



30TH
ANNIVERSARY



Powwow Guide



30th Annual Ponca Tribe of Nebraska POWWOW

4-DAY POWWOW! August 8-11, 2024

Grand Entries: Thurs- 7 pm
 Fri & Sat - 1 pm & 7 pm | Sun - 1 pm
 Meals provided 1 hour before each Grand Entry
All Dancers and Spectators Welcome.

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Head Man Čaní Mázè-ǰdá 'Hút'à Charlie Iron Thunder | Arena Director Stan Smith, Sr. | Invited Drums Maza Kute Hilltop Standing Eagle Omaha White Tail | Senior Princess Stevie Horse |
| Head Woman Talia Jennings | MC Eagle Rhodd | White Eagle Park Bad Moon Rising | Junior Princess Talilah Zephier |
| Head Boy Trayton Henrickson | Head Drum Drowning Creek | | Little Miss Alizay Ironheart |
| Head Girl Destiny Rich | | | |

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| Hand Game August 8 10 am | Cornhole Tournament August 10 10 am | Team Dance Contest |
| Diabetes Fun Run August 9 5 pm | Horseshoe Tournament August 11 10 am | Archery Range |

Security and First Aid Provided. Restrooms, Running Water, and Limited Camping on Site.

Elders receive priority parking, additional parking provided near grounds, with shuttle.

PTN POWWOW GROUNDS DIRECTIONS:

One mile West of Niobrara on Highway 12. Turn left at the Ponca Sign, located across from the Niobrara State Park. Follow the pavement to the Powwow Grounds.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

For the most up-to-date information, follow us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/PTNPowwow,
 call: 402.857.3519 or
 email: rwrightjr@poncatribene.gov.



With the support of the Nebraska Arts Council.



Welcome to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Powwow!

Thati'a relatives & friends,

As the Chairwoman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska it is my great honor to WELCOME you all to our homelands here in Niobrara. Whether this is your first time visiting or if you have been here many times before, one thing for certain is the sacredness of this place. The history, scenery, and beat of the drum make it feel like coming home.

On behalf of the Ponca Tribal Council, we thank each and every one of you for coming to our Annual Powwow this weekend. Our Annual Powwow Celebration is the largest gathering for the Ponca Nation here in Nebraska and we hope you are able to enjoy yourselves. From the young ones entering the arena to the experienced dancers giving it their all in the circle, this is a special time to be together remembering the sacrifices of our ancestors and celebrating the story of our resilience. This year is extra special as it is our 30th Annual Powwow Anniversary! In recognition of our 30-years we are providing a special anniversary gift to all our Ponca elders in attendance this year. Elders can pick up their gift at the Breakfast and Bingo event Saturday morning or at the Tribal Council booth at the Powwow grounds.

As you look around you might notice that we have completely redone the arena making it one of the largest in the midwest, along with a new MC booth (Crow's Nest), and a brand new state-of-the-art kitchen area. Another addition is the newly planted Ponca Corn located behind the Earth Lodge. Be sure to stop by the program booths to learn more about the services and resources they offer while you are here. There are many activities occurring in conjunction with the Powwow that I hope you are able to participate in. More information on those can be found in this booklet, on printed flyers, or on our social media pages.

Shout out to all the vendors that took the time to be here and add to the experience. Special thanks to the Powwow Committee for their hard work planning this event and to all our staff/volunteers for the assistance that they have provided. Please stay safe and hydrated during your time here. Take care and come back to see us next year!

Wi` Btha` Ha (Thank you),

Candace Schmidt

Chairwoman Ponca Tribe of Nebraska



Keep summer safety in mind as you enjoy this year's Powwow!

