

KODIAK ALUTIIQ DANCERS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Program is organized by the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak and governed by the dance committee with representatives from Native Village of Afognak, Tangirnaq Native Village, and Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

The Kodiak Alutiiq Dance program exists to encourage learning of the Alutiiq culture through song and dance and to share the culture with the public through quality dance and performance.

Dancers will:

- Learn and share songs & dances;
- Learn Alutiiq Language and meaning of songs;
- Create new songs and dances;
- Share the Alutiiq culture with the public;
- Fundraise for the group;
- Promote healthy behaviors ;
- Develop an understanding of Alutiiq traditions that can be shared with peers and the public;



Who are the Dancers?

The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers are interested in learning and sharing the Alutiiq traditions of dance and song with the wider community. The group was formed in 1987 to represent the original people of the Kodiak Archipelago.

The current dance group practices weekly and performs for schools, local events and ceremonies in Kodiak, and travel when possible to events off of the island.

Do we have to do fundraising?

The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers raise funds to travel, repair and create new regalia, and host workshops with talented artists. Participation in fundraising events is essential if the group is to travel. Every active member of the dance group is required to participate in fundraising events to raise money for the continuation of the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Program.

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Dance Group Membership

The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers is an inclusive group that is open to all ages and ethnicities. We only exclude those who would not be allowed to work with children, as prescribed in the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Act. The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Act prescribes a minimum threshold of criminal “acts against a person” that prohibit an individual from interacting with Indian children. This act dictates who cannot be involved in our dance group in order to ensure that it is a safe activity for all involved.

Dancers must complete a new dance packet every year, reviewing the policies and signing a release for photography and waiver. The group will renew packets annually in January. By signing the program policies included in the dance packet, dancers agree to abide by the rules and procedures as set forth by the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Committee.

All adult members of the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers will be required to undergo a fingerprinted criminal background check, and follow up with annual state trooper background check reports. The dance program will cover the cost of the background checks for dance group members.

Families and individuals wishing to join the dancers must schedule a meeting with the Dance Coordinator to go over the orientation packet. At these meetings, the Coordinator and family discuss policies and expectations of dancers and parents, as well as ensures that the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers Registration Packet is complete.

Dancers with a drug or alcohol related charge in the last three years will not be eligible for travel with the Kodiak Alutiiq dancers. A dancer who is convicted of a drug or alcohol related offense will be placed on suspension from the dance group and must submit a written explanation to the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Committee. The Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Committee shall have sole discretion in approving membership termination or reinstatement.

The following behaviors exhibited by participants, chaperones, and/or staff will result in immediate dismissal from the group or removal from the premises:

- Public displays of dissension, anger, inappropriate affection or indecent behavior;
- Sexual harassment;
- Consuming alcohol or drugs while participating in a Kodiak Alutiiq Dance function or travel;
- Any inappropriate or illegal behavior that is not conducive to the Alutiiq Cultural Values.

Performing

Dancers are encouraged to perform when they feel ready. That may be after three practices, and it maybe after 3 months.

The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers have regalia for dancers to use. The dancers and Dance Coordinator will help find one that fits and fill out the regalia checkout form.

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Dancers need to be at the Sun'aq Tribal Building at least 30 minutes prior to an on-site performance and be at an off-site performance 45 minutes prior to our scheduled performance time. The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers must be at the performance location 15 minutes prior to the scheduled performance time.

Practice

Practice is held Mondays 5pm-6:30pm at the Kodiak Middle School or Kodiak High School dance room. Attendance is taken at practice for participating dancers. Practice is where the dancers learn new and old songs, continue to improve knowledge of songs, dances, drumming and introductions. Announcements will be made at practice, and in the dancer Facebook group.

A parent or guardian must accompany a dancer age nine and under to all functions set for the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers.

The Dance Coordinator may call parents or guardians and request their presence at practice if a participant is displaying problematic behavior.

New dancers are encouraged to participate in practice as they are comfortable. It is acceptable for new dancers to watch practice a few times. When practicing, they should stand between two dancers that have been around for a long time. It helps when they can see correct modeling on either side of them.

When dancing, use exaggerated movements, use your whole body and most importantly, relax and have fun. It is ok to mess up and to not know everything right away. Even seasoned dancers make mistakes.

All dancers must assist in keeping the Dancers practice area clean and tidy.

Grievance Procedure

Complaints among dancers shall be brought before the Dance Coordinator to be resolved. If there is no resolution at that point, the complaint will be brought before the Dance Committee.

If for any reason a dancer or the parent/guardian of a dancer is not satisfied with any of the above policies, they should bring it to the attention of the Dance Coordinator. If not satisfied with the Dance Coordinator's response, within five days they should bring it to the attention of the Dance Committee in writing. The dance committee has 10 days to respond to the grievance.

