

# Appendix M – The Kunieh Society

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*Note: Care was taken to reproduce the original documents. For the most part, changes were in formatting to fit the page structure.*

## **The Tribe of the Ku-Ni-Eh**

The Tribe of Ku-Ni-Eh The Tribe of Ku-ni-eh was a very widespread honor camper society that was in existence from the Great Lakes area to the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic coastal states. It was created in 1922 in the Cincinnati Area Council in Ohio by Arthur E. Roberts, their Scout Executive and camp director. He had been looking for a program to keep older boys interested in scouting and found it within the Kankau, a tribe of the Maidu Indians of Northern California. The Tribe of Ku-ni-eh was based at Camp Edgar Friedlander in Ohio. The symbol of the society was the "We-Hin-Ah-Pay" (means rising sun) which was a design taken from the base of the Maidu Indian ceremonial basket of the same name. Ku-Ni-Eh means "Order of Manhood". It was a Maidu Indian ceremony that was a rite of passage from boy to man and tested the youth in virtues necessary to become a brave. A Ku-ni-eh handbook from 1923 is known to exist and a ceremonial manual was published and copyrighted by Arthur Roberts in 1926.

### ***Where The Tribe of Ku-ni-eh existed***

The tribe reportedly existed at the following councils (and probably others) and in the following states:

- Blue Grass Council (KY)
- Blue Ridge Council (SC)
- Caddo Area Council (TX.)
- Cape Fear Area Council (NC) \*
- Cincinnati Area Council(OR)
- C'ommanche Trail Council (TX)
- Concho Valley Council (TX)
- Firelands Council (OH)
- Four Rivers Council (KY)
- Heart O' Texas Council
- Indian Trails Council (WI)
- Lonesome Pine Council (KY)
- Louisville Area Council (KY)
- Milwaukee County Council (WI)
- Northern Kentucky Council (KY)
- Palmetto Council (SC)
- Pee Dee Council (SC)
- Potawatomi Area Council (WI)
- Southwest Texas Council (TX)

- Tuscarora Council (NC)
- Upper Cumberland Council (KY),

*\*Bob Walton wrote to us and noted "The tribe of Ku-Ni-Eh was used as a camp honor society at Camp Kilodeska, Cape Fear Area Council, Wilmington, NC in 1936, 37 & 38. It was also used, by the council, at Camp Singletary in 1939. I have not found any reference to Ku-Ni-Eh after 1939."*

An outline of the Tribe of Ku-ni-eh that was written in the 1940's states that the Tribe was active in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, southern Indiana and Illinois. Which specific councils within those states was not mentioned. The list didn't mention the states of Wisconsin and Texas which had numerous councils using the Ku-ni-eh program.

### ***Selection into the Tribe***

- Conditions of Membership into Ku-Ni-Eh:
- Loyalty to the Ideals of Scouting.
- Orderliness and neatness of person, tent and camp.
- Advancement in the program of Scoutcraft.
- General out of doors knowledge; Helpfulness towards new boys.
- Participation in construction and sanitation.
- Participation in the programs.
- Cheerfulness in service and discipline.

Unlike the OA which has members of a scout's troop choose who will be selected to join, candidates for Ku-ni-eh were selected by Tribe members. The 1923 handbook details the procedure as follows: "At the end of each camping session at which the tribe is represented, all of the available members assemble at a time which is appointed by Mishenewa. With the sponsor present, recommendation for tribal membership is made by any member for any camper. Each candidate is discussed by each tribal member. When a candidate has been considered by everyone, he is then voted upon in an open ballot and those who receive a unanimous vote are accepted for the Tribe."

### ***The Laws and Song Of the Tribe of Ku-ni-eh***

The Nine Laws of Ku-Ni-Eh:

1. A Ku-Ni-Eh brave tries to gain and keep perfect health.
2. A Ku-Ni-Eh brave controls himself
3. A Ku-Ni-Eh has courage.

4. A Ku-Ni-Eh is reliable and trustworthy.
5. A Ku-Ni-Eh observes the rules of Clean Play.
6. A Ku-Ni-Eh is dutiful.
7. A Ku-Ni-Eh is a good workman.
8. A Ku-Ni-Eh is kind.
9. A Ku-Ni-Eh is Loyal

## ***The Song of Ku-Ni-Eh***

### **Song of Ku-Ni-Eh**

*(Tune: Maryland, My Maryland)*

Where e'er on earth we chance to be,  
Ku-Ni-Eh, my Ku-Ni-Eh,  
Our hearts will ever tum to thee,  
Ku-Ni-Eh, my Ku-Ni-Eh,  
Thy spirit makes us ever strong,  
Thy comradeship we praise in song,  
Miami's waters carry it on, \*  
Ku-Ni-Eh, my Ku-Ni-Eh.

