



Tribal Traditions



Marry in New Mexico and be inspired by ancient traditions...

The United States, like so many countries, is blessed to have a rich heritage of indigenous people. In fact, Native American groups have inhabited the areas around Blame Her Ranch (BHR) and throughout New Mexico for thousands of years — many centuries before Europeans even reached the Americas. There are over 23 Indian tribes located in New Mexico including Pueblos, Apache and the Navajo Nation. Each tribe is a nation unto itself with rich ways of life, culture and traditions. This is particularly interesting to our guests for those who are looking to inject some Native American Wedding activities and traditions into their weekend at BHR.

These meaningful traditions are a great way to pay homage to our heritage even if the ceremony is traditional in nature. Here are just a few ideas we have suggested to couples both with and without a Native American background, but are perfect based on our roots here in New Mexico.

SACRED FEATHERS

During a traditional Native American Wedding, several tribes have the bride and groom each hold feathers in their left hand while reciting their wedding vows to each other. Feathers are generally considered to represent a connection with the great spirit among many Native American tribes.

VASE RITUAL

Both the Cherokee and Pueblo people celebrate a vase ritual as part of their ceremonies. The wedding vases are identifiable by two spouts they have that are joined together by a handle. The two spouts represent the individual lives of each to-be-wed and signifies the couple coming together in their new life. On the wedding day the vase is filled with holy water and then presented to the bride to drink from. After both taking a sip, the two are bonded together in marriage. The wedding vase is a cherished possession. In fact, if one spouse passes away before the other, traditionally the vase

maybe gifted to another married couple as a way of celebrating the happy marriage the couple had while offering well-wishes to the new couple.

BLANKET CEREMONY

The blanket ceremony is a common practice during Cherokee weddings. During this ceremony, the mothers of the couple will bring blue blankets and drape them over their children's shoulders. The blue blankets symbolise the sorrow of their lives prior to their union in marriage. Later in the ceremony, the blue blankets are removed and replaced with a large white blanket over the shoulders of the couple symbolising a covering over their weaknesses and sorrow. The couple can now enter their new life of marriage joined with peace and fulfillment.

FOOD AS A SYMBOL OF PROVISION

Food is a central part of the ceremonies of many Native American tribes. The inclusion of food takes many different forms from tribe to tribe, the symbolism of provision generally remains consistent across the board. The Navajo people include mashed cornmeal in their ceremonies, while the Cochise Nation eat both corn and venison during their blanket ceremony.

TIPI WEDDING NIGHT

The couple's wedding night is very private and unique for each couple. BHR has constructed an authentic Native American tipi that the couple can escape to after the guests are well on their way. Furnished with a Native American queen size bed, the couple will have a memorable evening under the stars to celebrate the beginning of their new life.

These traditions are a meaningful way couples at BHR can pay homage to the tribes of the southwest and will leave your guests with a memory that is rarely seen in your classic ceremony setting. **WH**