

## **DANCE STYLES**

There are several styles of dancing.

### **WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL DANCE**

Women Traditional dancers wear buckskin or cloth ankle-length or mid-calf dresses, sometimes decorated with elk teeth or dentalium shells. Regalia may include a knee length breastplate, leggings, brass tack belts, otter braid wraps, and moccasins. Dancers may carry a long fringed shawl, fan, bag, or scarf. Dance movements are dignified and graceful and characterized by swaying of fringe. Northern dancers usually wear a fully beaded yoke or cape and stay in one spot, bobbing gently up and down and turning their feet to the side on designated beats.

### **WOMEN'S FANCY (SHAWL) DANCE**

Fancy Shawl dancers usually wear bright, colorful, elaborate regalia with a calf length skirt and beaded or sequined cape or vest in addition to the long, fringed shawl worn over the shoulders and held slightly out at the elbows. Regalia may also include beaded belts, crowns, hairpieces, braid wraps, leggings, and moccasins. Movements include fine footwork and fast spins, meant to mimic a joyful butterfly.

### **WOMEN'S JINGLE DRESS DANCE**

Jingle Dress dancers are women who wear bright cloth dresses usually with 365 tin cones in a line or chevron pattern in seven rows. Tin cones are made from chewing tobacco can lids. Dance movements include straight posture, up and down motions and hopping or rocking with the feet moving in a shuffle. Arms are bent at the elbows, 1 – 2 hands on hips or carrying a fan or purse. On honor beats the fan is raised proudly in the air.

### **MEN'S TRADITIONAL DANCE**

Male Traditional dancers may wear beadwork, a breastplate, a back bustle made of Eagle or hawk feathers, matching round arm bands, ankle bells, a breechcloth, choker, a Wapesa (a feathered deer, and porcupine hair headdress), leggings, and moccasins. Some regalia may include pieces of fur or bone from animals. Dance movements include active head movements reenacting warriors searching the ground for tracks of enemy or prey. Often described as a "proud rooster," the dancer moves with his chest thrown out, head high, in a proud, almost haughty demeanor while performing special footwork. Dancers may carry a fan, dance stick, whistle, hoop, or scarf and may wear face paint.

### **MEN'S GRASS DANCE**

This dance is very old, and the movements of the dancer represent the flow of prairie grass in the wind. The dancer's entire body rocks, shakes, and sways, and the feet perform a variety of slides, hops, and other moves. Long, flowing fringe or ribbons represent the grass. No bustle is worn. Regalia consist of a yoke, breechcloth, roach headdress, fringed anklets, and ankle bells.

### **MEN'S FANCY (FEATHER) DANCE**

Fancy Feather dancing is performed by men and boys and has its origin in the old war dances. Regalia is usually bright, colorful and elaborate and includes two, long fringed back bustles, a head roach, decorated yokes and breechcloths, angora anklets, ankle sheep bells, moccasins, and arm bands. The dance steps are fast, intricate movements, which include twisting, leaping, twirling, splits, footwork, and acrobatics. Dance sticks are carried and twirled.

**PIDAMAYAYE  
(THANK YOU)**