CAMPFIRE REGULATIONS AND SAFETY

- Fires are permitted in the provided fire rings **ONLY**
- Keep fires small, and contained within the ring
- Leave clear a 10-foot area around the ring down to the dirt.
- Stack extra wood upwind and **AWAY** from fire.
- After lighting, throw the match into the fire.
- **NEVER** leave a campfire unattended; an adult should supervise the campfire at all times. **(Campfires should be extinguished before leaving campsite)**
- Keep a bucket of water and shovel nearby.
- Never put anything but wood into the fire.
- Do **NOT** pull sticks out of the fire.
- Do **NOT** sit on the fire ring. It will heat up quickly and stay hot for a long time.
- When it's time to put the fire out, dump lots of water on it, stir it with a shovel, then dump more water on it. Make sure it is **COLD** before leaving your campsite. **If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave!**

AVOIDING HEAT INJURIES

- Choose lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- Stay in air-conditioned spaces as much as possible.
- Limit strenuous activity in the hottest part of the day.
- Protect yourself from the sun and sunburn.
- Drink plenty of fluids, staying away from sugary or alcoholic drinks. **Water will be available throughout Powwow.**
- Replace salt and minerals with sport drinks.
- Know the signs of heat related illness.
- Monitor those at high risk (young children, elders, etc.).
- Seek out **on-site EMS** attention if you're not feeling well.

Powwow Etiquette



The Gathering arena is blessed before the Gathering begins and is considered a sacred area. It is impolite to walk through the arena if you are not a participant. If you need to get to the other side of the arena, please walk around the perimeter and instruct your children to do the same.

PHOTOGRAPHY is generally permitted when the performers are in the arena using available light only. **PLEASE NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY.**

PHOTOGRAPHY IS PROHIBITED during some of the spiritual ceremonies. Please remember Eagle feathers are sacred and must not be touched.

PLEASE STAND AND REMOVE YOUR HAT when the Eagle staff is brought in during the Grand Entry, Flag Songs, Veterans Songs, Invocations, Eagle Feather Retrieval Ceremonies, Memorials, Honor Songs, and Closing Songs.

POLITENESS always goes a long way - if you are unsure, ask some polite questions. A little interest will be flattering to the dancer. Pointing a finger is considered impolite.

SPECTATOR SEATING is in the bleachers and chairs may be set up so long as they are outside the circle of the arena. Benches near the arena are for dancers. Please do not disturb the dancers or their belongings. Be sure to allow seating for elders.

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES as announcements will be made instructing the participants and informing the spectators of the significance and history of the dances. Feel free to join in the "Intertribal Dances".

OTHER COURTESIES include never hindering or bothering the performers or standing in front of those preparing to dance or sing. **DO NOT** touch a dancer's clothing without permission, much or all of what the dancer is wearing is hand created. Some of the items of regalia may be heirlooms and have special or spiritual meaning. Many items are very delicate, some have been made by a respected family member and are especially cherished by the dancer. Respect other people's camps, and don't disturb fireplaces.

Experiencing the Gathering

Gatherings are celebrations, social times and friendly dance competitions. Just as the sacred thread runs through all of life, there are sacred traditions to be found in the Gathering. Dancers often follow the clockwise pattern of the sun while some of the dress and ornaments signify special events or honors in a person's life, religions, traditions or legends.

Everyone is welcome at a Gathering, regardless of the tribe—non-Indians as well. For those new to a powwow, a bit of explanation may enhance your enjoyment and understanding of the event. Some of the dancers you might see are the following:

Men's Northern Traditional Dance

These dancers are distinguished by their lavish bustles of long feathers, usually from an eagle or other raptor. This may be the original dance of the Northern Plains Indians. It is a dance style that allows much freedom of expression for the dancer. Similar to the Southern Straight Dancer, the story line is one of a war party recounting feats for the tribe.

The Men's Northern Traditional is a time for men to dance in the footsteps of their ancestors with regalia that may be passed down for generations. Regalia may include a red eagle feather denoting a veteran's battle injury. Spectators should remove their hats as a sign of respect during this dance.

The tempo of this dance is slow, allowing the dancer to convey his emotions. The dancer always faces his enemy, never turning in a full circle. Faces may be painted for an intimidation effect and strong emphasis is put on the fierceness of the brave.

What to watch for:

In the Men's Northern Traditional each dancer challenges the enemy and it is interesting to watch the story line develop. Although the tempo is slow, the rhythm must be in harmony with the drum. Try to interpret each motion and compare the different ways the dancers imitate the eagle or the porcupine.



