



Sealaska Heritage Institute

One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 301 • Juneau • Alaska • 99801-1249 • (907) 463-4844
www.sealaskaheritage.org • www.alaskanativeartists.com • Fax (907) 586-9293

Ceremonial Protocols

Native ceremonies are spiritual activities that are governed by protocols. The ceremonies are not forms of entertainment and those who attend must be respectful and adhere to the protocols.

Songs and dance are part of the spiritual life of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian.

The dance area is for the clan members and their children and grandchildren. Do not enter this area unless you are invited.

The regalia and the crest designs on the regalia that are worn by the dancers are sacred--- *Haa At.óowu*--- do not photograph the dancers unless you are a clan or family member or you have been granted permission.

If you are a member of the media and are attending the biennial Celebration sponsored by Sealaska Heritage Institute, you are required to register and wear a media pass.

The songs sung by the clan and tribal members and the stories told by them are gifts from our ancestors. They are owned by the clan. Those who have been granted permission to sing songs must always acknowledge the clan ownership of songs and stories.

Do not interfere with any dancers or touch their ceremonial objects, regalia or jewelry.

Courtesy and respect for the ceremonial event should be shown in dress and conduct.

Understand that cultural differences exist. Although you may not understand the differences, common respect should be your guide.