

General Public Information

Welcome to Marin Powwow! A powwow is a gathering of Native American people for celebration, social connection, and cultural preservation, featuring traditional singing, dancing,

drumming, and sharing of food, art, and crafts. Powwows evolved from historical gatherings

into modern intertribal events that honor heritage and pass traditions to younger generations.

They serve as important reunions for friends, families, and communities. The general public is always welcome. We're glad you're here to share these traditions!

The dancing will be held in the gym, so rain will not be an issue. Come for an hour or for the day! If you can only come for a short time, we recommend you attend the Grand Entry at noon.

Seating is provided in the gym bleachers. We encourage you to buy food from powwow vendors. Parking is available in the College of Marin gymnasium parking lot off of College Avenue. All spaces are free on the day of the powwow. Please respect the College of Marin's

policies not to use single-use plastic bottles on campus or eat food inside the gym.

For information during the powwow, go to the Marin American Indian Alliance table just inside

the gym on the right-hand (east) side of the entry.

Key Aspects of a Powwow:

Singing & Drumming: Central to the powwow, with distinct Northern and Southern plains styles as well as Miwok/Pomo style. Singing and drumming provides the rhythmic heartbeat for dancers.

Dancing: Dancers wear handcrafted regalia (not costumes) that tell personal or tribal stories. There are several styles of both men's and women's regalia, which you will see highlighted in exhibition dancing.

Culture & Tradition: Marin Powwow follows a number of shared cultural traditions among the Native community, with special acknowledgement to the Miwok people who were the original inhabitants of this area.

Arts & Crafts: Artisans sell handmade jewelry, pottery, beadwork, and other goods, reflecting rich artistic traditions.

Etiquette: Respect is paramount; ask permission before taking individual dancer photos, Don't touch regalia, and stand respectfully for the Flag and Honor Songs. See the more detailed Powwow Etiquette guidance provided below.

What to Expect:

Blessing the Arena: The powwow will begin at 10:15 AM with members of the Miwok Council blessing the dance arena and Miwok dancers will be performing traditional dances.

Gourd Dancing: Gourd Dancers will dance this distinctive style from 11 AM to Noon as a prayer

Grand Entry: The ceremonial start of the powwow, with Eagle Staff carriers, flag bearers, and all dancers entering the arena – not to be missed!

Dances: Both social and competitive, with different categories for men, women, and children. The MC will explain what's going on and provide any special instructions for spectators.

Food & Vendors: Traditional and contemporary foods, alongside stalls selling Native American crafts.