Men's Southern Straight Dance

Regalia is important in this dance that preserves memory of important events in tribal history. Men usually wear cotton or buckskin pants and a shirt, a breastplate of bones to the waist or knees and a comb-like head-dress of porcupine guard hair and deer tail hair. An otter tail often extends down the dancer's back.

This dance, often known as a "gentleman's dance," is an expression of the harmony of the universe, originating on the southern plains. Its story line follows a hunting or war party on the trail of enemy or prey. The Southern Straight Dancer is constantly in search of his prey and makes an occasional shoop when the trail is sighted. Singers may heighten interest by singing their own song or singing one of many ancient songs that accompany this dance.

What to watch for:

The dancers are judged on their ability to stay in step with the drum beat and to look convincing in their search. Pay special attention to the story line as revealed by the actions of the dancers and differences in regalia that may denote tribal identity.



Experiencing the Gathering



Grass Dance

The Grass Dance is among the most ancient of the surviving tribal dances. There are at least three different tribal versions. To some it is simply an expression of grass swaying gently in the breeze. The abundance of fringe and ribbons enhances the graceful movement of dancers' bodies as they sway in an imaginary breeze. Whether recalled as a dance to flatten the long prairie grass for a tribal ceremony or as a dance to celebrate victory over an enemy, this dance is one of the oldest expressions of traditional culture.

What to watch for:

The motions of the dancers' bodies cause the flowing regalia to move like the long, blowing grass of the prairie. It should be danced in perfect time to the music, responding as the grass in the wind. This dance expresses harmony in the universe.

Men's Fancy Dance

Agile dancers spin in richly colored regalia through this most athletic of powwow dances. This dance, which was created by the Ponca Tribe, is recognized by the energy of the dancers, some with double bustles and small arm bustles. Friendly competition may develop between singers and dancers as stopping with the end beat can mean winning or losing points. The singers might perform "trick songs" with unexpected last beats.

Though the dance is marked by freestyle movements, the drumbeat must be followed. The dance is based on the standard "double step" employed by traditional and grass dancers. Added to the basic rhythm are fancy footwork, increased speed, acrobatic steps and wild body movements.

What to watch for:

Following the rhythm of the drum with the steps, the motion of the head and the flow of the body are important elements of the Fancy Dance. Since the styles are individual, the expression of the music's emotion and the change of tempo from the slow northern style to the faster southern beat are important. As in all American Indian dancing, the finish in exact time with the song is significant in the judging.



Women's Northern Traditional

This category includes more than one dance style, depending on the individual's tribe. Usually the dancers remain relatively stationary, bending their knees with a slight up and down movement of the body, shifting the feet subtly and turning ever so slightly. In some traditions this symbolizes women gazing into the distance waiting for their warriors to return. The dancer's fans may be raised during honor bits of a song or when the women hear words of particular meaning to them.

Experiencing the Gathering

Women's Southern Traditional

In this elegant dance, women step to every other beat of the drum, rising slightly with each step. The gentle motion of the shawl, folded over the arm, must be in harmony with the motion of the drumbeat. Traditional women's regalia features bead work adorning the top of the buckskin or cloth dress, with chosen elements designed to have special meaning to the dancer. Most traditional dancers wear or carry a shawl, a fan of hawk or eagle feathers, a single feather or a beaded bag.



Women's Jingle Dance

As with the grass dance for men, this dance comes with a legend. According to the Chippewa, an old man, on what his family believed to be his death bed, dreamed of his daughter. In his dream, she was clothed in a dress he had never seen before, a dress decorated by metal cones sewn around the cloth. The spirits had directed the daughter and her friends to make and dance in these dresses. The old man liked the sights and sounds he saw in his dream and later, after a miraculous recovery, he instructed his daughter and her friends in creating the special dresses. And so the lyrical, tinkling dance was born.

These dresses are traditionally decorated with the metal lids of snuff boxes rolled into a bell shape. These dancers do not wear or carry a shawl. The left hand usually rests on the hip and the right hand is either on the hip or free to carry a fan made of feathers.

