

Order of the Arrow

American Indian Activities Guidelines

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL - PLAINS OR LAKES

MAXIMUM SCORE 60 POINTS

Scale: 0 = Missing or inappropriate; 1-3 = Acceptable; 4-6 = Good; 7-9 = Excellent; 10 = Superior

Item 1: **HEAD** Feather Plumes, Barrett, Hair Ties, Crown (10) _____

Superior: Imitation eagle feather plume(s). Typically a beaded hair barrette or beaded crown secures the plumes at the center back of the head. Beaded, shell or decorative hair ties, all coordinated in color and style. French braided hair. Short hair.

Acceptable: Items in place but mismatched or not necessarily coordinated. Fluffs instead of plumes.

Undecorated hair ties. Braided hair. Short hair. No beaded crown.

Inappropriate: Missing items.

Item 2: **Body** Dress - Choose one of the following three (A,B,or C) (10) _____

A. Dress with Wrap Apron (Typically Kiowa or Comanche)

Superior: Dress with wrap apron fits nicely, are the proper length, made in the correct style, and made from the correct type of fabric such as dressy fabrics and/or bright, print on print, or brocade-like fabrics. Fringe on apron is the correct length and spaced correctly (no fringe may be indicative of a specific tribe and therefor OK). Gusset inserted with hem dropped 3-5 inches below the dress hem (if tribe specific). Bead and hairpipe breastplate (southern style front and back). Tack, beaded, or concho belt. Belt dragger.

Acceptable: Plain, simple fabric. No gusset inserted. Plain leather belt, no belt dragger. Medallion or scarf worn like a neckerchief instead of breastplate. No fringe on wrap apron unless tribe specific.

Inappropriate: Hem too short on dress or apron wrap. Improper fit or improper use of fabric. No medallion or breastplate. Scout neckerchief. No belt.

-or-

B. Ribbon Work Skirt and Blouse (Southern, Central Plains, or Lakes) (10) _____

Superior: Skirt and blouse fit nicely, are the proper length, made in the correct style and made from the correct type of fabric - Broadcloth, wool, wool gabardine, for the skirt (may be brightly colored); dressy fabrics and/or bright, print on print, lined lace, or brocade-like fabrics for the blouse. Skirt has ribbon work, machine embroidery, fabric applique, or ribbon decorations. Appropriate blouse may or may not be decorated like a "ribbon shirt" depending on the tribe. Cloth, ribbon, or beaded trailer. Bead and hairpipe necklaces. Finger woven sash worn correctly under the blouse and over the skirt.

Acceptable: Fabric skirt which displays the correct use. Ribbon decoration on skirt. Plain blouse.

Medallion or scarf worn like a neckerchief instead of necklaces. Ribbon trailer. No sash.

Inappropriate: Hem too short on skirt. Improper fit or improper use or see-through fabric on blouse. No medallion, necklaces, or breastplate. Scout neckerchief. No trailer.

-or-

C. Cloth Dress/Buckskin (10) _____

Superior: Dress fits nicely and is the proper length, made in the correct style, and made from the correct type of fabric; Suggestions - Broadcloth, wool, wool gabardine (all may be brightly colored). Dress bodice, sleeves, and lower portion have machine embroidery, appropriate beadwork (Including pattern and placement), fabric applique, cowrie shell, or elk's teeth decoration.

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Buckskin fits nicely, is the proper length and style, and made with the correct color hide (off- white, cream, brain tanned, smoked). Decorated with appropriate beadwork (including pattern and placement), cowrie shell, or elk's teeth. Cloth, ribbon or beaded trailer. Bead and hairpipe breastplate (southern style front and back). Tack, concho, or beaded belt with belt dragger.

Acceptable: Dress which displays the correct fabric use with simple decorations. Medallion or scarf worn like a neckerchief instead of breastplate. Ribbon trailer. Belt. No belt dragger.

Inappropriate: Hem too short. Improper fit or improper use of fabric. Wrong color buckskin (non natural colors ie: red, black, purple, green etc.) No medallion or breastplate. No belt. Scout neckerchief. No trailer.

Item 3: **LEGS AND FEET** Leggings and Moccasins or Boots. (10) _____

Superior: Southern style boots with beaded decoration. Fully beaded leggings and moccasins. Partially beaded moccasins if appropriate; hose/tights are optional.

Acceptable: Undecorated Southern style boots. Undecorated leggings and moccasins. Undecorated moccasins. Commercial hide boots.

Inappropriate: The use of tennis shoes or other inappropriate footwear in place of moccasins.

Item 4: **ACCESSORIES** Choker, Jewelry (10) _____

Superior: Beaded crown, choker with a beaded medallion (decorative drop), beaded barrettes, beaded earrings, rings, and/or bracelets coordinated in style and color to compliment the dance clothes. Beaded flat purse or drop bag (if tribe specific). Big imitation eagle feather fan. Decorated arm shawl.

Appropriate: Accessories are present but not coordinated in color or design. Plain flat purse, drop bag or no purse/bag. Smaller fan of alternative legal feathers. Undecorated arm shawl.

Inappropriate: Accessories missing. No shawl.

Item 5: **OVERALL** (20) _____

Scale 16-20 Superior 11-15 - Excellent.

6-10 - Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items 1-5 Good start, room for improvement

Does the set look complete? Are the clothes coordinated in color and design? Do they have the right "look"? Are they consistent with current styles?

Final Score (Maximum 60) _____

Ribbon Scale

Gold 48-60

Blue 33-49

Red 17-32

White 1-16

A note about DANCE CLOTHES:

The most important thing about a set of modern Southern Women's Traditional - Plains or Lakes dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position.

The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual dance clothes components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for - such as beadwork - an adequate substitution of cloth, fabric applique, sequins, painted material can be used. However,

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proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a “scoring sheet”; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal as the NOAC Southern Women's Traditional - Plains and Lakes staff is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

A note to DANCERS:

This outline is designed to summarize what a Southern Women's Traditional -Plains or Lakes dancer would wear at a contemporary powwow. It represents the norm as defined by modern dancers in the Southern Plains or Lakes areas across the country.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Southern Women's Traditional - Plains or Lakes are ever-changing dance styles and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to Southern Women's Traditional -Plains or Lakes dance clothes of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as:

www.youtube.com, www.gatheringofnations.com, www.powwows.com, or www.pinterest.com

to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other’s dance clothes. Model your dance clothes after contemporary dancers, but do not copy a specific set of clothes verbatim.

While Southern Women's Traditional - Plains or Lakes dance clothes of the past have their place in history, some of the components may not appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up-to-date on your dance clothes’ style.