



w e l c o m e

# INTERMOUNTAIN HOOP DANCE COMPETITION 2025

at the Red Butte Garden Amphitheatre



# WELCOME

*we are excited to have you join us!*

While this event is free and open to everyone, this is a **culturally significant event** that includes prayers & blessings.

Here are a few notes on how to be a **mindful & respectful guest** (so that everyone can enjoy the event!)



Stand respectfully & remove hats during special songs. These include the **Grand Entry**, **flag songs**, **veteran song**, or any other song the emcee designates.



The correct term for a dancer's outfit is **regalia**, not costume.

**Never touch** a dancer's regalia. Many of the objects have religious meaning & are cherished family heirlooms.

Do not pick up dropped feathers or fallen pieces of a dancer's regalia. Alert the dancer or staff immediately.



No photos or videos of blessings, **cultural reverence**, or other times as noted by the emcee.

**Ask permission** before taking photos of dancers in their regalia.

No commercial or professional photography.



Pointing with the fingers is considered poor manners by some tribes. If you must point, use your head and **nod in the direction** you wish to indicate toward.

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**9:30AM:** Grand Entry

Tiny Tots Exhibition

Youth Competition

Teen Competition

**12:00PM:** Lunch Break

Senior Competition

Adult Competition

Closing Performance

Grand Exit

**Awards Ceremony**

Event times not noted **will vary** based  
on number of dancers. **Announcements**  
will be made by the emcee.



# meet the 2025 OFFICIALS



**ABRAHAM THOMAS**  
EMCEE

*"My name is Abraham Thomas. I was born in a small town in Riverton Wyoming. I was raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota and the Wind River Reservation of Wyoming. I moved to Utah in 2005. I'm Native American Oglala/Lakota (Sioux) and Tongan. My passion is singing and my focus is to bring positivity to people who fight with depression like myself. My motivation is to show my love and spirit through my music. My dream is to sing in front of millions of people to bring Inspiration to all who are searching for hope, love, and happiness. I am a singer, song writer, a motivational speaker, and a proud voice for mental health and suicide prevention."*



**HENRY HOWELL**  
ARENA DIRECTOR

*"My name is Henry Howell, I am Northern Ute from the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in Fort Duchesne, Utah. I am a husband, father; I have been a Sundance Chief, Beardance Chief, and Spiritual Leader for the Ute people for over 25 years. I am a Northern Traditional Dancer, Pow-wow singer, and Arena Director for many events."*



**RIOS PACHECO**  
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

*Rios Pacheco, Northwest Shoshone/Kewa Pueblo, resides in Brigham City, Utah. He is a Northwestern Shoshone Spiritual Leader and a Tribal Leader. He is a Cultural Analyst for the Northwestern Shoshone Tribe preserving the history, culture, traditional arts, and Shoshone language of the tribe. He is a descendant of Tickamedakey (Tick-a-ma-dih-key), who is the only daughter in his mother's heritage that survived the Bear River in January 1863.*

# meet the 2025 OFFICIALS



**NATHAN COLE**  
JUDGE

*"I am an enrolled member of the St. Regis Akwesasne Mohawk tribal nation. Part of our tribal lands are location in northern New York State, and the other part is located in Ontario and Quebec provinces in northeastern Canada. The Mohawk are part of the original Five Nations referred to as the Haudenosaunee ("People of the Longhouse"), and these Nations are also historically known as the Iroquois Confederacy. As an alumnus of the Brigham Young University Lamanite Generation performing group (which is now known as the BYU Living Legends), I enjoyed giving performances from our group's Native American, Latin American and Polynesian cultures as we toured and performed in the South Seas tour of Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, and Hawaii. And in a different year when we toured the southern United States (e.g., New Mexico, El Paso, Texas (with an across the International border performance in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico), Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina in those 6 week tours. Performing the Hoop Dance has been one of my fondest memories, especially when we were among the youth of the countries and states we visited. I am an Associate Professor of English in Salt Lake Community College's Department of English, Linguistics and Writing Studies and have taught there now for 30 years, serving recently from 2020-2023 as the faculty advisor for the Native American/Indigenous student club, which has now been renamed as the Native Indigenous Student Union (NISU) club, and which welcomes, recognizes, and celebrates the Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas and elsewhere across the world."*



