

Goin' to a Powwow

By Kittyko

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Goin' to a powwow; gonna see the dances;
Gonna see the women in the Fancy Shawl, Jingle, and Cloth, and the Buckskin;

Gonna tell a little story 'bout the history of powwows;
Started long ago and still a-happenin' now;
How they open the event is with a Grand Entry;
Or parade through the town to the arena or the grounds;

U.S., tribal, and POW flags
Are carried behind an eagle staff;
Usually the veterans carry all the flags in;
Followed next by special guests;
Like tribal chiefs, princesses, elders, and organizers;
Then come the men and the women dancers;
When everybody's in, an honor song is sung;
A prayer and an intertribal dance for everyone;
And the dancers dance to the beat of the drum;

Goin' to a powwow; gonna see the dances;
Gonna see the men in the Grass and Chicken, Fancy and Traditional, and Straight, yeah;

If you live in North Dakota, there's a powwow you can go 'ta
Throughout the year, there's colorful regalia;
The Ft. Yates, Spirit Lake, and Flag Day celebrations;
The Moon of the Changing Colors in the Williston Basin;
Little Shell and United Tribes International;
White Shield and Lewis & Clark Bicentennial;
Porcupine, Four Bears, and Long Soldier, too;
That's just to name a few;
And the MC keeps it runnin' smooth;
Letting everybody know what's goin' on and what to do (because we're)

Goin' to a powwow; gonna hear the singing;
Gonna feel the drummin' and we're gonna see the woman,
Miss Indian Nations!

Sometimes you can visit booths
Where they're selling stuff like beads and food;
Smudge sticks, sweetgrass, art, and books;
Clothing, music, and hand-carved flutes;
Maybe you're a dancer; maybe you're a drummer;
Maybe you're a singer; maybe a newcomer;
Maybe you're native; maybe you're not;
You can still catch the thrill of the powwow!

Goin' to a powwow;
Gonna see the dances;
Gonna see artwork, handmade jewelry, and beautiful blankets...
Goin to a powwow...