

IX Medicine Wheel Dancers perform for World Scout Committee

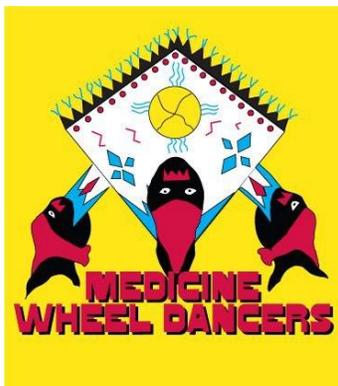


A text message comes in one Thursday night to the members of the Dance Team asking if they could perform this coming Saturday night (only two days away) for the World Scout Committee, meeting at Ten Mile River Scout Camps in New York State. The response – not if we can— but how can we. Some had been to TMR up along the Hudson River for 10 to 12 mile river trips in canoes and kayaks. So they knew it was a bit of a ride. Some had plans to hike 20 miles on the Palisades Historic Trail that weekend. Another would be participating in a crewing event.

Recognizing this to be a once in a life time opportunity the Dance Team did what Scouts do best — they adjusted. Those on the hike take a break in the middle of the hike and after a day of crew boat racing another comes to dance. Meanwhile the advisers secure transportation for the team's equipment and when Saturday rolls around they all arrive at TMR's Camp Keowa around the same time giving everyone a chance to warm up and prepare.

The plan was simple. The 38 members attending the World Scout Committee retreat would arrive at the Camp Keowa Dining Hall after meeting in another area of the reservation. There would be a short meet and greet session. Then while the committee members enjoyed a Thanksgiving type dinner the dance team would get ready to perform at the campfire that would follow dinner.

But it didn't turn out that way. The fifteen-minute meet and greet turned into an hour of introductions and conversation



The Order of the Arrow Dance Team members and several scouts from the Northern New Jersey Council Troop 14 talked about Scouting around the world with the committee members. Countries present included Ireland, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, India, Maldives', South Korea, Portugal, Ghana, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Finland, Brazil, Croatia, Armenia, the Ivory Coast, Mexico, Egypt, Japan, the USA and more.



It was hard to tell who was more captivated. Common ground was found in talking about Scouting, the Order of the Arrow and football (soccer). The scouts learned how to make the sound of the Australian Kookaburra bird and received invites to attend summer camp in India. It was an unforgettable life experience.

After the meal as the dark of night spread across the evening sky a large bonfire was lit. The sound of a solitary drum beating drew the World Scout Committee members outside.

Then the Medicine Wheel Dancers of Lenapehoking Lodge performed representations of traditional American Indian dances as their adviser explained the customs and traditions of each performance. To close the performance the Medicine Wheel Dancers invited the committee members to join in a community dance signifying the universal bond of friendship that scouting holds around the world.

With the performance over and the fires embers beginning to burn low everyone was invited to participate in the traditional making of s'mores. While some of the World Scout committee members did not know what to make of the s'mores, they all soon with the help of their new American friends became experts in both the making of and the consuming of the sweet treats.

From João Armando G, Chairperson, World Scout Committee

The Order of the Arrow campfire was one of the highlights of our World Scout Committee Induction Session at TMR camps in New York.

To see the Native American traditional dances performed by scouts in their colorful regalia was very impressive. It showed us how the rich Native American history and legacy is preserved and honored by the scouts. All this with lots of commitment, passion and talent.

Besides the performance, it was wonderful to exchange with the scouts, to learn about what they do, and give them a glimpse of Scouting worldwide. The brotherhood of Scouting at its best - a great evening!

From Tom Pendelton, GNYC Director of Camping -

Dear Medicine Wheel Dancers - I just wanted to say a big THANK YOU! for coming to Ten Mile River Scout Camp to perform for the World Organization Scouting Movement Committee - Each of the members expressed their gratitude and were impressed with the talents of the group.

You all should be proud as you represented not only the OA, but Boy Scouts of America to the world

YOU DID OUTSTANDING!

The members of the Lenapehoking Lodge Medicine Wheel who performed that Saturday night are Nick Miller (chair), Jack McGowan, Robert Duncan, and Braydon McGowan. Their adviser is Jose Jerez.