

NOAC 2009 – American Indian Activities

Northern and Southern Singing Competitions

Drum members MUST be from the same lodge. All drum members must be under 21 years of age at the time of the competition, members of the Order of the Arrow, and registered participants at the event. Each lodge is allowed to enter one team. All singing must be done in a team fashion. Drums must furnish their own drum and drum stand, if used. Drum sticks are the responsibility of the singers. Chairs are provided.

ACCEPTABLE SONGS

1. Northern Drums must sing two northern songs. One of these must be a song that is sung for a special occasion, at a special time during the dance or for a special dance. (e.g., Flag songs, Veterans songs, Sneak-up, Rabbit Dance song). The other song can be a Northern Plains powwow song.
2. Southern Drums must sing two southern songs. One of these must be a song that is sung for a special occasion, at a special time during the dance or for a special dance. (e.g., Flag songs, Veterans songs, Trot songs, Snake and Buffalo). The other song can be a Southern Plains inter-tribal powwow song. Family songs should be avoided as well as songs of a religious nature, such as Sun Dance, Native American Church or Peyote songs.
3. Drums that sing northern-style songs in the southern competition, or vice versa, will receive a 5 point deduction from each judge.
4. Northern singing is a high falsetto voice with the honor beats in the melody of the song, normally in the second chorus.
5. Southern singing is a more nasal tone with the honor beats between the first and second chorus.
6. A list of two primary songs and four alternate songs may be submitted with proper documentation.
7. **Time limit** is fifteen minutes. Timing begins when the judges invite the team to sit at the drum. Any narrative is included in the time allotted. If teams wish to warm up, this should be done away from the competition. Any ceremonies or local rituals should take place privately away from the competition. Going over the allotted fifteen minutes will result in a 5-point deduction from each judge. All teams must be ready to perform fifteen minutes prior to their assigned times.

RULES CONCERNING ATTIRE

1. Northern Drums rightly wear dance outfits, long pants, short pants, and shirts while at the drum. No bare feet or open-toe shoes. Improper attire will result in a 5 point deduction from each judge.
2. Southern Drums are much more formal. Long pants and shirts are required. No bare feet or open-toe shoes. Improper attire will result in a 5 point deduction from each judge.

NOAC 2009 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

1. The team must submit one copy of their required research material (defined below in Judging Criteria) by June 30, 2009. Late submissions will result in an automatic deduction of 5 points per judge.
2. The team's chairman and/or adviser must check in to confirm competition registration, receive a performance time, and receive up-to-date information on mandatory meetings, team roster requirements, etc. Registration is Saturday, August 1, 2009 at the American Indian Activities table.
3. A mandatory meeting of all judges and competition team adviser and youth chairman will be held one half hour after the conclusion of the Opening Show, on Saturday August 1, 2009. Location of the meeting will be available at check in.
4. Northern and Southern Singing Competition will be held on Monday, August 3, 2009. Additional time will be scheduled on Sunday afternoon, August 2, 2009 if needed.
5. The top Northern and Southern team will be given the opportunity to perform at the American Indian Activities Show on Monday, August 3, 2009. Each winning team must be prepared to sing either the AIA Show Grand Entry Song or an appropriate Flag Song.
6. Research material and questions regarding the Northern and Southern Singing Competition should be addressed to: Daniel Barton, 1610 Alric Court, Charleston, SC 29412 daniel.barton@site236.com

JUDGING CRITERIA

Drums will be judged and awarded a score by each judge on the judging panel in each of the eight areas discussed below. Some areas have mandatory point deductions associated with failure to comply with stated rules. Each judge in the affected area will take the mandatory point deductions. Team standing/placement is determined by totaling all points received from the judges. Actual scores/points given by judges will not be provided to the teams, however critique sheets from all judges will be provided to the team at the conclusion of the competition. Relative ranking of the teams will be available the day after the competition is finished. The judges will determine the judging criteria and all decisions are final.

1. *Research*

MAXIMUM POINTS (20)

In addition to the one copy submitted before the event, two additional copies of the team's research material should be brought to the competition. **All research must be typewritten and suitably bound.** Suitably bound means stapled with a cover and back sheet of at least 65-lb card stock. Three ring binders, plastic comb binding, duo-tang style folders, etc. are not required. Teams will be evaluated on the quality of the research they have done for the songs they have chosen to sing. **Research submissions must include:** origin of song (tribal affiliation), meaning of song (if any), how the song is structured, and references (professional recordings, etc). Historical background of the songs should also be included.

2. *Synchronization of Drum and Voice*

MAXIMUM POINTS (10)

All competition songs should be sung in the appropriate manner: lead, chorus, honor beats, and pickup beats. The singers should sing as a group instead of individuals, and the ending of the song should be definite with no over-beats.

3. *Sound Quality*

MAXIMUM POINTS (15)

The singers should match in pitch and harmony for the most part. The drum beat should not overpower, be louder than, the song. The second/chorus should not be lower in pitch/volume from the lead.

4. *Dance-ability*

MAXIMUM POINTS (10)

Songs should be sung at the appropriate tempo. If a song was composed as a slow, medium or fast song it should be presented that way for competition.

5. *Language and Pronunciation*

MAXIMUM POINTS (20)

Songs should be sung with the correct vocables and/or words.

6. *Teamwork*

MAXIMUM POINTS (15)

Teams will be judged on their ability to sing the songs as a group. The individual singers should work as one group instead on one or two "stars" pulling the weight for the entire group.

7. *General Effect and Impression*

MAXIMUM POINTS (10)

The overall general effect and impression of the songs will also be considered. Some of the factors that will be considered are: the teams' confidence, presentation and explanation of the songs, care of the drum and stick, timeliness, not going over the stated time limit, etc.

8. *Constructive Comments*

NOT SCORED

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Awards will be given to the top three drums. Special Honorable Mention awards may be given, if deemed appropriate. Participation certificates will be awarded each drum.

Revised 3/30/09