

Pow Wow Etiquette: What to Know Before You Go

Pow Wows are vibrant cultural celebrations that showcase the drums, dance, regalia, food and crafts of Indigenous Peoples and Nations from across Turtle Island.

Know Before You Go

- A dancer's regalia is not a costume it is how they dress their spirit. Out of respect, do not touch dancers' regalia, hair or drums.
- If you see a dropped eagle feather, leave it and inform the Master of Ceremonies (MC) or Arena Director. Indigenous people earn their Eagle Feathers, and it is a symbol of high regard.
- Always ask permission before taking photos. Some parts of the event are sacred and cannot be photographed (including during the Flag, Prayer and Honour Songs)
- Pay close attention to the MC or Arena Director during the Pow Wow. They will provide information about the day's itinerary including instructions for when to sit, stand and remove hats and join in the dances.
- There is no dress code for guests, however modest attire appropriate for a community cultural event is appreciated.
- Pets are not permitted in the Pow Wow arena. Service animals are welcome except within the arena (dance circle).
- All Pow Wows are alcohol and drug free.
- Pow Wows are community and family events and children are welcome to attend and participate.

How to Participate Respectfully

- Follow protocols outlined by the MC or Arena Director.
- Respect the dance circle/arena — avoid walking through the centre or bringing food/drinks into it.
- Guests are welcome to join the social dances—also known as inter-tribals—when invited by the MC or Arena Director. It is okay to make up your own steps, or you can click the [link here](#) to learn some steps with Deanne Hupfield.
- Support local indigenous families and communities by browsing the vendors.
- Stop by the information booths to learn more.



brampton.ca/powwow