

HISTORY

In the 1890s, James Mooney, an anthropologist from the Smithsonian Institution, attended Peyote meetings among the Kiowa and the Tarahumara. Finally, in 1918, after testifying in favor of American Indians at Congressional hearings, Mooney advised various tribes to obtain a legal charter to protect their religious freedom. With Mooney's help, the Native American Church was officially incorporated in 1918. Eventually, both of these altars spread far and wide to nearly every tribe. By the 1970's it encompassed the entire continent, making membership well above 250,000 in the Americas.

For most chapters of the Native American Church, the peyote ritual begins at sundown and continues through the night. The ritual includes prayer, the eating of peyote, Peyote songs, water rituals, and contemplation. It ends with sacred foods in the morning. The peyote ritual aids in the communion with sacred spirits, and gives power, authority, guidance, and healing. The healing may be emotional, physical or spiritual.

Traditionally it is known to be good for the heart as well as the eyes, while in today's modern world it is used as an antibiotic and as a psychiatric medication. Peyote also helps with alcoholism and in the treatment of addictions

Peyote use has been wrongfully associated with narcotics because it was used in the manufacture of mescaline in the 1960s'. **It is not used in those kinds of concentrations within the Native American Church and is considered by law as a "non-drug use of peyote"**.

All Night Tipi Meeting

This Ceremony takes place in a tipi around a sacred fire. Participants sing and pray in a circle following the guidance of a Roadman. Specific songs are sung accompanied by a water drum. There are four parts to this ritual just as there are in sweat lodge. These four stages are represented by the red-hot coals, which are raked out and formed into designs. Individuals are helped with just about anything one could need help with in their life. These meetings are also a celebration of life, healing and is life changing. We welcome all faiths and traditions to this life changing spiritual evening of prayer. Children can accompany parents if this is needed. They will not partake.

About Arrival and Departure

We ask that participants arrive before sundown, which varies depending on the time of

the year. They may arrive earlier to enjoy meeting friends. It is your choice, which foods you would like to ingest that day as well as the days leading up to it. Times are approximate but we encourage everyone to come earlier than our “projected times” to get situated. We will be in Ceremony until Sun up (approximately) the next day. Be prepared for the possibility of attending a sweat lodge for the following day as well. Various details may be specified for upcoming All Night Tipi Meetings in direct emails. So please notify us of your attendance as this is helpful for the Leaders in preparing for the Evenings Medicines.

All Night Tipi Meeting Preparations

This is a time to dress, as we would like to be seen by our Creator, Wakan Tanka, or God. Women, this is a nice time to wear a dress or a skirt and bring a shawl/blanket to wear on your shoulders. If it is your moon time please let us know and we will make the proper arrangements. Men wear jeans or long pants and a tee shirt of long sleeve shirt or Ribbon shirt is nice. If you have your own instruments, peyote fans or feathers, there is a time that you are welcome to have them blessed. Moccasins are nice and softer to sit all night with. Normally shoes are not worn in this ceremony. Bring an extra towel and change of clothing if needed for the sweat lodge in case we have one. Sunday morning.

Some people fast before the ritual but we do not advise this. Avoiding excessive salt the “day of “ceremony can be helpful. If you are Alcoholic, clean out fully as the spirits of the medicine don’t like those ”spirits”. This ancient ritual will take place in a tipi so please be prepared for hot or cold conditions. Bring a flashlight, blankets, and a potluck dish to pass for the Ceremonial feast to follow the Meeting the next day. It is important for us all to be organized and contribute to the meal. We do not allow pets, alcohol, or drugs on the premise. Before arriving it is also helpful to start thinking about what areas in your life are needing attention in order to project those prayers clearly.

In our lineage, an unopened package of tobacco is traditionally offered to the Roadman before the Ceremony. Also, a package of tobacco for the Doorman, the Fire Person and the Drummer for the night is traditional too if you wish to honor them.

We could use help with preparations during the “days leading up” to the Meeting and especially the day of. Please contact us to offer your service in the ways that are best suited.

We do not charge for any Ceremonies. If an individual is in great need of help, they will not be turned away because they are unable to make a donation. Putting energy forth through donations of any sort is a “balanced way to walk in this world”. A sure way

to get the full experience out of an All Night Tipi Meeting is to give as well as receive. There are many ways that your donations help to make these Ceremonies flow and for that we are grateful. The Medicine must be purchased for this type of Ceremony as well as firewood, Sacred foods, and many other things too numerous to list here. It is a time to recognize those aspects of our lives that are needing attention as well as appreciating the manifestation of answered prayers.

CONSIDERATIONS and QUESTIONS ASKED. There are some points to consider, although the listing of peyote as a controlled substance in Schedule 1 does not apply to the non-drug use of peyote in bona fide religious ceremonies of the Native American Church, it's use can violate ones membership to certain associations. Members of the Medical Association, for instance, would be violating their membership agreement if they were to attend a service. If you bring your children to a ceremony please understand that Federal law prohibits minors from ingesting peyote. If you suffer from *Schizophrenia* you can expect a safe episode free experience (unlike Ayahuasca use). Peyote dose not interfere with medications associated with *Schizophrenia* either. Persons regularly using Alcohol and other narcotics will find their experience to be one of discomfort. Federal employees are protected from discrimination as members. On the same token, Federal employees can expect severe consequences for interfering with N.A.C. rites. Peyote activates the frontal cortex of the brain, the part responsible for conscious awareness. If your conscience is burdened with guilt or regret (for instance) you may become aware of why you have those feelings. Know too that Peyote is not a cure all; it is the sacrament in a prayer meeting in which we rely upon our prayers to enlist a healing. A Native America Church meeting need not include the sacred sacrament of the herb Peyote! Nor does everyone required to ingest it.