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OWNERSHIP OF MATERIALS

The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers were taught many songs by Alutiiq Elders, community members, and other Alaskan artists. These songs were given to us to perform and ensure that the Alutiiq community sustains its dancing tradition. The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers encourage the education of Alutiiq tradition. We ask that individuals or organizations wishing to use the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancer materials as a teaching tool, inform us of your activity so that we can keep a record.

We do reserve full creative control and ownership rights of the songs to protect the integrity of the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance group. We ask that all members of the dance group and all other citizens respect our dance tradition and the integrity of our group by not engaging in profit gaining activities using the materials that the dancers have produced. This includes but is not limited to videos, photos, and other publications.

Use of any materials, including videos, photos, and other publications depicting the likeness of the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers, must be authorized in writing by the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Committee.

The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers teach songs to communities, classrooms, dance groups, and others. We stress proper use and respect of the songs we teach. We require other groups performing our songs to adhere to the following:

- Introduce songs giving full credit for the song writer, choreographer, and the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers.
- Sing with proper use of language, pronunciation of words and choreography.
- The Alutiiq Dancers will help educate and provide resources on songs and dances. If you need help, please reach out to the Dance Coordinator at kodiakdancers@sunaq.org.

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REGALIA AND PERFORMANCE ITEMS

Regalia Use by Dancers

All regalia and performance items provided by the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Program are the property of the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers and must be treated with respect at all times.

Every dancer is responsible for the care of the regalia and other performance items they use. Regalia are to remain at the Sun'aq Tribal Council building unless signed out on the regalia check-out form.

In order to check out regalia for Kodiak performances or off-island travel, go to the Sun'aq Tribe to be fitted for regalia. Collect all needed items for the performance or off-island travel. Bring regalia to the Dance Coordinator to complete the check-out process. Each item must be listed on the check-out form. The Dance Coordinator will sign out each piece of regalia to dancers, including headdresses, dresses, rattles, paddles, and drums before travel and offsite performances.

Each dancer (and their parent/guardian) is responsible to inspect all items they are checking out before leaving the Sun'aq Tribe and report any damage immediately.

Regalia is to be properly stored when in the care of individual dancers. Dresses should be hung up, and all regalia items should be kept in a secure location.

Regalia shall be returned in the same condition it was received. **Regalia must be returned to Sun'aq Tribe within 3 days of the performance or trip.**

If any damage shall occur to the regalia or the performance items the coordinator must be notified immediately. If a dancer fails to properly care for the regalia or performance items while in their possession and if the damages are not repairable, the dancer or legal guardian will be responsible to pay for the replacement of the regalia or performance items. The cost of regalia is \$500.00. Regular wear and tear will be excused, as we understand that tassels fall off, seams split and thread breaks.

If the damage is repairable, bring to the Dance Coordinator for assessment and repair.

Regalia dresses can be purchased by dancers who have been in the dance program for one year or more, for \$500.00. The Dance Committee reserves the right to evaluate eligibility to purchase a dress, and the associated cost, on a case by case basis. At the time of purchase, the dancer will receive full ownership of the regalia, as is.

The Dance Coordinator will inform the dancers of the dress requirements for the performances. Some performances will be snow falling parka dress code, and some will be open to more diverse styles of Alutiiq regalia.

Independently created regalia must be approved by the Dance Coordinator before using it in performance with the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers.

Due to size and weight, Dancers must be 16 and over to wear the Sister masks.

Drumming on Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Program drums is limited to those over 12 years old.

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When using Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers' regalia:

- Wear shorts or leggings and a tank top underneath.
- Wash regalia after a trip by removing the snap taped fur and washing on delicate in a garment bag.
- Your undershirt must be hidden from sight, and socks can only be worn if they are black with no markings or writing, and only if they do not go above the ankle.
- You must be flexible with the use of regalia, as we have limited supply of sizes.

Regalia Rental

Community members may rent regalia for activities that are not sponsored by the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers under special circumstances. Regalia, including the dresses, headdresses, drums, rattles, or any other dancer property (excluding masks due to their deep spiritual and cultural meanings) should be allowed to be checked out for the following reasons:

- A significant life event for an active dancer including but not limited to: graduation, award reception, teaching or leadership opportunities, senior pictures, etc...
- The Dance Coordinator or Kodiak Alutiiq Dance representative can chaperone the items to events as necessary.
- Any request outside of what's listed above needs to be made in writing to the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Committee.

The Alutiiq Museum has an education box on dancing that has a headdress and lesson plans in it. We encourage community members to use the museum resource, rather than ours.

Adults who are not members of the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers, can rent regalia for the purpose of teaching Alutiiq dance focused lessons in Kodiak.