Thy faith and trust we safely keep,  
Ku-Ni-Eh, my Ku-Ni-Eh,  
In waking hours and midnight sleep,  
Ku-Ni-Eh, my Ku-Ni-Eh,  
Our fondest thoughts are for our tribe,  
And tho' we're scattered far and wide,  
In spirit we'll be side by side,  
Ku-Ni-Eh, my Ku-Ni-Eh.

*\*The name Miami was substituted with the name of a local body of water nearest the particular Tribe. In the Firelands Council it was Lake Erie. Miami was used by the original Tribe in Cincinnati.*

## ***The Ordeal and Initiation Ceremony of Ku-ni-eh***

An account of the ordeal and ceremony in the Comanche Trail Council in Texas stated that candidates had an arrow scratched into their arm with a needle and they were given an arrow shaft and told to make a completed arrow with their name on it. It was placed in a quiver with the other member's arrows. If they disgraced the scouting ideals their arrow

was shot into the air. If they could not find it they were out of the society. In Comanche Trail, candidates were awakened at midnight and were roped together and hiked until dawn blindfolded. They then made their breakfast then took a bath in a tank of cold water. Later they worked throughout the day to complete their ordeal. It was not unusual to wake up in the morning and find your tent mate missing and he would be gone for three days. He would return as a member of the Tribe of Ku-Ni-Eh. It was introduced in Comanche Trail after a local scout became a member of the society at the scout camp in Waco, Texas (Heart O' Texas Council) and brought it back with him. Entry into Ku-Ni-Eh was a three day process and the ceremonial script was eight typed pages.

Some of the main Indian characters in the Ku-Ni-Eh ceremonial were Mishenewa (the friend brave) (spelled Mishenowa in the handbook), Go-wa-na (the father brave), Tah-ko-dah (the Tribe Chief), Fire-builder and Ka-wi-da (the wise brave). The handbook also names "Wenidi," (the story teller brave). Based on information in the ceremonial book there was an overnight time where candidates were kept together in a general area. Each was given a small leaflet with the laws and song of Ku-Ni-Eh printed on it. They were sent off to seek solitude and to study the information on the leaflet before meeting the chief the next day. If they met another candidate in the forest they were they were to remain silent, give the sign of friendship and pass on. There were two passwords that they had to learn; the first was "Service" and the second was "Prepared". Members were given the Ku-ni-eh badge as well as a Ku-ni-eh handbook which had on the back cover the statement: "The holding of this handbook asserts that \_\_\_\_\_ is a member of the Tribe of Ku-ni-eh."

### ***The Membership Badge of Ku-ni-eh***

Ku-Ni-Eh did have a national membership badge (patch). "Badges in wholesale lots of 39 dozen may be secured from Lion Brothers of Baltimore. Small quantities may be secured from Cincinnati Scout Headquarters at cost and mail. The badges are silk embroidered, similar to merit badges and same size..." (quoted from the 1926 ceremonial book). The size of the square cloth was about the same as merit badges back then but the embroidered circle was silver dollar size. Sometimes the square was cut down to round as was done with the square merit badges.



1930s



1940s

The early patch was chain stitch embroidered on felt and the later version was embroidered on twill material. Apparently when the program reached the Comanche Trail Council in Texas in 1935, the fact that there was a national patch was unknown to them. They created their own local Ku-ni-eh patch which was a square leather fringed patch with Indian markings on it. In the Otena Lodge 295 history it states that there was no national Ku-ni-eh patch even though there was. An explanation of the national badge design was given in the 1923 handbook which states: "We take the sun for our symbol and guide because it meant to the Indian honor and fidelity, it gives light and warmth, it chases away the shadows and the gloom. It follows a straight course through the skies and is never swayed from its purpose. Be like the sun. Find out that which is good and hold fast to it. Remember the story of the hound and the stag lack of imagination led him from a real goal to a lesser and lesser one until he got off track completely. The sun teaches us to pick our objective and follow a straight course toward the goal. About the sun is the blue sky of the morning when all things begin anew. Green like nature in springtime means blossoming manhood. White is for purity. Red is for health, virility, and the heart from which issues life. Whenever you look upon this symbol, renew your vows to Ku-ni-eh. To be a true member of this Tribe and loyal to its teachings will insure fair weather to you throughout life."

