A C K F O O T M I M Q
W P G I G B F V B C S H A W N E E
E C Z O M A A X A B T U E I R W F
P H H U Y N L V O N Q N T V Y I O
P E G Q E O K W J P O K K N E N D
I Y V O U K B R D H A F O N E N I
H E F R O T S B S W H W O F K E M
C N A I U Q N O G L A E N P O B P
V N I X P E H H H Z Y C I E R A C
F E P W G S L K I K A R H R E G P
S Q O O L B E U P C P E C U H O C
I B H R I B G V A W A P U Y C R O
O V J C G U J F V M C Z D K E R O
U W I I C O M A N C H E T E Z U Z
X W A T C O H C D T E N K S T U A

ALGONQUIAN

APACHE

BLACKFOOT

CHEROKEE

CHEYENNE

CHINOOK

CHIPPEWA

CHOCTAW

COMANCHE

CREEK

CROW

HOPI

IROQUOIS

NAVAJO

NEZ PERCE

PAWNEE

PUEBLO

SHAWNEE

SHOSHONE

SIOUX

WINNEBAGO

Native American Symbols

INDIAN SYMBOLS

AND THEIR MEANINGS



HORSE

Journey



MAN

Human Life



SUN RAYS

Constancy



LASSO

Captivity



THUNDERBIRD

Sacred Bearer of
Happiness Unlimited



CROSSED ARROWS

Friendship



ARROW

Protection



ARROWHEAD

Alertness



4 AGES

Infancy, Youth, Middle
and Old Age



CACTUS

Sign of the Desert



GILA MONSTER

Sign of the Desert



CACTUS FLOWER

Courtship



SADDLE BAGS

Journey



BIRD

Carefree - Lighthearted



LIGHTNING SNAKE



SNAKE

Defiance, Wisdom



THUNDERBIRD TRACK

Bright Prospects



DEER TRACK

Plenty Game



BEAR TRACK

Good Omen



RATTLESNAKE JAW

Strength



HEADRESS

Ceremonial Dance



BUTTERFLY

Everlasting Life



COYOTE TRACKS



RAIN CLOUDS

Good Prospects



LIGHTNING AND LIGHTNING ARROW

Swiftness



DAYS AND NIGHTS

Time



MORNING STARS

Guidance



SUN SYMBOLS

Happiness



RUNNING WATER

Constant Life



RAINDROP - RAIN

Plentiful Crops



TEPEE

Temporary Home



SKY BAND

Leading to Happiness



MEDICINE MAN'S EYE

Wise, Watchful



MOUNTAIN RANGE



HOGAN

Permanent Home



BIG MOUNTAIN

Abundance



HOUSE OF WATER



FENCE

Guarding Good Luck



ENCLOSURE FOR CEREMONIAL DANCES



EAGLE FEATHERS

Chief



WARDING OFF EVIL SPIRITS



PATHS CROSSING



PEACE