



THE TOM-TOM

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Dance Team Provides Community Service

Members instruct, demonstrate, and entertain at health care event

These people from National Home Health Care asked for the Nawakwa Indian Dancers to come to their Gathering of around 1200 people and present our Native American Indian Dance and the Teepee. I could bring the Teepee, the Tomahawk Stands, and all of my Regalia, and I also had to bring our charm and presentation skills for our Brotherhood Cheerful Service to the community. Ben Osterhout and I arrived with the teepee pole trailer around 9:30 AM. Found the host and she placed us by the Property owner's house on the side field. We set the Tripod and began placing poles, put on the Canvas, and stretched the lodge tight. Pulled out all of the Regalia and placed various pieces on the display blanket. Being thirsty searched the grounds for a water source. Stopped in at the Mattaponi Indian display and talked briefly with Shirley Morning Dove. Morning Dove wears the pre-contact regalia of the 1640s. Her display shows a Miniature Longhouse, Cultivating primitive tools, meal preparation and other tools, and has lots of history to tell, including the true story of Pocahontas. (Please note, Morning Dove was chosen by her grandfather the chief at the age of four to learn, maintain, present and pass down the

history of the tribe from her elders).

I had to get back to our display, arrange the Tomahawk targets and providing a safety rope around the targets and relax before the two o'clock start time. I put on the War shirt and skunk hat, Ben put on his outfit and about half of Nick Richard's regalia. By two the attendees began to arrive, I taught the first wave of kids and parents a Toe-Heel dance step and we danced around on the lawn. Took them into the Teepee and described the lodge and regalia spread on the blanket. Then took the family to the tomahawk stands, taught them how to throw the hawks, and let them have a few throwing rounds, and a bonus round. By now, I was very warm in the War Shirt and went to change into a lighter shirt. I came outside the teepee and the next wave was coming across the lawn. We did not get our next break until it was time to close down the event. The Property owner came by and asked if we had gotten something to eat, we said that we have been too busy to get a break, he disappeared and returned with four meals, a Brunswick Stew, Rolls and Spiced apples. We thanked him as two meals each was plenty of food to eat.

At 7:00 PM we just had to close

down the Tomahawk stands, as it was a very popular event with the attendees of all ages, we borrowed the last throwers to help us take down and fold up (they did the work) the teepee before the dew settled in. It was just a little heavy as we made the folds and placed the canvas in the bucket. The Owner came by to thank us and we headed off to the BAY (New Point Comfort) for the remainder of the Venture Crew 831 weekend outing. We will return if the weather allows on Wednesday to take down the poles and targets. 🦅

*Jim Richards
Dance Team Adviser*

