

ampers

Diverse Radio for Minnesota's Communities

Presents

Minnesota's Annual Bemijigamaag Powwow



ILLUMACRAFT
PHOTOGRAPHY



While everyone is always welcome at any powwow, at the *Bemijigamaag Powwow* we are going to even greater lengths to teach non-Native Americans about Native culture, traditions and customs. While it is not traditional to hand out a “program” at most powwows, we do so today to further our mission of teaching about Native traditions, bridging cultural gaps, and bringing everyone together in celebration.

A **powwow** is a gathering of Native Americans who come together to dance, sing and celebrate. It is a way of honoring and maintaining a spiritual connection to their ancestors. It is believed that the first powwows took place in the early 1800s and the modern day powwows started in the early 1900s. Because **powwow** is not an English word, you may see it written out as one word or two. Both are acceptable.

Here is the order of events for today’s powwow:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ✓ Dancers Registration..... | 10AM – 2PM |
| ✓ First Grand Entry | 1PM |
| ✓ Jingle, Grass, Men’s Traditional, Women’s Fancy Shawl & More..... | 2PM – 5PM |
| ✓ Hand Drum & Communal Feast | 5PM-7PM |
| ✓ Second Grand Entry | 7PM |
| ✓ More Traditional Powwow Activities..... | 8PM – 10PM |
| ✓ Event End (Travel Song) | 10PM |



What is the Grand Entry?

The **First Grand Entry** is the official beginning to our powwow. The Flag Bearers will lead the tribal leaders, dancers and dignitaries into the arena. It is a significant honor to carry a flag for a **Grand Entry**, an honor typically given to a military veteran. As a sign of respect, and if

you are physically able, please stand and remain standing as the dancers enter the arena during the **Grand Entry**. There is a **Second Grand Entry** at 7pm. Once everybody participating in the **First Grand Entry** has entered the arena, there will be an invocation followed by comments from tribal leaders, elders, and dignitaries. Please refrain from talking during this time, especially when the elders are speaking. It is considered especially disrespectful to speak while an elder is speaking. Once the speakers are finished with their comments, the dancing will begin.





What are the dancers wearing?

As the dancers enter the arena, you will immediately notice the beautiful and ornate clothing the dancers are wearing. The **regalia** the dancers wear is hand-crafted and designed specifically for that dancer by the dancer him or herself, a family member, or a close friend. The **regalia** can also be referred to as an outfit. **But, you should never refer to it as a costume, as that can be considered insulting.** It can take years to finish the **regalia**. Some

dancers have several outfits and may change for different dances. The feathers are especially sacred. Please do not touch the **regalia**.

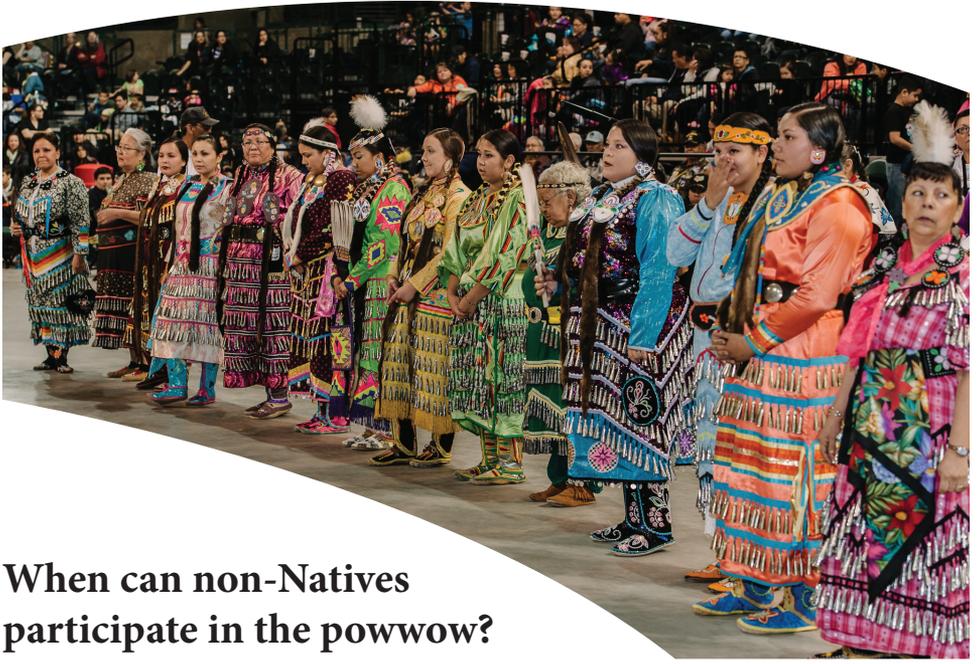




Do the dancers and drummers get paid?