**MICHAEL CAMPBELL**  
JUDGE

*Michael Campbell is a member the Iroquois Confederacy, Cayuga Nation of New York, Turtle Clan. He is married to Lluvia Campbell, Mexican, and have 6 children and 12 grandchildren. All 6 children have learned and performed the hoop dance both nationally and internationally. In 1999 Michael formed a multicultural performing group called ROC (Remembering Our Culture) which represented the Native American, Latino, Asian, African American and Polynesian cultures. It was formed to help students of color stay enrolled in college and graduate in addition to having a safe place to socialize since many were away from home for the first time. Together with Lluvia, they directed ROC for 24 years until it was retired in 2024. Native American students in ROC learned the hoop dance, a few seasoned dancers and most "first timers," where they performed it for audiences and many student school assemblies.*



**KAYDEN DENNY**  
JUDGE

*"Hi! My name is Kayden Denny. I'm University of Utah's American Indian Ambassador for 2025-2026. I'm also a current University of Utah student majoring in Physics, emphasis in Astrophysics! I also LOVE to hoop dance. I have been hoop dancing for 13 years and share my story across the state! I was taught the hoop dance by my little sister, JJ, and learned things on my own as well! I love and appreciate the hoop dance for the many fascinating things it has brought me. I also love viewing others' hoop dance stories! It is my favorite part, viewing the many different stories :) good luck to all dancers! I'm so excited to help out!"*

# meet the 2025 OFFICIALS



**JEANIE GROVES**  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER  
& ADVISOR

*Eugenia Joy Sekaquaptewa was named after her father's next younger sibling, her Uncle Eugene and with the middle name of the firstborn daughter of the family, Joy, who died as a baby. Those names will always remind her of her Hopi family, tribal cultural values of extended family, community, environmental relationships and spiritual relationships with all of those entities. She became Jeanie, grew up in Phoenix with summers spent with her grandparents in Hopi and later working summers there with her father in his silversmith shop. Her education resulted in a degree in social work, marriage to Jay Groves, member of Northern Ute Uncompahgre Band, and a family of five children. Living in Utah she worked in her local school district and eventually became the Indian Education Coordinator where she worked for more than twenty-four years developing a passion for Indian Education, Culture, and Indian families, who became extended family in her life. She continues to be involved in Indian activities and community groups to promote cultural sustainability for current and future generations of Native people who are our Families.*



**SHELBY CAPOOSE**  
TECHNICAL ADVISOR

*Born and raised on the Uintah & Ouray Reservation in Fort Duchesne, Utah, Shelby has dedicated her career to strengthening communities through advocacy, consultation, and culturally grounded programming. She draws on her lived experiences as Nuchu (Ute) and her professional background to guide her work, ensuring that traditions, values, and priorities remain at the forefront of every project she undertakes. With more than a decade of leadership experience, Shelby has collaborated with Tribal nations, state and federal agencies, and educational institutions on initiatives spanning Tribal language preservation, land and water rights, education, and health and wellness. Her work is defined by a commitment to building sustainable systems that honor sovereignty and empower the indigenous voice. She is known for her ability to bridge diverse communities and organizations, creating opportunities for collaboration while ensuring Indigenous perspectives remain central to decision-making. Shelby also brings extensive expertise in consultation and event leadership. She has helped plan, organize, and guide Native American led events ranging from powwows and youth gatherings to large-scale regional conferences and cultural celebrations. Her consultation services prioritize cultural respect, inclusivity, and authenticity ensuring that each event is well organized and reflective of the communities it serves. Shelby focuses her effort in building partnerships, coordinating logistics, and amplifying Indigenous perspectives to better facilitate meaningful engagement with all communities.*