A Ku-ni-eh monument was erected at Camp Offutt in Versailles, Kentucky which was the camp of the Blue Grass Council. The camp existed from 1923 to 1960. The monument listed all of the members of the local Tribe of Ku-ni-eh from 1927-1943. I am told that the monument still exists to this day. The totem (the Ku-ni-eh patch on top) was poured and painted concrete. The totem was removed from its engraved limestone base in 1960 when the camp closed and it was remounted on top of another stone structure at the OA ceremony grounds at McKee Scout Reservation in Mount Sterling, KY. Over the years the Kunieh symbol deteriorated, and eventually was removed. It's pieces have survived and they have been put back together in a frame, something like a large jig saw puzzle weighing between 50-100 pounds. The tapered limestone base portion of the monument (with the names of all of the Ku-Ni-Eh members of that time) is still at old Camp Offutt. The new owners of the camp felt that it should stay a part of the place and it has for all of these years. The first name that was inscribed on the monument was O.C. Rankin who was the "sponsor" of the Blue Grass Council Tribe of Ku-ni-eh. He was inducted into the society at Camp Friedlander in Cincinnati and is believed to be the person who brought Ku-ni-eh to Kentucky and promoted it. He aggressively resisted the OA replacing Ku-ni-eh and never joined the Kawida OA lodge. He died in 1969. I was told by a member of Kawida lodge that even after the OA lodge was started in 1952 the Ku-ni-eh continued to induct members and give out the membership patch. This went on into the 1960's.

## In Conclusion

There are still many councils who have lost track of what honor society/programs they had before the OA (if any). I suspect there are a few out there that had Ku-Ni-Eh that have yet to rediscover it. The society no longer exists but there still is a Ku-Ni-Eh OA Lodge 145 in Ohio and their flaps still include the We-Hin-Ah-Pay (Rising Sun) within their design.



Kawida OA Lodge 480 in Kentucky took their lodge name directly from one of the Indian braves in the Ku-ni-eh ceremonial.

## Kunieh Society - Central Indiana Council - Indianapolis, IN



The Kunieh Society of Central Indiana Council (now Crossroads) was established in 1927, by a Mr. Robinson and Dan Beard from Cincinnati, OH, who had formed the mother lodge there. It was to be an Honor Society for Boy Scouts nationwide.

Central Indiana Council had its own National Society, called "Firecrafter". It had three ranks and one adult honorary rank. It was formed around perfection in scout craft and held annual competitions in fire by friction in bow and drill and flit and steel. This society is still active today in the Crossroads Council. Pop Belzer, the Scout Executive, formed the Kunieh Society for use in teaching Indian Lore, particularly for performances at Camporees, Scout Shows, and Scout-O-Rams. It was a Council assignment, and I was a Field Director on the Professional staff. It was not to compete in program or recognition with the Firecrafters.

I was appointed the 15th Advisor to the Society in 1959. At one time I knew 6 other former Advisors. Some were Professional Scouters and some were volunteers. Frank Chase, then Scout Executive appointed me as the Advisor because of my previous experience of being a Firecrafter, Kunieh Member, and Order of Arrow Member in the old Tippecanoe/Harrison Trails Council in Lafayette, IN, and because of my success in changing Boy's Brigades in Wisconsin into Scout Troops in three communities as one of my professional assignments.

We began with 4 members on January 2nd, 1960. Kurt Peters, who is now a Professor of Ethnic Studies at Oregon State University, Dick King, who was once President of the Tecumseh Lodge, and is now Senior Headman for the White Star Gourd Society, Freed Kline, who is no longer active, but his daughters are, and myself. We soon had 15 members meeting twice a month.

The Capital Girl Scout Council joined hands with us in 1960, forming a co-ed group with 2 Advisors for two Panorama girl scout crews totaling 15, and 2 Advisors for two Explorer crews, totaling 15. We put on shows for both councils. This organization continued to grow and become active in Girl Panorama and Explorer events with 2 girls and 2 guys being elected King and Queen of the Explorer Ball.

It was also in late 1960 that we changed from just shows to Pow Wows, and began to travel., and put on our own pow wows. Friends and members from other Kunieh Chapters teamed up with us and helped us become acquainted with the Native community in Oklahoma. As we began to learn , we established a "recognition program" based upon the three areas of native culture we were most involved in. Dance, Crafts, Singers. with feathers around the original We-bin-a-pay (Kunieh) emblem. As members became proficient in a "rank" of the recognition program, the member received feathers, until he/she completed the top rank, which gave them half of a circle of feathers. To earn the other half, they had to choose one of the two other areas and become proficient in that one too, until the full circle was completed. Yes the hairs overlapped, and they were supposed to trim the circle so they both fit behind the We-bin-a-pay Kunieh emblem. This is to simulate a dance bustle for boys. We did shows for communities and scout groups to earn money for our trips. Trips covered: Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Pine Ridge SD, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, and North Carolina. We traveled every other month as one of our 2 meetings a month.

