

The Fancy Feather Dance

Northern and Southern styles

Features vivid regalia with dramatic movement, including spins and leaps. Aside from bright color and non-traditional materials, fancy dancers are also distinguished by use of a two-bustle design on their regalia. There are two styles of roaches, which are traditional head ornaments worn by men. In the North, it is the same as the grass dance roach, in the South, the roaches have rockers, two feathers on springs that rock back and forth.

Northern Traditional Dance

“Men’s Traditional” in the North

Features traditional regalia, authentic design and materials, single or no bustle, and movements based on traditional dances.

Straight Dance

“Southern Traditional”

Regalia is usually more simple and features more handmade features, such as chokers and breastplates. Their dances are similar to Northern. They take one foot and step on the ball of their foot and then they tap it once on the ground. Then they tap it again, keeping their heel a few millimeters above the ground and repeating the process with the other foot. They do this in a walking motion. This becomes difficult when following the beat of fast drums. If dancers catch themselves off beat they will tap their foot three times instead of two to get back with the drums' rhythm.

Grass Dance

Features regalia with long, flowing fringe and designs reminiscent of grass blowing in the wind. The dance movements are more elaborate than the traditional dancers, but less flashy than the fancy dancers.