



Sovereignty Speaks[©]

Cultural Etiquette at Powwow & Stomp Dance



The OSU Native American Student Association, in collaboration with the OSU Center for Sovereign Nations, hosted two cultural etiquette sessions focused on Powwow and Stomp Dance traditions. These sessions were designed to promote respectful engagement and deeper understanding of Native cultural events among the OSU community and the general public.

In Powwow 101, Mekko Chebon Kernell teaches about the significance of the Grand Entry, the role of the drum, and the importance of regalia. He outlines respectful behaviors such as standing during honor songs, asking permission before taking photos, and understanding the difference between Northern and Southern styles. Mekko Kernell also educates on the general layout of a powwow and various proper protocols, including entering the arena, approaching the drum, and receiving honoring gifts and special recognition.

Stomp Dance 101, also led by Mekko Kernell, overviews the ceremonial and social aspects of stomp dances, emphasizing the importance of listening, observing, and following the lead of community members. He highlights the role of shell shakers, the structure of the dance circle, and the cultural protocols that guide participation.

Both events underscore the importance of approaching Native events with humility, curiosity, and respect. These resources are available as part of the OSU Center for Sovereign Nations' ongoing mission to support tribal sovereignty through education and partnership.