The "uniform" was blue jeans and a blue jean jacket. The Kunieh emblem was sewn on the front of the jacket, above the pocket. No rolled jeans. Indians do not do this. Straw western hats were also adopted by most members.

During my tenure we teamed up with Kunieh Society chapters in Tampa, FL; Evansville, IN,

Lebanon , IN (which became the American Indian Council later on) and Alton, IL. It was the Alton, IL Adult Advisors who showed us how to run a pow wow correctly and they still come to monitor the ones of Tecumseh Lodge. We also became well acquainted with the Kunieh Order of Arrow Lodge from Cincinnati, and used their Kunieh pins for recognition of members after they attained first rank in recognition. The singers, now adults and called the "Strongheart Singers" sing for their pow wows at London, OH. They have also taught, sung, and judged singers in southern style singing for the last four Order of Arrow National Conferences .

I left the Society in 1965 due to job change Jim Deer became Advisor, then I returned in 1989 and became Advisor again until 2001. During my absence the group became Explorer Post 53, then Venture Crew. In 2001 Aaron and Suzanne Smith (former Kunieh members) took it over, but had four children come along and the Society went dark in 2003. All the equipment was returned to our then sponsor, Tecumseh Lodge.

The Society went through three generations from 1960 to 2003. In 1960's the boys and girls who were graduating high school formed Tecumseh Lodge, Tecumseh Lodge is still functioning with about 200 members, of which 7 of the 10 Board members are former Kunieh members, three of those are Kunieh Chiefs (had a Kunieh emblem with a complete circle of feathers.) The emblems were used for all three generations, but had to be earned ( limit 2 per member) not traded.

In the 1990's we had a support group of over 11 adults who sewed, re-built our trailer for the specialty camping and dance equipment, built lights and sound system for shows, made arrangements with churches for overnight stays to and from events, and helped the members earn more money by acting as "sackers" for big grocery stores, and Masonic car washes.

This year, 2010, is both Kunieh and Tecumseh Lodge's 50th anniversary. We are all planning for a big turn out on Labor Day at the Tipton, IN fairgrounds. Should be about 1000 people in all. Come and meet us, we interesting to know.

### **Teed Howard**

P.S. Many of the members of the Kunieh are still active in Native American culture. I mentioned Kurt, Dick and myself. In addition some are members of the Ponca Hethuska, we are all members of the Gourd Society which was trained by the Kiowa, some have been 'taken in" the Sac and Fox Tribe, and I dance both southern and northern, as I lived in Minnesota for 15 years, and still dance at the "banging of the 38" at Mankato, each fall.

## **Kunieh Recognition within the Order of the Arrow**

**Beaver Outdoor Adventure**

**Ceremony Panther**

**Ceremony Beaver**

**Ceremony Otter**

## Beaver Outdoor Adventure

### USED ONLY IN ORDER OF THE ARROW LODGES WITH APPROVAL OF ADVISOR

The purpose of the Kunieh Recognition Program inside the Arrow Lodge is to encourage all Lodge members to take a purposeful and active part in the Lodge program through involvement in one of the committees, or teams that create the prestige and image of the Order of the Arrow, by appearing before others in Native American clothes.

1. Serve as ELONGOMAT, during an Ordeal.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

2. Make three Camp Promotion slide presentations, two of which must be to Troops other than your own. This may be done with one other member, and both may count the presentations towards requirement completion if in uniform with OA sash

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Make a presentation to a group of Scouts or Webelos on knots and lashings, or tin foil cooking, or knife and axe.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

4. Acquire a personal camping kit that includes:

\_\_\_\_\_ backpack

\_\_\_\_\_ poncho

\_\_\_\_\_ canteen

\_\_\_\_\_ flashlight

\_\_\_\_\_ bedroll

\_\_\_\_\_ labeled zip lock bags for socks,

or blanket roll

soap, underwear

5. Take part in at least one work week-end at a Council camp under the leadership of the Lodge Advisor / designee or the Camp Director. (Other than your Ordeal)

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

Two (2) feathers are awarded for this achievement, making the total four (4) feathers worn around the emblem.

## **Ceremony Panther**

1. Take the part of Alowat Sakima, or Metu, in a Brotherhood Ceremonies and know your part by heart.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

2. Make two (2) more items from the CEREMONY BEAVER requirement 2.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

3. Using a check list provided by the Chapter / Lodge, help set up a Brotherhood Ceremony.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

4. Attend a call-out, Ordeal, Brotherhood, or Vigil Ceremony of another Chapter / Lodge, or at a Sectional or National Conclave.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

5. Attend three or more Brotherhood Ceremony Team practices of at least five or more members.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

The Ceremony Panther may wear one-half (1 / 2) of the circle of feathers around the emblem. The other one-half (1 / 2) of the emblem must be earned as a Kunieh Dancer, Singer or Craft member.

