

# Indian Guide Induction Ceremony

(BB) = Big Brave (LB) = Little Brave

**Tom-Tom and Lead Runner/Torchbearer:** *Lead procession to Council Ring. Along the way, the tom tom beats slowly and the Lead Runner (Torchbearer) recites the message below at each tribe's cabin.*

**Lead Runner (BB):** Chief (dads Indian name) of the mighty (your tribe name) invites new members of the (tribe you are calling) to join us at the council ring.

*When the torchbearer/lead runner arrives at the council ring, please wait for all behind to gather up towards the council ring and then start.*

**Lead Runner (BB):** Oh Great Chief of the sacred council ring, I Chief (dads Indian name) bring those who wish to join the Federation and take their place with those who have come before them.

**Ceremony Chief (BB):** Who comes so desiring?

**Lead Runner (BB):** Big and Little Braves who have proven their worth and wish to foster the companionship of Father and Son in the Y-Indian Guide Program.

**Ceremony Chief (BB):** Welcome Braves to our council ring. Join us now with our brothers as we call upon the Great Spirit to be with us tonight.

**Tom Tom** *beats drum slowly until all have entered and are seated in the council ring.*

*After everyone has entered the council ring and have been seated, the Tom Tom stops and the Medicine Man begins.*

**Medicine Man (BB):** Oh Great Spirit, be with us now as these Braves, Fathers and Sons, bind themselves to be Pals Forever. Help us to sacrifice selfishness and impatience tonight and always.

**Medicine Man (LB):** Great Spirit, send thy hovering spirit for guidance and direction.

**Ceremony Chief (BB):** In the days long ago, when Indians roamed through our land, they told their stories in sign language, with symbols and pictures. Such a story is told on your Indian Guide headband. In the center is a symbol representing the central theme, it is the eye of the Great Spirit. Holding the eye of the Great Spirit are the four winds.

**Ceremony Chief (LB):** Let the Tom-tom call the spirit of the North wind.

**Tom-Tom:** *beats drum 4 times*

**Fire-Starter:** **(NORTH WIND EXPLOSION)**

**North Wind (LB):** The Spirit of the North speaks to you.

**North Wind (BB):** All great explorers know that to keep the North in mind, keeps them on course. Even as the compass always points North to remind us of our goal, so the purpose of the Y Indian Guides is always before us, to remind us of our goal as Fathers and Sons together. The goal being "Pals Forever"! So speaks the Spirit of the North.

**North Wind (LB):** We have heard your words of wisdom, Great Spirit of the North! Now let the Tom-tom call the Spirit of the South wind.

**Tom-tom** *beats drum 4 times*

**Fire-Starter: (SOUTH WIND EXPLOSION)**

**South Wind (BB):** When we hear the word "South", we think of the soft warm breezes and the friendliness that they give. So the message I bring from the South is one of friendship between Father and Son. May the strength of friendship always be with you as you work and play together. These are the words of wisdom from the South.

**South Wind (LB):** We have heard from the spirit of the South wind. Let the Tom-tom call the spirit of the East wind.

**Tom-tom** *beats drum 4 times*

**Fire-Starter: (EAST WIND EXPLOSION)**

**East Wind (BB):** When we think of the East, we think of the dawn which brings a new day and with each new day a new opportunity to learn, to be friendly, to grow closer together and to follow the wisdom of the Great Spirit. The message I bring from the East is this: To start each new day with new strength to become a better Indian Guide.

**East Wind (LB):** Now let the Tom-tom call the last of the winds. The spirit of the West wind.

**Tom-tom** *beats drum 4 times*

**Fire-Starter: (WEST WIND EXPLOSION)**

**West Wind (BB):** The West signifies the setting sun, the close of the day, and so the message I bring to you is to live in such a way so at the close of each day you have made others happier for knowing you. This is the message of the West: When the day is done, look back upon your work well done.

**West Wind (LB):** You have heard the wisdom from the spirits of the four winds. Heed their lessons, and hold them close to you.

**Ceremony Chief (BB):** Extending from the right and the left of the eye of the Great Spirit are feathered arrow designs, which represent the useful services of Father and Son. Whenever outstanding deeds of bravery happened, the deed was noted by the Indians and a Brave was awarded a feather or stone for his necklace. You will notice that the Father and Son's achievements are united in the center of the eye, which means they are seeking to help each other under the watchful Eye of the Great Spirit.

On the right is the symbol of the Mother and Home. A line connects the Mother symbol with the Teepee or Home, shown by the fire in the Teepee.