The Jingle Dance is a dance of pride and dignity, and allows for much individual expression. The dance has no set step pattern, but is always active and exciting to watch. The jingle dress, with its bouncing metal cones, provides much of the musical accompaniment to the dance.

What to watch for:

Dance steps and body movement, which are not in time with the music, are easy to detect because of the music of the dress itself. Reverence, pride and grace are necessary in the attitude and movements of the dancer.

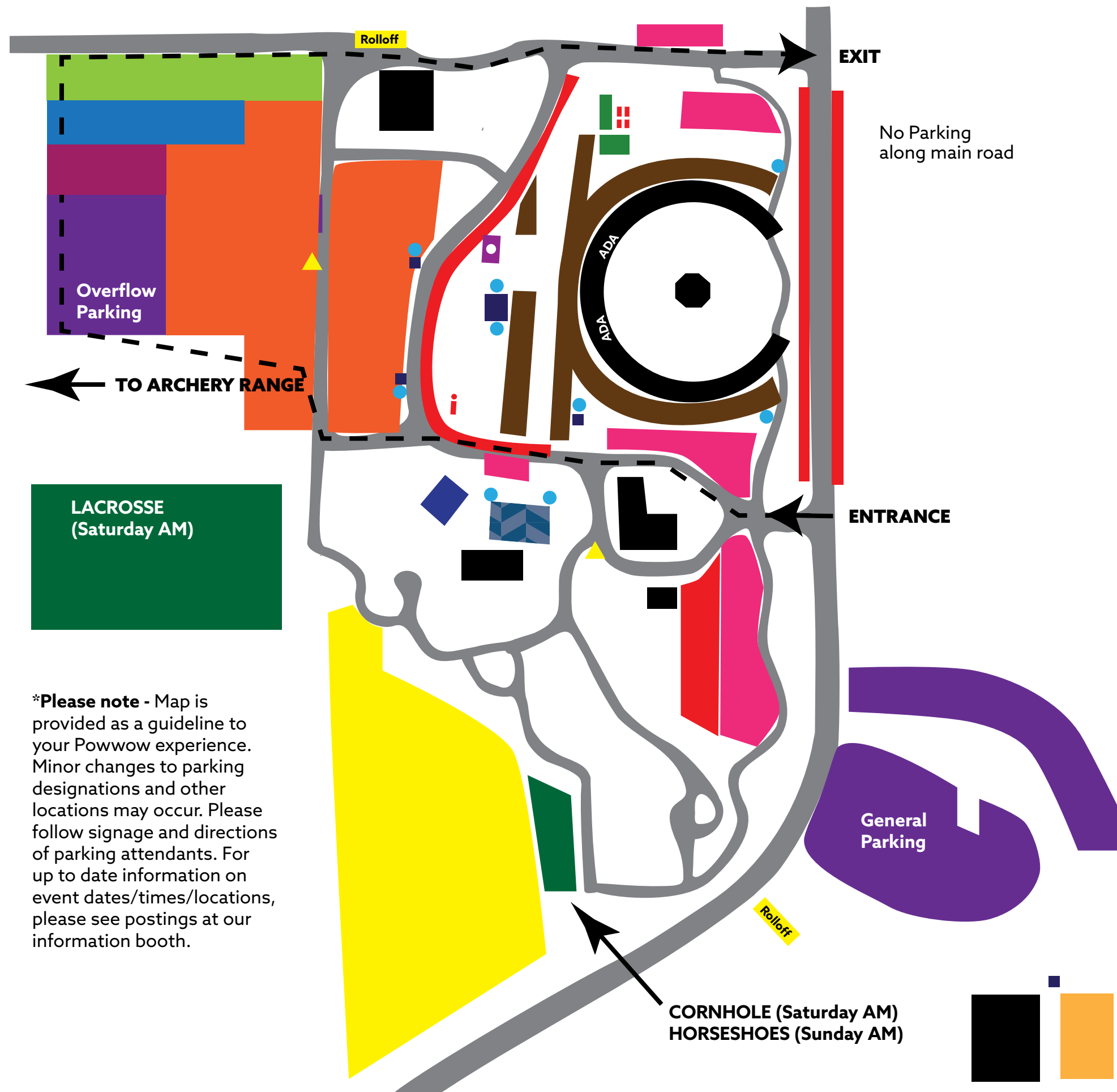
Women's Fancy Shawl

The Fancy Shawl is the most modern of the women's dances and gives the ladies an opportunity to show off their agility and grace. Dance steps are individually choreographed, but are always in rhythm to the beat of the drum. Many of the moves are quite intricate. Though the Fancy Shawl involves more motion and agility than most women's dances, the dancer's grace is always evident. The dress is brilliantly colored and often adorned with beautiful bead work, complementing the shawl that is an integral part of the dance.

What to watch for:

Since each dancer has her own individual style, the expression of the steps and their harmony with the drum is the essence. Being in time with the drum and ending the dance precisely are all important.





Powwow Grounds Map

- Elder/Handicap Parking
- General Parking
- Employee Parking ONLY
- Vendor Parking
- NO PARKING
- Volunteer Parking
- Health Tent/Mobile Unit
- Tent Camping (No outlet access)
- RV Camping (Limited hookups)
- Vendor Area
- Group Meal Area
- Permanent Restrooms/Storm Shelter
- Porta-Johns
- Hand Washing Stations
- Elders Cooling Station
- First Aid Station
- Information Station
- Refuse Dumpsters

***Please note** - Map is provided as a guideline to your Powwow experience. Minor changes to parking designations and other locations may occur. Please follow signage and directions of parking attendants. For up to date information on event dates/times/locations, please see postings at our information booth.

CORNHOLE (Saturday AM)
HORSESHOES (Sunday AM)

Experiencing the Gathering

The Drum and Singers

People say you can't have a Powwow without a drum, for it carries the heartbeat of the Indian nation. It is also felt to carry the heartbeat of Mother Earth, and thus calls the spirits and nations together.

