

Six Virginia Indian Nations Announce Annual Spring Powwow

The Virginia Indian Nations will join American Indian friends and visitors from all over the country when they gather on the Chickahominy Tribal Grounds in Charles City, Virginia; May 3-4, 2008 for their 7th Annual Joint Spring Powwow/Gathering. On this historic occasion, visitors will have an opportunity to experience Virginia Indian traditions with tribes that were here to meet the settlers in 1607.

Grounds open at 10:00 AM on both days, with the Saturday, May 3 Grand Entry at 12:00 noon and Sunday Grand Entry at 1:00 PM. The festival will feature American Indian dancers, drummers, singers and cultural demonstrations.

Clark Stewart, member of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Host drum is **Red Oak**, featuring drummers and singers from North Carolina. Co-lead male dancers will be **Ben Adams**, Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe and **Preston Adkins**, Chickahominy Indian Tribe. **Karenne Wood**, Monacan Indian Nation, will be the lead female dancer. **Keith Smith**, Nansemond Indian Tribe, will serve as arena director. Grand Entry will be led by the Indian Nations Warriors and Veterans Honor Color Guard.

The attending public will enjoy a number of cultural and traditional exhibits including historic displays and information from the Virginia tribes. American Indian crafters from all over the United States will have jewelry, traditional items, beadwork, leather crafts, and other authentic arts and crafts for sale. Food will be available and will feature Indian frybread, fish & chips, hamburgers and hot dogs, barbeque, and more, as well as plenty of beverages and a bake sale.

The festival is open to the public. Gate admission is \$5.00/adults; \$3.00/children ages 6-12 years and elders age 60 and older. Plenty of free parking is available with golf cart transportation provided to the grounds. Organizers suggest bringing lawn chairs or blankets. Powwow etiquette will be followed. For health and safety reasons, no pets are permitted on the powwow grounds.

Proceeds will support VITAL, the Virginia Indian Tribal Alliance for Life. VITAL is an organization working for federal recognition for the Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Monacan, Nansemond, Rappahannock and Upper Mattaponi Indian nations.

For further information and directions to the Chickahominy Tribal Grounds, please visit VITAL's website at www.vitalva.org. **Other information is available from organizers at 804-966-2448 or 804-932-4406.**