Cost

There is a \$100 fee to rent regalia for a 48-hour period or over the weekend. Community members who are not current members of the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers need to make a \$500.00 deposit to use regalia, \$400 will be reimbursed upon the return of the regalia and confirmation is received that no damage occurred. Rental fees are waived for active dancers, for approved activities.

Regalia Rental Policies

- Regalia must be returned within 48 hours, if rented on a Friday, it must be returned on the following Monday.
- Regalia is not to travel outside of Kodiak if not signed out as part of travel sponsored by the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers.
- The items are not to be used for personal profit.
- No eating in or around the regalia items.
- Requests will be denied if the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers will need the regalia for a performance or event in the week of the request.

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After the request is approved, the Renter must complete the Regalia Rental Agreement and pay the fee and deposit.

TRAVEL

Travel with the dance group is at the discretion of the Dance Committee. When choosing the travelers, the committee will do their best to choose dance group members that will have fun and provide a great performance, proudly representing the Kodiak Alutiiq Community. It is ideal for the traveling group be made up of 2 adults to every 1 child, and only one or two dancers who have never traveled with the group. The Dance Coordinator will maintain a regularly updated list of eligible travelers.

Dancers are chosen after careful consideration of the following criteria:

- Maturity level and contribution to a positive group atmosphere
- Knowledge of the words and choreography to all songs being performed or a demonstrated willingness to continue to learn
- Willingness to take on new roles and responsibility, not limited to singing, making calls, dancing, introducing songs, and drumming
- Participation in fundraising efforts
- Consistent participation at practice & performances
- Adults who have traveled in the past, who are competent, punctual and dependable
- Travelers need to respect the historical and spiritual significance of our dances

Dancers under twelve years old cannot travel without a guardian, unless approved by the dance committee.

All dancers selected to travel must attend all travel practices unless they provide a valid reason why they cannot. More than two unexcused absences from travel practice will result in ticket cancellation, at the discretion of the Dance Committee. Conflicts with the travel practice schedule will need to be brought to the Dance Coordinator's attention on or before the deadline for signed travel paperwork, to be excused by the Coordinator. If tickets are cancelled due to a lack of participation by the dancer, the dancer and/or legal guardian will be responsible for any change fees.

All dancers, their parents and chaperones will meet to discuss trip details and go over the travel policies. This meeting is mandatory for all travelers.

All special instructions including approved visits from family or friends of the dancers must be delivered to the Dance Coordinator one month prior to travel.

If a dancer misses their flight due to tardiness or other reasons, they will be responsible for the change fee to rebook their flights or the cancellation fee.

In the case of a major offense, repeated minor offenses, and/or inappropriate conduct while on dancer travel, the participant's parent or guardian (if applicable) will be notified and may be requested to make arrangements for immediate removal of the participant. If the participant is an

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adult, he/she may be requested to remove himself/herself from the group immediately for a major offense or repeated minor offenses. **Transportation costs will be the responsibility of the participant (or if a minor the responsibility of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s)).** Future travel may be suspended, pending Dance Committee decision.

If for any reason you are deemed ineligible for travel, after being selected, the participant or their parent or guardian will be notified and may be removed from the trip, and required to pay cancellation or change fees for tickets.

Report sickness and accidents, and all other incidents immediately to the Coordinator and/or chaperones. The Coordinator will contact the Sun'aq Tribe CEO and parents when necessary.

Family Travel

Adults traveling with the dancers will be required to have background checks and follow all of the dancer policies. They will need to complete a dance packet so that we have their personal information and their emergency contact information. All travel policy applies to those traveling with the dancers (sharing dancer rooms, transportation and other group travel). Adults requesting to travel with the dancers will pay for their own background checks, unless background checks have been completed by Sun'aq Tribe within the calendar year. Adults requesting to travel with the dancers must submit a travel request to the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Committee 45 days before the start of travel, or at the discretion of the Dance Coordinator. Adults traveling with the dance group may attend travel meetings to become familiar with the event agenda and expectations. An adult may submit a request on behalf of their child, when requesting to bring children who have not been selected to travel with the dancers, whether they are a member of the dance group or not. The travel request must be in the form of a letter addressed to the Dance committee requesting to be part of the group travel, stating clearly what the request is (to be in a dancer hotel room, included in the transportation, or other such involvement). The request must also include a description of why the participant wants to travel with the group.

The committee will make a determination and the Dance Coordinator will notify the applicant of their decision 30 days before scheduled travel.