The Powwow drum is a large base covered with hide (buffalo, deer, or cow). Forming a circle, eight or more men strike the drum in unison with covered mallets. The men then blend their voices with the beating of the drum to create the song. The songs are often in the Indian language of the drum members. It is the responsibility of the drum members and especially the lead singer to be able to sing and play whatever kind of song is requested by the master of ceremonies or the arena director for any given event (i.e. flag raising, honoring ceremony, different kinds of dances).



It is said that the drum was brought to the Indian people by a woman, and therefore there is a woman's spirit that resides inside the drum. Appropriately, it is to be treated with respect and care, and strict behavior is expected of anyone coming in contact with the drum. The drum is often thought to help bring the physical and mental side of a person back in touch with his or her spiritual or heart side. As with many things in the Indian culture, the drum is used to bring balance and rejuvenation to a person through their participation in dancing, singing or listening to the heartbeat.

Team Dance Contest Rules

1. Teams may consist of at least 3 people and no more than 5
2. Must be registered for Powwow
3. Must be in full regalia
4. Will be judged on dance steps, timing, choreography (overall dance and staying in step with teammates)
5. Carrying a child does not constitute a member of the team.
6. Must smile
7. Must have fun

Need a lift?

Ponca Express provides public transportation on a first come, first served basis. We now work with Medicaid!

Rural Offices:

Office Hours 8:00 am-4:30 pm
Transporation 7:30 am-5:30 pm

Rural Fares:

Up to 30 miles \$2/stop
31+ miles \$10

Metro Offices:

Office Hours 8:00 am-4:30 pm
Transporation 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Metro Fares:

FREE

To schedule a ride,
contact our Ponca
Express staff at:

Rural:
877.769.3111

Metro:
855.766.2239



PONCA
EXPRESS



Ponka Tribal Youth Council

Over the past year, the Osni Ponka Youth Council has partnered with all tribal districts with a hope to create young leaders today, for a better tomorrow. The Osni Ponka Youth Council's mission is to serve as a generational voice on tribal governance and affairs, while organizing various activities throughout the year to uplift and show appreciation to our tribal members.