## Ceremony Beaver

### USED ONLY IN ORDER OF THE ARROW LODGES WITH APPROVAL OF ADVISOR

The purpose of the Kunieh Recognition Program inside the Arrow Lodge is to encourage all Lodge members to take a purposeful and active part in the Lodge program through involvement in one of the committees, or teams that create the prestige and image of the Order of the Arrow, by appearing before others in Native American clothes.

6. Learn the history of the Order of the Arrow and the local Lodge. Know your lodge patch and its restrictions if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

7. Make two of the following items:

Breech-clout \_\_\_\_\_ Ribbon Shirt \_\_\_\_\_ Leggins \_\_\_\_\_  
Moccasins \_\_\_\_\_ Fan \_\_\_\_\_ Headdress \_\_\_\_\_

8. Take the part of either Nutiket or Kichikinet in a call-out, or Pre-Ordeal, Ordeal, or Brotherhood Ceremony, and know your part by heart.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

9. Using a check list provided by the Chapter/Lodge, assist in setting up one or more Pre-Ordeal or Ordeal Ceremonies.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

10. Act as one of the following for two ceremonies:

_____ a. Fire tender	_____ e. Trail lighter
_____ b. Water tender	_____ f. guide
_____ c. Ring custodian	_____ g. herald
_____ d. Drum keeper	

Two (2) feathers are awarded for this achievement, making the total four (4) feathers worn around the emblem.

## **Ceremony Otter**

1. Take the part of Metu or Alowat Sakima in a call-out. Or take the part of Nutiket or Kichikinet in a Pre-Ordeal, or Ordeal Ceremony, and know your part by heart.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

2. Act as two of the ceremony participants, which are different from the participant used in CEREMONY BEAVER requirement #5. Must be in different ceremonies.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

3. Make a trail of lights (luminaries) for campers and public to use in finding their way to a tap-out ceremony.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

4. Make two (2) more items from CEREMONY BEAVER requirement 2.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

5. Attend three or more Ordeal Ceremony team practices of at least five or more members.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed

Two (2) feathers are awarded for this achievement, making the total six (6) feathers worn around the emblem.

# Kunieh Requirements

(Must have the approval of the OA Lodge and Chapter Advisor)

## ***KUNIEH PROGRAM - DRAFT 4-1-92***

WE HIN AH PAY – The Rising Sun

The **SUN** in the emblem gives light and warmth. It travels in a straight path, reminding us to travel a straight path in our daily life.

The **BLUE** reminds us of the early morning, when all things begin anew. It reminds us that each road must be traveled one step at a time.

The **GREEN** represents growth. As all things in nature grow in competition with each other, so we must grow in knowledge and leadership each day so we can learn to compete in an adult world.

The **WHITE POINTS** of the emblem represent:

Duty to God	Growth in Body
Duty to country and others	Growth in Mind
Duty to Self	Growth in Spirit

The **RED** represents courage it take to live a life that is true to ourselves.

The nature of the emblem shows that all things must live in balance.

Each feather is proof that you have furthered your knowledge of Indian culture and traditions. When the PANTHER recognition is earned in one of the areas; this will NOT mean you are an expert in that field. It will mean that you have approached the field in a manner designed to increase your knowledge, reduce common mistakes made by other groups over the years and you have created a firm, basic foundation from which you can continue to learn properly the rest of your life.

When a member has earned the PANTHER in two different ways, he/she will be able to wear the complete circle of feathers around the emblem.

ORDER OF THE ARROW requirements must have the approval of the Lodge/Chapter Advisor. Only one set of the OA requirements may be used towards the full KUNIEH emblem. The OA member must also be a member of the Kunieh Society to receive the other half of the emblem as a CRAFT, SINGER, OR DANCER.

***EARNING THE KUNIEH EMBLEM***

February 24, 1998

The Kunieh badge requirement is designed to help the student learn information about the Kunieh Society, to understand what WE HEN AH PAY means, to learn the Kunieh Code, to understand what Tecumseh Lodge is and what role it plays with the Kunieh Society and to learn locations of specific tribes.

