

Red Star Intertribal Gourd Dance Society



**20th Annual Ancestors Gourd
Dance and Pow Wow
October 18th, 2025**

Emcee Wade Blevins



Wade Blevins is a Cherokee Nation citizen from the Honey Creek community, located between Jay and Grove in Oklahoma. Wade's parents, grandparents and great grandparents instilled a strong sense of his native identity from an early age. His Native community is his passion. Wade received his Master's in education from Oklahoma City University and has been an employee of Cherokee Nation for the past twenty years, working ten years in Cherokee Nation Johnson O'Malley and another ten in the tribe's language department developing curriculum and training programs for educators. Wade is a strong advocate for using CI techniques and strategies in revitalizing indigenous languages. He has worked with many other tribal language programs across the country as well as served on several professional boards with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Currently, you can see Wade on RSU TV teaching the Cherokee language.

Wade is very active in the northeast Oklahoma native community. He is an accomplished dancer and singer in both stomp dance and powwow and enjoys doing beadwork and making traditional regalia for his family. He is a member of the Squirrel Ridge ceremonial grounds. He was a founding member of the Delaware County Intertribal Youth Council and Powwow committee, the first local powwow to offer scholarships to native students continuing their education. He is a strong believer in encouraging youth to embrace their traditional culture. Aside from his traditional culture, Wade is a martial arts instructor in Jay, coaching many area youth to win both local and national titles.

Arena Director Shane Adams



Shane is of the Quapaw tribe and currently resides in Kansas City, Missouri. He has been in the HVAC and property maintenance business for 20 years. In previous years, Shane served as the Arena Director and Assistant Arena Director for other Pow Wows. "It will be an honor to serve in a position that my grandfather, Roger Crane, held when he was Arena Director at Pow Wows for many years"

Head Man

Daniel “Supaktv” Roberts



Daniel “Supaktv” Roberts is a member of the Mvskoke (Creek) and Unangan (Aleut) tribes. He resides within the Mvskoke Reservation in the town of Morris, OK with his wife Samantha, daughter Lydia, and son Waylon. He works for Mvskoke Media where he is the Manager of the graphic design and printing division for 15 years.

Daniel grew up in Morris, OK with his parents Danny and Janell Roberts, and younger brother Zachary Roberts, but most weekends were spent with his late grandfather Stanley Roberts in Nuyaka, OK.

Daniel has been dancing for many years and has had the honor of serving as head staff for many different powwow organizations both in and outside of Oklahoma. When he is not dancing you can usually find him singing at the center drum.

Daniel is also an active member of the Tvlhasse Wvkokaye Ceremonial Grounds. Mvto for choosing me to serve as this year’s head man dancer.

Head Lady

Samantha Roberts



Samantha Roberts is a member of the Cherokee and Mvskoke Creek tribes. She resides in Morris, Oklahoma with her husband, Daniel and two children, Lydia and Waylon. She works for the Mvskoke Creek Nation WIC program where she has been a supervisor for the past seven years.

Samantha grew up in Bunch, Oklahoma with her parents, John and the late Greata (Gonzales) Flute and her older sister, Jessica and younger late brother, Thomas.

Samantha has been dancing a little over two years, dancing southern cloth. She was given the right to dance southern cloth by Debbie Chanate-McCarty. Samantha is also a shell shaker among her ceremonial stomp grounds.

Samantha would like to give her thanks for selected as this year’s head lady and wish safe travels to everyone. Thank you, Wado, Mvto, and A-Ho.

Head Singer John Bechtold



My name is John Bechtold my wife; Millie Bechtold is Hopi and Tohono O'odham from Arizona. We live in Independence, Missouri. I retired from the State of Missouri working in the Children's Division. We have four children, Jacob, Samerra, Sarah and Carlyn. We also have seven grandchildren Josiah, Tristand, Orin, Jonathan, Zoe, twins Kiley and Harper, and Al. We have been involved in Pow-Wows and celebrations for many years. We dance, sing and do crafts for family. We have traveled throughout the Midwest with friends and family and we have taken on the responsibility of being on Head Staff many times. We have always taught our children and grandchildren to be respectful of other people and this land. We have also have had the honor of singing with many men and women around the drum and have been taught many different songs from many different tribes. Some of those men and women are no longer with us, but we still try to keep their songs and ways alive in the circle. We are honored that the Red Star Organization has asked us to be part of their celebration again and hope that everyone has a good time.