It is customary that all dancers and drummers (even children) receive an honorarium, a small amount of cash, for their participation in the powwow. Some will be competing in **specials** for a chance to earn \$100, \$200 or \$300. The *Bemijigamaag Powwow* includes Hand Drum, Jingle Grass, Men's Traditional, and Women's Fancy Shaw specials. What the judges are looking for varies by dance category. But, in general, when scoring the dancers the judges are looking at the dancer's footwork, their gracefulness and style, and that they are stopping and dancing in time with the beat.





When can non-Natives participate in the powwow?

There will be times throughout the powwow when the MC (Master of Ceremonies) will invite everyone, including non-Native Americans, to participate in Inter-Tribal dances. We encourage you to participate in these dances. **We ask that non-Native Americans participating in a dance do not hold a child while dancing.** If your child is too young to dance on their own, please remain in the audience with them. This custom varies by tribe. The tribes hosting this powwow are Ojibwe. At Ojibwe powwows you are dancing for the Spirits. If you dance holding a child, it would be viewed that you are offering your child to the Spirits. You may see Native Americans holding a child when they dance. They are most likely from a Dakota, Lakota, or another tribe where holding a child while dancing is not viewed as offering the child to the Spirits and is permitted.



Can I take pictures and video during the powwow?

The beauty of the regalia and graceful dancing of the powwow provide wonderful opportunities for pictures and video. **You are permitted and in fact even encouraged to take pictures and videos with a few exceptions.** Please do not take pictures or video of the invocation, of a feather that has fallen off regalia, someone picking up a feather that has fallen, or during a pipe ceremony. There may be a few additional times when the MC asks attendees not to take pictures or video. Please pay attention to the MC. As long as it is not a time listed above or a time when the MC has asked that no pictures be taken, you may take pictures of anyone dancing or drumming. As would be the case in any situation, if you want to take a picture of an individual or group outside of the dance arena, please ask their permission.



Will there be traditional Native American food?

EVERYONE is welcome to attend and eat at the **feast** which will begin at 5pm. Please allow the elders to be served first. Because it is an honor to serve the elders and the entire community at the **feast**, some of the dignitaries will join the volunteers in serving the **feast**. In addition, Frybread is available for purchase throughout the day at the concession stand. The recipe for Frybread has been passed down from generation to generation for more than 150 years. Frybread was first created during what is now referred to as the “Long Walk.” During the “Long Walk” the United States government forced about 9,000 Indians living in Arizona to walk 300 miles to New Mexico. It is reported that more than 200 people died during the 18-day walk. The government provided the Indians with flour, lard, salt, sugar, baking powder or yeast and powdered milk. The Indians used the supplies to create what is now referred to as Frybread. While today Frybread is enjoyed as a tasty treat, it also still serves as a reminder of the harsh times the Indian ancestors faced.





Is there anything else I should know about the powwow?

- Feel free to ask questions. This is a great opportunity to learn.
- The arena is blessed and sacred. Please make sure to stay outside of the reserved areas (dance arena) or spaces meant for the dancers and other honored individuals unless the MC has invited everyone in attendance to join for an inter-tribal/community dance.
- The MC will be your guide. If you want to know what is happening or what you're supposed to be doing at certain times, please make sure to pay attention to what is being said to avoid offending anyone.
- Please do not ever touch a dancer's regalia or a drum. These are sacred items that should not be touched by others.



What is Ampers?

The Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations (Ampers), is an association of 18 independent community radio stations throughout Minnesota. Each station is locally managed and programmed by and for their communities. Four of the stations are either licensed to or associated with a Native American tribe. Collectively the stations have programs in 12 different languages serving minority, rural, Native and student communities. Ampers helps to support the stations by securing corporate sponsorships and underwriting, as well as individual donations and state funding. If your company is interested in supporting Ampers or interested in marketing opportunities that reach these audiences not served by traditional media, contact Joel Glaser, Ampers' CEO at jglaser@ampers.org or by phone at (651) 686-5367.



How can I listen to an Ampers station?

You can listen to most of the Ampers stations online at www.ampers.org. In addition, if you are in the listening area, you can listen to the station on the radio. The table below gives you the city and dial position for the Ampers station in that area.

