



is for Regalia

WHAT IS REGALIA?

Regalia (re-GAY-lia) is the special clothes a Native American dancer wears during traditional dances. Powwows are the most common place to wear regalia. Regalia is colorful and is different depending on the type of dance.

WHAT IS A POWWOW?

A powwow is a social gathering and cultural celebration for Native American people. It is an important way for Native Americans to stay connected to their tribal cultures and identities. A powwow includes group singing, dancing by men, women and children, traditional foods and displays of hand-made goods. One of the largest powwows, the United Tribes Technical College International Powwow, is held in Bismarck, ND every September. Everyone is welcome to attend a powwow.

IS REGALIA A COSTUME?

No. A costume is worn when you are pretending to be something you are not - like at Halloween. Regalia is a powerful symbol of a dancer's heritage and identity and is considered sacred.

HOW IS REGALIA MADE?

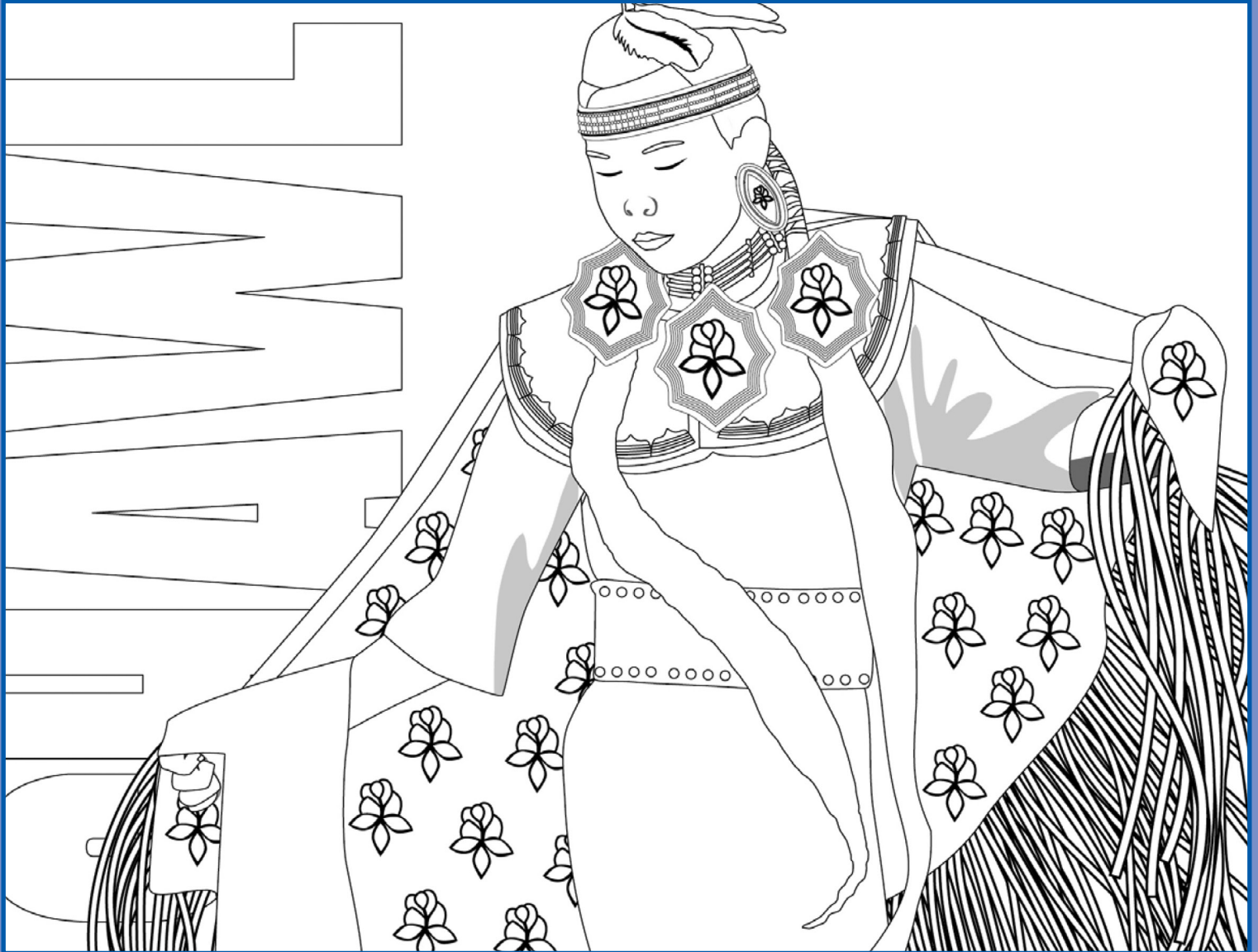
The making of regalia is an art form. The base of regalia is either cotton or buckskin, a type of leather usually from deerskin. The regalia is then decorated with beads, ribbons, metal, feathers, and porcupine quills. Often parts of the regalia are passed down from family member to family member. Sometimes the regalia is made by the dancer, but most often it is made by a family member or a professional artist. Because regalia requires many different skills, a single outfit may be made by several different artists - one sewing the buckskin, one doing the beadwork, one working with the feathers, one working with the porcupine quills, and one making the moccasins.

This elaborate Native American regalia is not only important to each dancer and speaks to the commitment of the dancer to the dance, but it also speaks of family and heritage. As dancers move to the rhythmic beat of the drum, they tell of their tribal affiliation and ancestry.



ART ACTIVITY

This coloring page is part of a Regalia series of coloring sheets by artist Jamey Penney-Ritter. The artist is a published photographer, graphic designer and illustrator based out of Washburn, WI. The designs are based on photos the artist took of dancers at powwows in Red Cliff, Bad River and La Courte Oreilles in northern Wisconsin. These are bands of the Lake Superior Chippewa. You can find the rest of these beautiful, detailed coloring sheets by clicking on the link listed below.



DOWNLOAD THE REGALIA COLORING BOOK
[BIT.LY/REGALIACBOOK](https://bit.ly/regaliacbook)

PLAINS ART MUSEUM • FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA • [PLAINSART.ORG](https://plainsart.org)