Red Star Intertribal Gourd Dance Society



The Red Star Intertribal Gourd Dance Society is an intertribal Society formed to preserve Gourd Dancing and cultural education. We would like to thank everyone for attending and helping make the Pow Wow a success!

Dance Styles

Men's Dances

Men's Traditional Dance

Men are adorned in traditional style regalia with beaded vests, breechcloths, leggings, and a single circular bustle of feathers on the back. The dancer recreates a war story or hunting expedition through dance. A dancer may carry a shield, weapon, honor staff, medicine wheel or a fan. The faces of these dancers may be painted, (some in fierce fashion), to intimidate the enemy and sometimes to reflect a spiritual or traditional motive. The regalia incorporates the old traditional elements of color with beadwork, quill work, feather work and ribbon work.

Men's Southern Straight Dance

The Southern Straight dance tells a story of hunting or a war party on the trail of prey. Characteristically, the dancer never turns a complete circle (as a warrior would never turn his back on the enemy), issuing an occasional whoop when the trail is sighted. Today, it is known as a "gentleman's dance", probably in reference to the stately grace with which the dance is performed.

Men's Grass Dance

Long ago, the dancers wore outfits that were made solely with the natural materials that were available such as grass, porcupine quills and hair. Today's dancers will still incorporate these items on their outfits, adding ribbons, yarns, and bells. The dancer uses skillful movement of his best grass dancer regalia to resemble the gentle swaying of grass on a windy day, while simulating the preparation of a traditional dance circle by flattening large sections of prairie grass by matting it down with his feet. The basic regalia is characterized by colorful beadwork; a belt, cuffs, headband and harness with a porcupine roach and two "antennae" with eagle plumes or two eagle feathers in "spinners" on top of his head. The feathers are kept in a constant motion in harmony with the drum and song. Dancers are expected to perform steps with equal dexterity on the left as well as on the right.

Men's Chicken Dance

The dance, done by traditional dancers or grass dancers, is an imitation of the mating dance of the prairie chicken grouse that lives on those plains. Dance steps and movement of the dancer's head and arms call to mind the prairie chicken rooster as it fluffs up its feathers and struts about.

Men's Fancy Dance

The elaborate and brilliantly colored regalia of this style of dancers and their free-style movements mark this dance. The dancers are easily identifiable by the double bustles on their backs. The bustles may be made from eagle feathers, or, more commonly, small hackle feathers dyed in brilliant colors. The style of the dance, as it exists today, is divided generally into two forms. The Southern form has developed into a fast-paced collage of aggressive movement and footwork. Very often, hand-held dance sticks are twirled in time to the drum and the two feathers that top the roach are kept in a constant rocking motion by head movement. The Northern style of the fancy dance has a different pace, reflecting the Northern style of singing. Dancers are judged on the intricacy of their footwork combinations with emphasis on style and agility. The two roach feathers may be kept in a spinning motion by consistently timed head movement.

Women's Dances

Women's Northern Traditional Dance

This stately dance involves a slow-moving or non-moving bouncing step, rhythmically dipping and swaying to the beat of the drum. Dresses of buckskin, wool or other material are heavily decorated with beading, quillwork, elk teeth, bone or antler or shells. The colors for this dance tend to be more subdued.

Women's Southern Traditional Dance

Dancers may wear cloth regalia with ribbons, beads, and silverwork, which would have been obtained in trade and adapted to suit the tastes and styles of her tribe. Most traditional women dancers carry a fan of eagle other feathers, a purse, and a shawl.

Jingle Dress Dance

The most musical of the Pow Wow dances, the Jingle Dance is gracefully accompanied by the tinkling sound of the dress in motion. The dancers are dresses covered by rows of metal cones. The dance has no choreography and dancers use rocking, stepping, and hopping motions to make the jingles on their dresses chime along with the beat of the drum. Although the dance originated in Northern Minnesota among the Anishinabek People, it has become tremendously popular among women dancers of all ages.