City	Station	Dial Position
Bagley/Bemidji	KBXE-FM	90.5 FM
Bois Forte/Nett Lake	KBFT-FM	89.9 FM
Duluth	KUMD-FM	103.3 FM
Fond du Lac/Cloquet	WGZS-FM	89.1 FM
Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail	WTIP-FM	90.7 FM/ 89.1 FM/90.1 FM
Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely	KAXE-FM	91.7 FM/89.9 FM/103.9 FM
Leech Lake/Cass Lake	KOJB-FM	90.1 FM/ 105.3 FM
Mankato	KMSU-FM	89.7 FM
Minneapolis/St. Paul	KBEM-FM (Jazz 88)	88.5 FM
Minneapolis/St. Paul	KFAI-FM	90.3 FM/106.7 FM
Minneapolis/St. Paul	KMOJ-FM	89.9 FM
Minneapolis/St. Paul	KUOM-AM/FM (Radio K)	770 AM/100.7 FM/104.5 FM
Morris	KUMM-FM	89.7 FM
Rochester	KRPR-FM	89.9 FM
St. Cloud	KVSC-FM	88.1 FM
Thief River Falls	KSRQ-FM	90.1 FM
White Earth/Callaway	KKWE-FM	89.9 FM
Winona	KQAL-FM	89.5 FM

Ampers is not affiliated with nor does it receive any funding from Minnesota Public Radio (MPR)



How can I keep informed about what is happening in Minnesota's Native American Communities?

Ampers produces *Minnesota Native News*, a five-minute weekly newscast designed to inform both Native and non-Native Americans about what is happening in Minnesota's Native American communities. The segments explore economic, cultural, health issues and more impacting Indian Country in Minnesota. Thirteen Ampers stations broadcast *Minnesota Native News*.

Where can I listen to *Minnesota Native News*?

City	Station	Dial Position	Time
Bagley/Bemidji	KBXE-FM	90.5 FM	Sat 9:30a, Sun 6:30a & 8:30p, Mon 6:30a & 8:30a
Bois Forte/Nett Lake	KBFT-FM	89.9 FM	Mon 7a, 11a, 2p, Fri 7a, 11a & 3p, Sun 4p & 5p
Duluth	KUMD-FM	103.3 FM	Mon 7a
Fond du Lac/Cloquet	WGZS-FM	89.1 FM	Thu 10a, Fri 5p, Sat 8a, Sun 11:45a & Mon 6:45p
Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail	WTIP-FM	90.7 FM/ 89.1 FM/90.1 FM	Fri 8:10a & Tue 9:10a
Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely	KAXE-FM	91.7 FM/89.9 FM/103.9 FM	Sat 9:30a, Sun 6:30a & 8:30p, Mon 6:30a & 8:30a
Leech Lake/Cass Lake	KOJB-FM	90.1 FM/ 105.3 FM	Tue, Thu, & Sat 11:00a & Fri 4:00p
Mankato	KMSU-FM	89.7 FM	Sat 6a & 8a
Minneapolis/St. Paul	KFAI-FM	90.3 FM/106.7 FM	Mon 7:15a
St. Cloud	KVSC-FM	88.1 FM	Sat 2:10p
Thief River Falls	KSRQ-FM	90.1 FM	Fri 12:00p
White Earth/Callaway	KKWE-FM	89.9 FM	Fri 7:20a
Winona	KQAL-FM	89.5 FM	Fri 12:30p

You can also listen online at www.minnesotanativenews.com



Follow @MNNATIVE NEWS

Find us on 



Will there be a 3rd Annual Bemijigamaag Powwow?

We certainly hope so. We are already trying to secure the funding to host the powwow again next year. We see this as a very important event for all of Minnesota that helps breakdown cultural barriers. This event would not have been possible without the generous support of:

- The Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund
- The George W. Neilson Foundation
- The Red Lake Nation
- The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- The White Earth Nation
- The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Marketplace Foods
- Cole Paper
- The Sanford Center
- First National Bank of Bemidji
- The Country Inn and Suites of Bemidji
- Northern Community Radio (KAXE-FM & KBXE-FM)
- KOJB-FM
- KKWE-FM
- WGZS-FM
- Paul Bunyan Communications
- Leech Lake Gaming Division



If you or your company or organization is interested in supporting the 3rd Annual Bemijigamaag Powwow please contact Ampers CEO Joel Glaser at jglaser@ampers.org or (651) 686-5367.