Read and discuss with an advisor "Information on the Kunieh Society" (EE)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Read and discuss with an advisor "WE HIN AH PAY"

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Read and discuss with an advisor "Kunieh Code" (DD)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Read and discuss with an advisor "What Is Tecumseh Lodge, Inc.?" (FF)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Using the Kunieh map, locate and learn the following tribes:

- |                          |               |                 |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| _____ Ojibway            | _____ Sioux   | _____ Pawnee    |
| _____ Kickapoo           | _____ Dakota  | _____ Ponca     |
| _____ Miami              | _____ Yankton | _____ Kiowa     |
| _____ Iroquois           | _____ Santee  | _____ Cheyenne  |
| _____ Forest Potawatomi  | _____ Teton   | _____ Commanche |
| _____ Prairie Potawatomi | _____ Shawnee | _____ Cherokee  |
| _____ Delaware           |               |                 |

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Attend a total of two of the following:

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Tecumseh Lodge Social Dances

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Pow Wow (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Show (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements, the individual is awarded the Kunieh emblem.

## ***EARNING THE KUNIEH DANCER FEATHERS***

February 24, 1998

Before beginning to earn dancer feathers you must first earn the Kunieh emblem.

The Kunieh dancer badges are designated to assist the student of Indian dancing in acquiring the knowledge and techniques to become a proficient dancer. Also, the student will acquire knowledge about the proper behavior to exhibit in the dance arena.

The first step is to get a basic understanding of the various dance styles. To do this, the first requirement is to interview 3 dancers. Ask them about their dance style, why they choose it, what makes it different from the others, and how it can be identified. Each person will give you different and valuable information, so take notes. This will also be your chance to gain a new pow wow friend.

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

The following list of resources will also help you learn about dancing:

1. Go to Pow Wows and WATCH, ASK, LISTEN, AND LEARN.
2. Read books and magazine articles about Indian dancing.
3. Watch video tapes of Indian Pow Wows or exhibition dancing.
4. Remember --- Dance styles are constantly changing. What you learn this year will be outdated in a couple of years, so keep updated.
5. Learn all the basic steps and styles so you can best determine what you really like to do best.
6. Attend the National Order of the Arrow Conference, sectional functions, Kunieh dance sessions and shows, Tecumseh Lodge dances and any event where you can observe dancing. Also, remember you can learn from the mistakes of others.
7. Have fun, enjoy the path you have chosen to the best of your abilities.

Upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements, the individual is awarded 1 feather.

**BEAVER DANCER**

February 24, 1998

1. Learn, and be able to identify, the various styles of Indian dancing.

_____ Men's Fancy Feather	_____ Women's Fancy Shaw
_____ Men's Straight	_____ Women's Jingle
_____ Men's Grass	_____ Women's Traditional
_____ Men's Traditional	
_____ Men's Ground	

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

2. Explain and be able to recognized Plains Indian Songs as follows:

_____ Song Structure	_____ Honor Beats (Southern and Northern)
_____ Accent Beats	_____ Various Beats
_____ Stops	
_____ Tail	

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

3. Learn the flowing dance steps to the appropriate song (and beat).

_____ Round Dance	_____ Traditional Step
_____ Stomp Dance and Song	_____ Belt Dance Step
_____ Trot Dance	_____ Snake Dance Step
_____ Buffalo Dance	

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

4. Be able to identify a Northern and a Southern style National Anthem.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

5. Attend one Pow Wow which is a separate one from the Pow Wow used to earn the Kunieh emblem.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements, the individual is awarded one more feather, making a total of 2 feathers.



**PANTHER DANCER**

February 24, 1998

- 1. Competently exhibit the dance steps, from your chosen dance style, you are expected to use during a Kunieh Show and Pow Wow.

\_\_\_\_\_ Body Position  
\_\_\_\_\_ Arm Use  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proper War Dance Step  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proper Round Dance Step  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proper Parade Technique  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proper Trot Dance Step  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proper 2 Step  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proper Buffalo Step  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

- 2. Read and explain to an advisor the following articles:

\_\_\_\_\_ "The Giveaway Traditions and Attitudes" (I, J, K, L) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ "Honoring a Person at a Pow Wow" (X) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Know and explain Arena Protocol from your experiences at Pow Wows.

\_\_\_\_\_ Seating  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dance Directions  
\_\_\_\_\_ Head Staff Positions and Responsibilities  
\_\_\_\_\_ Your Responsibilities  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

- 4. Give a short history to Kiowa Gourd Dancing and explain the Gourd Dance style of both men and women.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

- 5. Attend and participate in 2 Pow Wows.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Pow Wow \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Pow Wow \_\_\_\_\_

Upon completion of the above requirements, the individual is awarded enough feathers to complete 1/2 of the feathers worn around the Kunieh emblem.

## ***EARNING THE KUNIEH CRAFT FEATHERS***

February 24, 1998

**Before beginning to earn Craft feathers you must first earn the Kunieh emblem.**

The craft badges are designed to assist the student of Indiana Craft techniques in the research, design, and manufacture of a set of Indiana clothes. During this process, a variety of craft techniques will be acquired to assist in the manufacture of the clothes.