Fancy Shawl Dance

This dance features a fast pace and the distinctive brightly colored shawl. The shawl is an adaptation of the blanket carried or worn traditionally by women. Regalia materials such as sequins, ribbons, and fabric may be combined with beadwork, quills and feathers. The Fancy Shawl dance is a combination of intricate footwork that is choreographed extemporaneously to the beat and tone of the music from the drum and singers. The appropriate style of this dance is one of a constant whirl of beauty and grace rather than wild movements. Dancers create this illusion by moving around the arena on their toes, kicking high, and twirling in the air. This dance is extremely athletic and strenuous and is usually danced by girls and young women. The dancers keep up with the fast pace of the song while retaining a gentle elegance, using their beautifully decorated fringed shawls to accentuate every movement.

Thanks To Our Sponsors

Foxwood Springs Bargain Barn Raymore, MO

Hawthorn Bank

Benson Expo Center

Walmart of Clinton

Clinton Chamber of Commerce

Parkfield Inn

Mike Keith Insurance

RP Lumber

Missouri Arts Council

National Endowment of the Arts

Public support from the Missouri Arts Council, a State Agency

Missouri Humanities Council

Truman Lake Community Foundation

Red Star is sponsoring this Pow Wow in partnership with the Missouri Humanities and support from the Missouri Humanities Trust Fund

Pow Wow Etiquette

A powwow is a celebration, a social gathering, a friendly dance. There are sacred traditions to be found in this coming together of people. As the circle represents the unity of life, so the circle of the dance arena represents the joining together around the music of the drum and singers. Everyone is welcome at most powwows, non Indians too. Here are some tips:

- When the colors (US and tribal flags) are presented, and/or the dancers parade into the arena for the Grand Entry, everyone who is able stands and hats are removed in respect.
- Most Pow Wows begin and end with a prayer. Some also have an opening and a closing song. The Master of Ceremonies (MC) will announce when the audience should stand for the singing.
- The dance competitions require concentration. Photos may be taken, but don't use flash during dancing. Also, ask permission before taking an individual's picture between dances for this is private time. Never stand in the arena area to take pictures.
- The benches encircling the arena, often covered with blankets, are for dancers in regalia only, not for the general public.
- Don't touch any outfits. Ornaments have special personal or spiritual meaning and many of the handmade outfits, which costs thousands of dollars, and are cherished family heirlooms made by respected family member
- On the invitation of the MC, feel free to join in on the intertribal dances.
- It is customary, when possible, for women to wear a shawl when dancing.
- Unless they are dancing, please keep your children from funning or wandering into the area when the Pow Wow is in progress.

THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY AN
AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR
THE ARTS



**Red Star Intertribal
Gourd Dance Society's
20th ANNUAL**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THIS PROJECT
HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE MISSOURI ARTS
COUNCIL, A STATE AGENCY



ANCESTORS MEMORIAL GOURD DANCE



**&
POW WOW
October 18, 2025
Clinton, Missouri**



Head Staff

Head Man - Daniel Roberts
Head Lady - Samantha Roberts
M.C. - Wade Blevins
Head Singer - John Bechtold
Arena Director - Shane Adams
Head Gourd - Red Star Intertribal Gourd Society

Schedule

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm -- Gourd Dancing
2:00 pm - Grand Entry
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm -- Intertribal
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm -- Dinner Break
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm -- Gourd Dancing
7:00 pm - Grand Entry
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm -- Intertribal

*Dinner furnished for the drum, staff, and dancers
Concessions open at 11:30 am*

All Drums Welcome

**Concessions
&
Fry Bread**



Benson
Convention & Exposition
Center
FREE ADMISSION!
Located Indoors

*Midway between Kansas City and
Springfield at the junction
of 7 & 13 and 52 highway*

1008 E. Sedalia Avenue, Clinton MO 64735

*No drugs, alcohol, pets, or firearms allowed!! Not responsible for accidents, lost, or stolen articles.
For information contact Bob LaRoussa (816) 331-2824. Traders by invitation only.*

see WWW.REDSTARGOURD.COM for updated information

updated 2/2/2025

The Red Star Intertribal Gourd Dance Society is sponsoring this Pow Wow in partnership with the Missouri Humanities and with support from the Missouri Humanities Trust Fund