# meet the 2025 OFFICIALS



**ÖRÜHGÜHT WĚCHĚTCH  
TABULATIONS**  
COMMUNITY PARTNER

*Örühgüht Wěchětch Tabulation (ÖWT), meaning Yellow Bird, was founded to provide reliable, accurate, and transparent event tabulation services designed specifically for Native American communities. Dedicated to advancing tribal sovereignty and supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, ÖWT combines modern technology with traditional values through its proprietary scorekeeping system. This unique approach ensures professional, adaptable, and culturally grounded solutions for competitions, community gatherings, and cultural events. Yellow Bird symbolizes the heritage, music, and celebration that inspire the organization's work. Building on our commitment to excellence and cultural integrity, ÖWT's success is driven by a diverse team of professionals who share a passion for our community's success. Each team member brings unique expertise and dedication, ensuring our clients benefit from both deep cultural understanding and technical proficiency. Tabulations for the 2nd Annual Intermountain Hoop Dance Competition are overseen by Founder Shelby Chapoose, with financial operations managed by Finance Manager Andre Graves. Tabulation and registration duties are jointly administered by Gabrielle Pike and Emmarie Pike, both serving in the role of Tabulator/Registrar. Oversight of Youth Award Payments is provided by ÖWT Advisor and esteemed Auntie, Tina Groves. Together, this team combines cultural insight, financial stewardship, and technical expertise to ensure a successful and professionally coordinated event services.*



**IHAWC**  
COMMUNITY PARTNER

*IHAWC is a Native American-led organization that serves Indigenous individuals and families by inspiring a balanced lifestyle. IHAWC provides community events, educational opportunities, and access to resources that promote and build strong communities through finding balance and harmony in our physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental capacities. Our vision at IHAWC is to create a world where Indigenous people thrive. We strive to improve the lives of our people by serving, strengthening, and promoting health and wellness.*

meet the

# 2025 OFFICIALS

## DRUM GROUPS

GRAYHAWK | GHOST CANYON | WILD SALMON



**GHOST CANYON  
DRUM GROUP**

*In 2006 the Ghost Canyon Singers was started and was founded by Ezra Benally and the late Noah Fred. The Drum group hails from Fort Hall, Idaho and is made up of members of the Shoshone-Bannock tribe, Crow, Arapaho, Ojibwa, Hopi, & Yakima Blood. Ghost Canyon has won numerous singing contests and has been honored to be hosts at many different pow-wows as well as being invited to the 2011 Gathering Of Nations pow-wow. Ghost Canyon will continue to travel and bring their unique and original style of singing to the pow-wow trail.*



**GRAYHAWK  
DRUM GROUP**

*Grayhawk Drum Group is bringing their Southern Style songs to the Intermountain Hoop Dance Competition.*

**THE WILD  
SALMON  
SINGERS  
DRUM GROUP**

*Originally from the Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation located in Fort Duchesne Utah, Wild Salmon Singers consist of men from the Ute, Shoshone-Bannock, Nez Perce tribes and make northern style powwow music as we come from a lineage of drum carriers and song makers. We maintain our family traditions making original songs and carry our own drum. Our music is made to promote happiness and good feelings within hearts and minds and to encourage the communities, especially the youth, to take pride in their culture and tribal heritage. We'd like to thank you for the opportunity to sing for you.*



# THANK YOU

*to our sponsors and community partners*



*special thanks to community partners*  
**Jeanie Groves & Shelby Capoose**

*and ledger art by*  
**Al Groves**



## INTERMOUNTAIN HOOP DANCE COMPETITION 2025

*INTERMOUNTAIN*  
**HOOP DANCE**  
*COMPETITION* **2026**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

*S A T U R D A Y*  
**September 12, 2026**

Red Butte Garden Amphitheatre