The first, and most important step, is to choose the type of Indian clothes you want to make. For your first set of clothes, it is best to choose from one of the following styles:

<b>MEN</b>	<b>WOMEN</b>
Southern or Northern Fancy Dance	Northern Fancy Shawl
Southern Straight Dance	Northern or Southern Traditional
Northern Traditional Dancing	Northern Jingle Dress Dancing
Northern Grass Dance	

The next step is to go and interview 3 people who currently have the style of clothes you have chosen. This is a requirement and must be signed off by an advisor of KUNIEH.

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to ask questions about the tribes that use these clothes, colors, materials, and how various items are made. Each person you interview will give you important information so take notes. You will also be gaining a new pow wow friend.

Now that you have the necessary information to choose a particular Indian tribe. One that adds its own special style to the clothes you have chosen to make. The following list of resources will also help you make good decisions.

1. Go to pow wows, **WATCH, ASK, LISTEN** and **LEARN**. Take photos, but always ask first. A good place to get lots of photos is during the parade in at the dance.
2. Read books and magazines pertaining to current Indian clothes. An example would be "Whispering Winds" magazine and the Kunieh library.
3. Past written articles such as "The Oklahoma Feather Dancer" are good to a point, but remember they were written in the 1970s and the styles have changed!
4. Remember --- dancing and outfits are always changing!
5. Learn the basics, lazy stitch beadwork, loom beadwork, bustle making, ribbonwork, etc., because all of these will come in handy as you progress.
6. Go to National Order of the Arrow Conferences, sectional functions, Tecumseh Lodge dances, or anywhere you can see other Indian outfits, to learn from them and from their mistakes.
7. But most of all, enjoy the road you are taking and do it to the best of your abilities.

Upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements, the individual is awarded 1 feather.

## BEAVER CRAFT

February 24, 1998

1. Learn to recognize the different types of beadwork:

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. loom beadwork
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. appliqué beadwork
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. lazy stitch
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. gourd stitch
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. side stitch
- \_\_\_\_\_ f. quill work

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

2. Make a ribbon shirt and a set of aprons, or a dress and leg covering for your Indian clothes. Decorate them correctly, for the tribe you choose, using one or more of the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ ribbons
- \_\_\_\_\_ beadwork
- \_\_\_\_\_ ribbonwork
- \_\_\_\_\_ sequins
- \_\_\_\_\_ fringe
- \_\_\_\_\_ appliqué
- \_\_\_\_\_ tin cones for jingle dress
- \_\_\_\_\_ elks teeth, dentilium or cowry shells
- \_\_\_\_\_ or other (advisor) approved material

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read about authenticity:

- a. "Be Crazy About Indian Lore" (D) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_
- b. "Emphasis on Building Indian  
Dance Clothes (E) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_
- c. "Dance Protocol" (F) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

4. Make one of the following items and make or acquire moccasins:

Men: Goats, dance stick, mirror board, or a (beaded, conch, or tack) belt.

Women: Shaw, breastplate, or a (beaded, conch, or tack) belt.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

5. Cut, tie and wrap tow feathers or fluffs or make a hear feather.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements, the individual is awarded one more feather, make a total of 2 feathers.

## OTTER CRAFT

February 24, 1998

1. Add to your Indian clothes by making or acquiring one of the following:

Men: leg bells or deer to rattles, a wing or flat tail fan, knee bands or one of the items not made or acquired in Beaver Craft

Women: fur hair wraps, hair ties, saw paddle set, a wing or flat tail fan or one of the items not made or acquired in Beaver Craft

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

2. Learn about face painting, paints and why we do not wear face paint or other than "witches" marks.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

3. For your Indian clothes, add to your outfit by making or acquiring one of the following:

Men: Choker, breastplate, decorated cape, garters, armbands, or bandoleer.

Women: decorated leggings, decorated cape, purse, beaded or quilled accessories.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read about authenticity and explain to an advisor:

a. "Acceptable Dances" (N) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

b. "Traveling to Pow Wows and  
Indian Communities (O) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

c. "White/Indian Relations" (M) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

d. "Coming Out" (Y,Z, AA) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements, the individual will be awarded 2 additional feathers, making a total of 4 feathers.

## PANTHER CRAFT

February 24, 1998

1. Complete the basic Indian clothes of the tribe you have chosen with at least 3 new accessories. At least one item must be beaded or quilled.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Item \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Item \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Item \_\_\_\_\_

2. Show your Kunieh advisors your research information that supports what you made in number 1.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read about authenticity:

a. "Hong Kong Indians" (G) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

b. "Protocol Around the Drum (C) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

c. "Give-away Traditions and  
Attitudes" (I, J, K, L) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

d. "Honoring a person during a  
Pow Wow" (X) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements, the individual is awarded enough feathers to complete 1/2 feathers worn around the emblem.