On the left are symbols of Father and Son. Their relationship is shown by the line that joins them. These two symbols add to the richness of the central theme, for it is in service to mother and home that many of the greater achievements of Father and Son will take place.

Far to the right are the symbols of Day and Forest.

Far to the left are symbols of Mountains, Lakes, Fields, and Streams with the Moon for light.

Here again, these symbols tend to enrich the central theme, giving broader scope to services by centering the efforts of the Father and Son in Village and Community life, and in Forest, Field and Stream.

Briefly stated: The story of our headband can be said in these words:

Father and Sons, through friendly services to each other..., to your family..., to your Tribe and to your Community, seek a world pleasing to the eye of the Great Spirit.

**Tom Tom:** *beats drum slowly while Federation Chief is called.*

**Ceremony Chief (LB):** Let us now call for the Federation Chief

**Tom Tom:** *beats slowly and softly until Federation Chief has arrived and then beat drum one time loudly to signal for silence.*

**Firestarter:** **(FEDERATION CHIEF CHARGE—if used)**

**Ceremony Chief (BB):** Chief (Indian name of Federation Chief) has arrived

**Federation Chief (BB):** Welcome all Big and Little Braves, I now call upon the Great Spirit of Life and Light to come and light our council fire.

**Tom-Tom** *beats drum slowly until fire has started and reaches full blaze*

**Fire-Starter:** **(FIRE STARTER LIGHTS CENTER FIRE)**

**Federation Chief (BB):** The Great Spirit is pleased that the big and little braves of the Prairie Trail Federation are gathered together in service to each other and to seek a world pleasing to the Eye of the Great Spirit.

It is a great honor for Chief \_\_\_\_\_ to be Chief of this Great Federation. My heart is happy that many new braves have come to join our Federation.

Among you will pass mighty braves who will now make a sacrifice to our program.

*Chiefs hand out corn to new Big and Little Braves only*

**Tom-Tom** *beat drum slowly while chiefs pass out corn.*

**Federation Chief (BB):** From the ear of corn comes the staff of life of the real Indian and background of our Y Indian Guide emblem. Each of you has a kernel of corn for your sacrifice. Use it as you would your heart.

Big braves, I know that each of you has the best interest of your son at heart, or you would not be here tonight. But there is one trait of character that may destroy your success in this program; that is Selfishness. When your little braves want you to spend time with him, you must find the time. The years go by very quickly and it won't be long that you will be asking this of them. I will ask all of you big braves to sacrifice this trait of selfishness which is represented by the kernel of corn you now hold in your hand.

Little braves, you must sacrifice your trait of impatience. There will be times when you ask your dad to play with you, but he will not be able to right then. That is when you must exercise your trait of patience. So you must sacrifice your impatience and wait until they do have the time. The kernel of corn you hold in your hand represents this trait.

Now big and little braves, walk by the fire single file and sacrifice your corn into the fire and return to your place around the council fire.

**Federation Chief (BB):** Now that you have all sacrificed your corn into our fire, let each father grasp the right hand of his son, placing the left hand upon your sons shoulder. Braves, the position you have assumed denotes first, by the tight right hand clasp, the close relationship of father and son. Second, the hand on the shoulder denotes the unity of the tribe.

Now, please repeat after me:

We, Fathers and Sons, (pause) Pledge ourselves to observe all the aims of the Indian Guides Program, (pause) and to foster the companionship of the Father and Son (pause) In Teepee, Village and Tribe, (pause) under the four winds of the Great Spirit.

**Federation Chief (BB):** Big Braves repeat after me: Pals Forever Son!

**Federation Chief (LB):** Little Braves repeat after me: Pals Forever Dad!

**Federation Chief (BB):** Braves, it gives us all pleasure, and it is pleasing in the sight of the Great Spirit that you have sacrificed your impatience and your selfishness in the council fire. You are truly now "Y" Indian Guides and Braves of our Federation. You will now receive your embroidered emblems. Wear them proudly telling all you see that you are an Indian Guide.

*The Y-Indian Guide induction patches are passed out to the new Little Braves*

**Federation Chief (BB):** Now all Big and Little Braves, lets hear three big How Hows for our new Braves.

*HOW HOW HOW HOW HOW HOW*

**Federation Chief (BB):** We have now concluded our induction ceremony, may the Great Spirit watch over us in all that we do and in all the ways that we go.

**Tom-tom** *beats drum rapidly 10 times to end the ceremony.*