

Indian Princesses Induction Ceremony

(BB) = Big Brave (LP) = Little Princess

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 (*dad's 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 (*dad's 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 Braves and Princesses who have proven their worth and wish to foster the companionship of Father and Daughter in the Y-Indian Princess Program.

Ceremony Chief (BB): Welcome Big Brave and Princesses to our Council Ring. Join us now 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 fathers and daughters bind themselves to be Friends Always. Help us to sacrifice selfishness and impatience tonight and always.

Medicine Man (LP): 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 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 (LP): Let the tom-tom call the spirit of the North Wind.

Tom-Tom: *beats drum 4 times*

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

North Wind (LP): 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 Princesses is

always before us to remind us of our goal as Fathers and Daughters together. The goal being “Friends Always”. So speaks the Spirit of the North.

North Wind (LP): 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 daughter. 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 (LP): We have heard from the Spirit of the South wind. Now 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 Big Brave or Princess.

East Wind (LP): 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 (LP): 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 to the right and to the left of the Eye of the Great Spirit are feathered arrow designs which represent the useful services of Father and Daughter. Whenever outstanding deeds of bravery happened, the deed was noted by the Indians, and the princess was awarded a feather or stone for her necklace. You will notice that the Father and Daughter achievements are united in the center of the eye, which means that 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 tepee or home, shown by the fire in the tepee.

On the left are symbols of Father and Daughter. Their relationship is shown by the line that joins the two symbols. These 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 Daughter will take place.

Far to the right are symbols of Day and Forest.

Far to the left are symbols of Mountain, Lake, Field and Stream, with the Moon for light.

Hear again, these symbols tend to enrich the central theme, giving broader scope to services by centering the efforts of Father and Daughter in village and community life, and in forest, field and stream.

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

Fathers and Daughters, 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 (LP): Let us now call for the Federation Chief.

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

Fire-Starter: **(FEDERATION CHIEF CHARGE—if used)**

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

Federation Chief (BB): Welcome all Big Braves and Princesses, 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 Braves and Princesses 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 big braves and princesses have come to join our federation.

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

Chiefs hand out corn to new Brave and Princesses only

Tom-Tom: *beats 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 Princess 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 daughter 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 princess wants you to spend time with her, 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.

Princesses, you must sacrifice your trait of impatience. There will be times when you ask 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. This trait is represented by the kernel of corn you hold in you hand.

Now Big Braves and Princesses, 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 let each father grasp the right had of his daughter, placing the left hand upon your daughter's shoulder. The position you have assumed denotes, first, by the right hand clasp, the close relationship of father and daughter. Second, the hand on the shoulder denotes the unity of the tribe.

Now, please repeat after me:

We, fathers and daughters, (pause) pledge ourselves to observe all the aims of the Indian Princess Program (pause) and to foster the relationship of Father and Daughter (pause) in tepee, village and tribe (pause) under the Four Winds of the Great Spirit.

Federation Chief (BB): Big Braves repeat after me: "Friends Always Daughter".

Federation Chief (LP): Princesses repeat after me: "Friends Always Dad".

Federation Chief (BB): 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 Princesses and Braves of our federation. You will now receive your embroidered emblems. Wear them proudly telling all you see that you are an Indian Princess.

The Y-Indian Princess induction patches are passed out to the new princess

Federation Chief (BB): Now all Big Braves and Princesses, lets hear three big how hows for our new Princesses and Big 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.*