At this year's Powwow, we are excited to celebrate our tribe in a variety of ways. We will be hosting the "Honoring Our Elders: Breakfast and Bingo" event on August 10, 2024, during the annual powwow in Niobrara, NE. At this event, we will serve breakfast to all Ponca enrolled elders in attendance. The overall goal of this event is to show gratitude to our elders for their wisdom and contributions to our

tribe. Similar to past years, this event will be held at the PTN headquarters building in Niobrara. Youth Council members and advisors will begin serving breakfast starting at 9 AM and the bingo games will follow from 9:45 to 11 AM. Only enrolled Ponca elders will have the opportunity to win prizes from our Youth Council at this event. Additionally, we are adding a traditional hand games event on August 8, 2024. During this event tribal members will be allowed to compete and be given t-shirts and trophy prizes for their wins! We hope to see you at both events!

The Osni Ponka Youth Council continues to meet monthly to discuss ways to improve our tribe, address topics relevant to native youth, organize interactive activities for tribal members, and determine individual projects for each

youth council member. These individual projects are tailored to reflect the passions and strengths of the Youth Council members. Keep an eye out for Youth Council events through the PTN social media pages and monthly newsletter.

Overall, the Osni Ponka Youth Council has initiated several projects to support our members, some of our most recognized events include Toys for Teens, Senior Secret Santa, Honoring Our Elders: Breakfast and Bingo, Virtual Art Camp, and many more new events. Additionally, the Youth Council participates in collaborative activities such as the Reel Mentor fishing event, district Back-to-School events, district Easter egg hunts, the tribe's MMIR projects, and various district community events.

We are so proud to serve our tribe, and we could not do this without the help of our advisors. Our Youth Council would like to thank former tribal council member Rebecca Sullivan for serving as our Youth Council advisor for many years. She has helped our Youth Council become what it is today and we wish her luck on her new ventures. We are also excited to announce tribal council members Angie Starkel and Shanna Carpenter as our new advisors! With their help we will be able to continue to show progress and serve our tribe. Thank you for your continued support! We look forward to seeing you at our events!

Thank you,
Youth Council Chairwoman
Maci Schott

Adopt a buffalo today!



You can help our buffalo to prosper by adopting one or more members of our herd. Our Adopt-A-Buffalo program is open to both Tribal members and Non-Tribal friends. You will receive a photo of your buffalo along with an official adoption certificate. Just choose from the three categories of yearly support listed below:

\$25 for the Yearling Group

\$50 for the Buffalo Herd Group

\$100 for the Head Herd Bull Group

Make Checks payable to: Northern Ponca Buffalo Program

Mail to: Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

P.O. Box 288

Niobrara, Nebraska 68760

ATTN: Northern Ponca Buffalo Program



Northern Ponca Elders Committee

Mission Statement: The mission of the Northern Ponca Elders Committee is to advocate for improved comprehensive services and provide the leadership needed to meet the needs of our Northern Ponca Tribal Elders (55 and older) by planning and advocating for an aging population in a manner designed to protect and improve their quality of life while maintaining individual dignity.

Hello to all our Elders and Tribal Members,

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at Powwow in August.

There have been many changes made to our Powwow grounds and it looks fantastic this year.

Hope to see a lot of our elders and our youth at Powwow this year. Elders are looking forward to seeing everyone and their dance regalia and dancing

for our elders as well as those in wheelchairs and who are not able to dance for themselves.

These past few months have been a very busy few months for our Elders Committee. We brought several of our Tribal programs to our meetings to talk to people to let them know if there are any changes in their programs that benefit our tribal members.

To a beautiful Powwow and hope that everyone enjoys themselves this year at our Powwow. Hopefully we'll get to see one another and visit one another and get to meet with some of our elders that we haven't got to see for a long time and family. Hope you all have safe travels to and home from the Powwow.

From Elders Committee members.



Northern Ponca Housing Authority

1501 W Michigan Ave
Norfolk, NE 68701
Phone: 402.379.8224
Fax: 402.379.8557
EMERGENCY:
402.316.4749

- Income-Based Rental Housing
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program
- Indian Community Development Block Grant
- Resident Opportunity for Self Sufficiency
- Rental Assistance
- Down Payment Assistance Program
- Tenant Home Ownership Program
- Home Owner Home Improvement Assistance



Osni Ponca LLC is the for-profit economic development company wholly owned by the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

Our mission is to create and stimulate the economy of the Tribe, and to create employment opportunities for tribal members.