## ***EARNING THE KUNIEH SINGER EMBLEM***

February 24, 1998

**Before beginning to earn dancer [sic] (singer?) feathers you must first earn the Kunieh emblem.**

The Kunieh Singer emblem is designed to assist the student of Indian singing in acquiring knowledge and techniques to become a proficient singer. The student will also acquire knowledge about the proper behavior to exhibit in the arena and the use of songs for all the various purposes that make a Pow Wow a personal experience for every participant.

The first step is to get a basic understanding of Singers styles. To do this, the **FIRST REQUIREMENT** is to interview 3 singers. Ask them about their style, their felling for the song, the songs place in the culture, and why they have chosen this path to express themselves. Each singer will give you different and valuable information. So take notes in your KUNIEH 3 ring binder. This will also be a good chance to gain a new Pow Wow friend.

The following list of resources will help you learn about singing:

1. Go to pow wows, **WATCH, ASK, LISTEN and LEARN.**
2. Go to singing practice. **WATCH, ASK, LISTEN, LEARN, AND PARTICIPATE.**
3. Take blank tapes and have songs you are to learn dubbed off on your blank, so you can practice singing with the tape in your quiet time.
4. Sit in when ever you can. When you can't, sit nearby and watch the lead singer.
5. Write down the songs in sounds if you need to, to remember the sequence of sounds.
6. Have fun, enjoy the path you have chosen and sing to the best of your ability. This is not the place for you to be districted by outside sources. Singers give the Pow Wow its Spirit.

Upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements, the individual is awarded one feather worn around the emblem.

**BEAVER SINGER**

February 24, 1998

1. Learn to recognize the following songs when they are sung:

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| _____ 49 song                             | _____ War song           |
| _____ Round dance song                    | _____ Snake dance song   |
| _____ Ruffle dance or Sneak Up dance song |                          |
| _____ Southern flag song                  | _____ Northern flag song |
| _____ Trot dance song                     | _____ Buffalo song       |
| _____ Stomp dance song                    | _____ Quitting song      |

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed, signed by a singer \_\_\_\_\_

2. Learn one Round dance song. Lead line is:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Learn one War dance song. Lead line is:

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Learn one 49 dance song. Lead line is:

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Learn about song structure and explain it to the lead Singer.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

6. Read the following authenticity articles and explain to your adviser:

a. "Be Crazy About Indian Lore" – (D) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

b. "Drum Protocol" – (C) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

c. "Traveling to Pow Wows and Indian Communities" – (O) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

d. "White/Indian Relations" (M) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements, the individual is awarded one feather to be worn around the Kunieh emblems, making a total of 2 feathers.

## OTTER SINGER

February 24, 1998

1. Learn TWO (2) different Intertribal songs. Lead lines are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Learn ONE (1) different Round dance song. Lead line is:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Learn the Quitting Song. Lead line is:

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Learn the Southern Flag Song drum is currently using. Lead line is:

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Learn ONE (1) Trot dance song. Lead line is:

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Learn to sing off the beat.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

7. Sing at three Pow Wows or Tecumseh Lodge Dances as a BEAVER SINGER.

1. Place was: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Place was: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Place was: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Read the following authenticity articles and explain to Singer:

a. "Giveaways, donations and  
buying a song" (I, J, K, L) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

b. "Coming Out" – (Y, Z, AA) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

c. "Tipi Etiquette" – (CC) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

d. "Dance Protocol" (F) Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements, the individual will be awarded two additional feathers, making a total of 4 feathers.

## PANTHER SINGER

February 24, 1998

1. Know One Stomp Dance song. Lead line is:

---

2. Know the Snake Dance song. Lead line is:

---

3. Know a Veterans song. Lead line is:

---

4. Know Two Step song. Lead line is:

---

5. Know Hoop Dance song. Lead line is:

---

6. Know Spear and Shield song. Lead line is:

---

7. Discuss with Singer and be able to explain:

\_\_\_\_\_ Gourd dance song structure and sequence

\_\_\_\_\_ Climbing into a song

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorial songs and what they mean

\_\_\_\_\_ Family songs and when they are sung

\_\_\_\_\_ Differences between Round Dance songs and War Mothers songs

\_\_\_\_\_ Types of decorations we do not use on drums

\_\_\_\_\_ Why "a name" is used in a deceased/veteran special song

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completed, singed by a Singer \_\_\_\_\_

Upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements, the individual is awarded enough feathers to complete 1/2 of feathers worn around the emblem.