



Northern Ponca Princess Policies & Procedures

Tribal Council approved: 9/26/2023

Purpose

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska nominates a Little Miss, Junior Miss, and Senior Ponca Princess each year at the annual Northern Ponca Powwow. These Princesses will serve as goodwill ambassadors for the Tribe at cultural events and intertribal powwows. The purpose of this document is to outline the responsibilities of the reigning Princess, along with the contributions, responsibilities, and support that are granted to the reigning Princess.

Competition

The Ponca Princess will be selected at the annual Powwow following the Princess Competition. The competition will be hosted on Saturday afternoon each year. All girls choosing to participate in the Princess competition must register with the Powwow Committee no later than 12 PM on Saturday. Registration will be accepted beginning August 1st of each year, however, Princesses must check-in at the speaker booth prior to the deadline to confirm they are present.

The competition will be judged by five individual female judges. The judges of the competition will consist of the following:

1. Up to three (3) Members from head drum, and/or invited drum groups (If Present)
2. One (1) female member of the Powwow Committee (If Present)
3. One (1) visiting Princess or one (1) past Princess (If Present)
4. If the above judges are not available or present, the Powwow Committee will select judges for the competition no later than 12 PM.
 - a. Any judge that has an immediate family member competing in the competition will be excused from judging.
 - b. Immediate Family includes, mother, father, brother, sister, grandparent, child, grandchild, spouse, domestic partner, or individual residing in the same household, and also applies to the above which are considered half, step, and in-law relations.

Princesses

The Princesses must meet the following conditions to compete:

1. Age Requirements
 - a. SR Princess

- i. Must be at least 13 years old prior to the annual Powwow and must not exceed 20 years old by the end of her reign which will be August of the following year.
 - b. Junior Miss Princess
 - i. Must be between the ages of 7 and 12 years old prior to the annual Powwow
 - c. Little Miss Princess
 - i. Must be between the ages of 4 and 6 years old prior to the annual Powwow
2. Must be an enrolled member of the Northern Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and provide proof of enrollment at the time of registration.
 - a. Proof of enrollment may be provided by the enrollment department, however, it will be the responsibility of the parent(s), to request verification and provide release of information.
3. Must be in full regalia during the competition.
4. Princesses should make every effort to provide a proper introduction in the Ponca Language.
 - a. Language Instructors are available year round to assist participants in learning and practicing their introductions.
 - b. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to contact the language team for assistance prior to the Powwow.

Judging

The Princesses will be judged in the following three categories. Each category will have slightly more stringent judging as Princesses should grow and excel in their dance style, dress, and introduction as they transition into different categories.

1. Regalia
2. Dance
 - a. Style
 - b. Footwork
 - c. Timing with the drum
3. Introduction
 - a. Introduction in Ponca Language
 - i. Minimum requirement of greeting, closing
 - b. Extracurricular Activities, Hobbies, or Interests
 - c. Presentation

Requirements during Reign

1. Must wear regalia to all powwows and cultural events where she represents the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

2. Must be of good character, be willing to greet the public, and be a good ambassador for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
3. Must learn enough Ponca language to give a greeting and/or prayer at public events and reach out to the Culture Department and Language Program to learn, if necessary.
4. Must be able to represent the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska at powwows.
 - a. The SR Princess will have additional requirements above and beyond the Jr and Little Miss Princess categories.
5. SR Princess is required to attend a minimum of six (6) Powwows to include, but not limited to:
 - a. Southern Ponca Powwow
 - b. Restoration Powwow
 - c. Healthy Living Powwow
 - d. Annual Northern Ponca Powwow
 - e. Two (2) additional Powwows of their choosing
6. Jr. Miss & Little Miss Princess is required to attend a minimum of five (5) Powwows to include the following:
 - a. Restoration Powwow
 - b. Healthy Living Powwow
 - c. Annual Northern Ponca Powwow
 - d. Two (2) additional Powwows of their choosing with Southern Ponca Powwow being a preference.
7. Must know and perform all appropriate dances.
8. Must wear Ponca crown and banner at all powwows.
9. Must not hold any other princess titles until reign is over.
10. Princesses must participate in all sessions at any Powwow they choose to attend.
11. Must sit in the powwow arena if seating for princesses is provided.
12. Must attend other cultural or public relations events as requested by the Culture Director.
13. If any Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Princess is determined by the Powwow Committee and/or Culture Department to be unable to perform her duties or unfit to represent the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska; then, she will be asked to relinquish her title and crown and will be replaced by the Annual Northern Ponca Powwow Princess Runner-up.
 - a. The runner up will be awarded on a pro-rated basis which will be calculated at \$20 per remaining week.

Prize Payout and Travel Costs

1. A thousand dollar (\$1,000) princess prize will be provided to each princess when they are crowned.
2. The SR Princess will receive lodging and mileage for attendance at the Southern Ponca Powwow, which will not exceed \$1,000
 - a. Mileage will be provided at the approved GSA rate.
 - b. Lodging will be provided at the approved GSA rate.

3. Each Princess may request additional funding, not to exceed \$1000 per occurrence, up to three times, during their reign to cover lodging and mileage for participation in Powwows that are out of their home area and that exceed one (1) day.
 - a. Mileage will be provided at the approved GSA rate.
 - b. Lodging will be provided at the approved GSA rate.
 - c. Families are responsible for submitting each request, along with all applicable documentation to the Culture Director at a minimum of three weeks prior to the Powwow occurring.
 - i. The Culture Director will be responsible of presenting all documentation to Tribal Council for an e-vote prior to submitting the check request.
 - ii. In the event the request is denied, it will be the responsibility of the Cultural Director to notify the family.
 - d. Required documentation includes, but is not limited to:
 - i. Hotel Booking Confirmation that includes costs
 1. It is recommended that families book a refundable room in the event the request for funding is denied.
 - ii. Google Maps that lists the mileage from home to Powwow
 - iii. Powwow flyer or Invitation
 - iv. Documentation of any registration fees
4. Princesses are encouraged to host fundraisers, raffles, or request donations to assist with additional travel costs.