

CEREMONIAL COMMITTEE INFORMATION

The ceremonial committee is responsible for all Order of the Arrow ceremonies and Indian activities that are conducted within the chapter. Members of the committee frequently conduct Pre-Ordeal and Ordeal Ceremonies, Tap Outs, and Indian dance presentations to meet this aim.

HISTORY

The Downriver Ceremonial Committee, which is presently held in high regard by many, has maintained a long history of continuous effort towards improving the quality of the ceremonies. It was during the spring of 1974 in what was then the South Parks Chapter, that this desire for excellence began to take shape. With the efforts of many interested Arrowmen, great improvements flourished in the ceremonies over the next two years. In the summer of 1976 three chapters (South Parks, Riverside, and Two Rivers) were merged to form Downriver Chapter. The ceremonial expertise that had been established in the South Parks Chapter, along with additional talents from Riverside and Two Rivers, provided for a very successful ceremonial committee within the new chapter. During the subsequent years, as new people entered the Order, different ideas were tried and added which have caused the committee to evolve into its present form.

ORGANIZATION

In order to accomplish its many complex tasks, the ceremonial committee has been organized to include seven subcommittees. As a result, the committee as a whole does very little, but carries out its functions through the subcommittees. Each subcommittee conducts meetings and activities as needed to fulfill its purpose. An Arrowman maintains his membership on the ceremonial committee by belonging to one or more of the subcommittees. A brief description of the subcommittees is given below:

DANCE TEAM- Performs Indian dances for various organizations and activities.

Members of the dance team construct personal costumes and accessories.

ORDEAL CEREMONY TEAM- Performs speaking parts and related duties for all Ordeal and Pre-Ordeal Ceremonies.

BROTHERHOOD CEREMONY TEAM- Performs Brotherhood Ceremonies when requested by the lodge or clan. Membership limited to Brotherhood and Vigil members.

EQUIPMENT AND SPECIAL EFFECTS-(E&S)- Constructs and maintains all equipment needed for ceremonies. Prepares all ceremonial sites.

TAP OUT- Performs Tap Out Ceremonies at all O-A elections and other suitable events.

INDIAN LORE- Investigates information on native American lifestyles and customs and provides this knowledge to others in the chapter.

DRUMMERS- Performs drumming and singing for dances, ceremonies, and Tap Outs as needed.

A chairman is appointed to the ceremonial committee by the chapter chief. Serving as coordinator of all committee functions, this chairman appoints others to serve as assistants and subcommittee chairmen as he feels necessary. An adviser is appointed to the ceremonial committee by the chapter adviser.

Besides this brief description of the committee, the ceremonial committee maintains numerous pages of information that describe in detail its various functions and techniques. These are usually made available at a small cost to each member by the committee chairman.