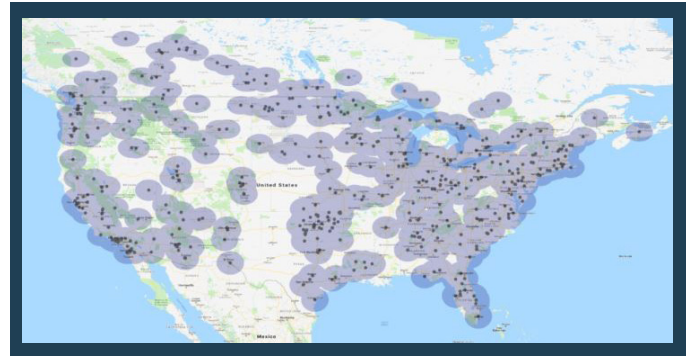




# GATHERING OF NATIONS POW WOV

The “Gathering of Nations Pow Wow” marks the beginning of the Native Americans’ powwow season. “Powwows, by definition, are Native American gatherings in which American Indians sing, dance, reconnect with old friends and celebrate their rich ancestral histories. Often accompanied by a conference or meeting, powwows are one of the best ways to experience traditional Native American culture.”<sup>1</sup> Mostly organized in the summer, they are held at hundreds of sites across North America. The powwows sustain and revitalize the diverse tribal cultures of the continent. They help preserve traditional cultures, nurture bonds of community, and connect participants to their spiritual roots.



Each dot represents a powwow held in 2018.

The “Gathering of Nations Pow Wow” will be held April 28-30, 2022 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is a family event. It has been said the “Gathering of Nations Pow Wow” is the Mecca of Indian Country, while others have said, “there is a magic about the gathering.” The “Gathering of Nations Pow Wow” also includes the Miss Indian World Pageant, which has become one of the largest and most prestigious Cultural Pageants for young Native/Indigenous women over the years.<sup>2</sup>



From the beginning, the concept of the “Gathering of Nations Pow Wow” has always been to produce an event where Native American people can come together each year to celebrate and share culture, and a place where singers, dancers, horse regalia parade and musician competitions occur. More than 3,000 indigenous, Native American, and Indian dancers and singers representing more than 500 tribes from Canada and the United States come to participate annually in this event that began in 1983 on the campus of the University of New Mexico.



“Gatherings similar to today’s powwows existed in most native communities long before the advent of European settlement. Dances were usually associated with one of four occasions: religious ceremonies, homecoming celebrations honoring successful war parties, celebrations of new or reaffirmed alliances, and events sponsored by various warrior societies or extended family groups. One major difference between old-time events and modern powwows is that the latter are intertribal and inclusive, meaning that they are open to all who wish to attend, whereas pre-contact events allowed only tribal members and those from friendly neighboring tribes on the dance grounds.”<sup>3</sup>



Sources: 1. <https://www.powwows.com/what-is-a-pow-wow/>

2. <https://www.gatheringofnations.com/history/>

3. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/powwow>

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