CHAPERONES

The Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Committee will determine the chaperones that will travel with the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Group. Chaperones will be adequate in number, responsibility, attitude and dependability to ensure the safety and well-being of the youth when traveling. There will be at least three (3) chaperones for travel with a group of ten (10) youth dancers. It is preferred to bring at least one chaperone who is **not** a dancer. Chaperones will be at least 21 years of age. We must bring at least one female chaperone and when males under 18 are traveling, we must also bring a male chaperone. There must be an adult in each hotel room with youth. Chaperones will supervise 24 hours a day in cooperation with others in your group to provide for the general welfare, safety, health and wellbeing of the dancers, this includes making sure that dancers get proper nutrition and rest.

There may be an honorary position held for an elder to travel with the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Group. Elders are not expected to perform chaperone duties.

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The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers are required by law to comply with the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Act. As such every adult dancer and any adult traveling with the group will be required to participate in fingerprinted background checks. These must be completed annually. We reserve the right to request new documents at our discretion. The cost of background checks will be paid by the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Program.

A dancer that is on court-imposed probation is not eligible to travel with the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers.

An adult who has had a drug or alcohol conviction in the past three years may not be a chaperone for the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers. Absolutely **no drinking or illegal drug use** will be allowed during any time immediately before or during travel for the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers. We reserve the right to request a drug test from any person traveling with the group at our discretion. The individual will incur the expense of testing. Appointments for drug testing can be set up with Providence Safe Harbor.

Adult smokers must only smoke in designated smoking areas and out of sight from the youth in the group. The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers promote healthy lifestyles for all Alaska Natives and therefore do not want our young people exposed to smoking. Alaska State Law prohibits anyone under the age of 19 smoking cigarettes.

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Authorization to participate & Waiver and Indemnification Form

Release of all Claims

The undersigned participant and/or his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the participant is under the age of 18 years, do hereby execute this release, waiver and indemnification for himself/herself, and his/hers heirs, successors, representatives, and assigns, and hereby agree and represent as follows:

In consideration of being permitted to participate in the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers (KAD), I fully release, hold harmless, and discharge the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Program, The Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, and its partnering organizations, The Native Village of Afognak, and Tangirnaq Native Village, its officers, directors, employees, agents and chaperones, together with the owners and occupiers of any real property which I may have occasion to enter during the course of my participation in this activity while in participating status, from any and all claims and liabilities, however caused, for injuries or damages of any sort including death, arising in any way from my participation in, presence at, and/or travel to any activity associated with my participation.

I, (participant(s)) _____ (and parent/legal guardian) _____ have read the material provided by the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Program and fully understand that there may be risks involved in the activities surrounding my participation and choose to fully participate (or give permission for my children to fully participate).
Dancer Initials _____ , Parent/Gaurdian Initials _____

Authorization to use Photographs & other media

I, the participant and/or the parent or legal guardian, do consent to the use and publication by the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancer Program for promotional and informational purposes of any photographs and videos. And audio recordings taken of myself or my child during any Kodiak Alutiiq Dance activity. I also understand that I will receive no compensation for such use of photographs and videos.
Dancer Initials _____ , Parent/Gaurdian Initials _____

Transportation

I give permission for myself and/or my child to receive transportation services to or from their homes and performance and workshop locations for KAD activities. I also understand that if I am transported by any KAD representative, officer, director, or employee to any of the events/activities with the KAD program as stated in the Release Waiver/Indemnification Form, they are released of **all** claims and liabilities.
Dancer Initials _____ , Parent/Gaurdian Initials _____

By signing these program policies, I am promising to abide by the rules and procedures as set forth by the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Committee. If I do not or cannot follow these guidelines, I understand that I will not be able to participate in the Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Program. The Dance Coordinator may call parents or guardians and request their presence at practice if a participant is displaying problematic behavior.

If for any reason I am not satisfied with any of the above policies, I will bring it to the attention of the Dance Coordinator. If not satisfied with the Dance Coordinator's response, within five days I will bring it to the attention of the Employment and Training Director.

Participant Signature

Date

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date

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Personal Profile

Name: _____ DOB: ___/___/_____

Name: _____ DOB: ___/___/_____

Name: _____ DOB: ___/___/_____

Name: _____ DOB: ___/___/_____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____
City State Zip

Street Address City State Zip

Parent Phone#: _____ Dancer Phone# _____ Other Phone # _____

Email Address: _____

Name(s) Of Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) (For Minors):

Tribal and Native Corporation affiliation (for fundraising purposes):

In Case of Emergency:

Notify: _____ Phone: _____

Physician to be called in case of an emergency:
_____ Phone: _____

Do you have any allergies, daily medications, or any medical conditions we should be aware of?
If so, please list all, great or small:

Are you covered under KANA/Indian Health Service? Yes No

If the KAD cannot reach me or my emergency contact in the case of an emergency, I authorize the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers, to seek medical treatment for myself and/or my child(ren).

Signature (Parent or Legal Guardian if applicable)

Date