Learn more at www.OsniPonca.com!

Visit our companies:



25410 Park Avenue | Niobrara, NE
402.857.3468



Carter Lake, IA: 712.847.0437
Crofton, NE: 402.388.4816
www.poncasmokesignals.com



Ponca Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO) is a tribal non-profit corporation responsible for providing economic development activities for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

PEDCO's Mission is to creatively seek long-term sufficiency for citizens of the Ponca Tribe, create opportunities that improve the quality of life for all natives, and provide business and employment opportunities to stimulate economic growth and self-sufficiency.



Historically, the Ponca people utilized every part of the buffalo. Nothing went to waste.

"Feed the Buffalo" refers to the commitment of all Tribal entities to locate, pursue, and fully utilize every resource available for the betterment of the Ponca people.

PRAIRIE FLOWER CASINO IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE

30TH ANNUAL PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA POWWOW



PLAY LONGER!
Win More!

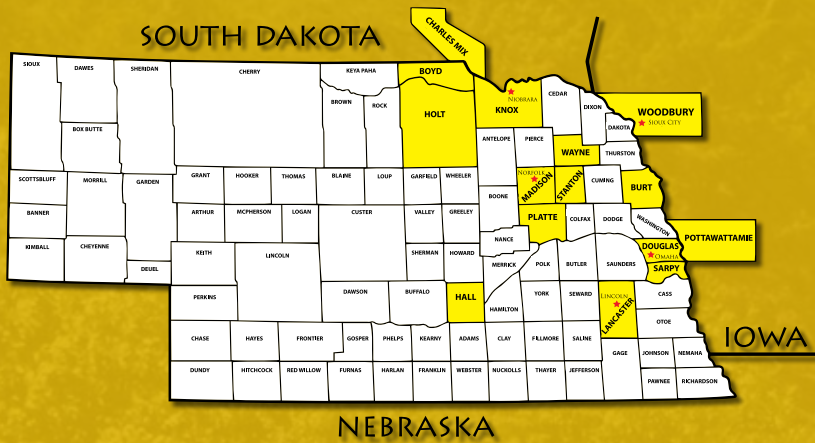


PRAIRIE FLOWER
CASINO™

**1 MILE SOUTH OF EPPLEY AIRFIELD,
2 BLOCKS WEST OF ABBOTT DRIVE ON AVENUE H**

1031 Ave H, Carter Lake, IA 51510
888-WIN-MORE
prairieflowercasino.com

Must be 21. Please bet responsibly.



The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is the name used to describe the Northern Ponca Tribe after the Tribe was officially restored as a federally recognized tribe in 1990. The tribe is one of 4 tribes located in Nebraska.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is uniquely structured, operating within a designated "service area" covering fifteen counties: twelve in Nebraska, one in South Dakota and two in Iowa. In Nebraska, Ponca Tribe offices are established in Niobrara, Norfolk, Lincoln and Omaha. In Iowa, there is a PTN office in Sioux City.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Tribal Headquarters
2523 Woodbine Street
PO BOX 288
Niobrara NE 68760
Phone: 402-857-3391
Fax: 402-857-3736

Norfolk Office & Ponca Hills Clinic
1800 Syracuse Avenue
Norfolk NE 68701
Phone: 402-371-8834
Fax: 402-371-7564

Omaha Administration
5805 South 86th Circle
Omaha NE 68127
402.315.2760

Sioux City Office
125 6th Street
Sioux City, IA 51103
Phone: 712-258-0500
Fax: 712-258-0762

Community Building
88915 521 Avenue
PO BOX 288
Niobrara NE 68760
Phone: 402-857-3519
Fax: 402-857-3652

Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center
2602 J Steet
Omaha NE 68107
Phone: 402-734-5275
Fax: 402-734-5708

Ponca Health Services - Lincoln
1600 Windhoek
Lincoln NE 68512
Phone: 531.248.3030