

Jeron Garrett

INDIAN NIGHT
CHIEF'S SCRIPT

1. After the fire is lit, the chiefs will come into the council ring. They will either walk in, or be conoed, ride a horse, or come in by space ship. Or beamed down by Scotty.
2. Approach the kids together and face them side by side.

Chief #1: Welcome my brothers and sisters. I am Acunda, chief of the Mattaponi.

Chief #2: I also welcome you brothers and sisters. I am Atea, Chief of the Pamunkey.

Chief #3: I, Idiafonten, ruler of the Powhatan tribe, also welcome you to our sacred circle. It is an old circle and one which through many braves have passed. And there are many braves yet to come as our great tribe lives on through the generations. We come here tonight to be in harmony with those circles of many moons ago. We celebrate a ceremony which has been handed down to us many times. Learn well its lessons, keep well its secrets, remember its symbols, and accept its spirit as your own.

Chief #1: We gather here tonight to celebrate the end of an adventure. Some of us have ventured on water, some under the earth, some have completed long journeys, and some have remained on these grounds to live with and for the Great Spirit. But we have all completed an adventure, and now, as the adventure ends, we should think on it, and on what it has done for us.

Chief #2: Finally, my brothers and sisters, we gather to be solemnly tapped into our respective tribes. Some tonight will be tapped into my tribe, the Pamunkey. Others will be tapped into the tribes of my two honored brothers, the Mattaponi and the Powhatan tribes. And yet there is another tribe as well. We call it the Order of Chanco. But the Order of Chanco is not really a tribe. Rather, it is a goal, a culmination of four years of Chanco and all that those years mean. The Order of Chanco is not a privilege or honor or a special recognition; it is a statement by its members that they know, love, and cherish that which we know as the Spirit of Chanco.

All Chiefs: And now with your Blessing, Oh Great Spirit, let the tappings begin.

Chief #1: If this is your first year at Chanco, I invite you to become a brave in the tribe of the Mattaponi. Come forward.

The Tapping in of the Mattaponi.

Chief #1: After the tapping in of each tribe, it is traditional to give you a Word. It is hoped that you will keep this word in your heart over the years. The Word we charge you with is FRIENDSHIP. It is your most important lesson learned at camp. You have learned how to live with other people in harmony even in the most difficult of situations. FRIENDSHIP is also one of the Great Spirit's reatest gifts. Friends can be depended on to help you, comfort you, and protect you. You have learned how to be friends and how to accept friends. Your Word is Friendship -- Keep it in your heart forever.

Chief #2: If this is your second year at Chanco, I invite you to join the tribe of the Pamunkey. Come forward.

The tapping in of the Pamunkey.

Chief #2: Your Word my brothers and Sisters is LOVE. Love God, Love neighbor, Love your Country. All are expressions of a feeling, a bond which we call LOVE. What is Love? Love comes from the Great Spirit, because the Great Spirit is Himself Love. There is no fear in Love, but Love actually casts out fear. Our greatest teacher, Himself the Son of the Great Spirit, told us that we should love our neighbor as ourself. Your Word is LOVE. Keep that Word and use it everyday. Your life will be infinitely richer.

Chief #3: If this is your third year at Chanco, I invite you now to become a brave in the tribe of Powhatan.

The tapping in of the Powhatan.

Chief #3: Your Word is SPIRIT. You have been here three years. You have seen much Of Chanco, and have taken much of it with you. You know the Spirit of Chanco and it has drawn you back for three moons. Remember that spirit has its source in the heart of the Great Spirit: You feel it in your heart. Let that Spirit grow in you for the rest of your life. Your Word, braves of Powhatan, is SPIRIT.

Chief #1: At Council Rings we always say a prayer which we hope the Great Spirit will answer. We ask you to pray with us as we seek the Blessing of the Great One.

All Chiefs: Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, Hear US. We are small and weak; we need your strength and wisdom.

Chief #1: Let us walk in beauty, and make our eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset.

Chief #2: Make our hands respect the things you have made and our ears sharp to hear your voice.

Chief #3: Make us wise so that we may understand the things you have taught our people.

Chief #1: Let us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

Chief #2: We seek strength, not to be greater than our brother, but to fight our worst enemy -- Ourselves.

Chief #3: Make us always to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

All Chiefs: So when life fades, as the fading sunset, Our Spirits may come to you without shame.