



# American Indian High School Graduation Attire Accommodation Request

**DUE BY: MAY 14<sup>th</sup>**

CONGRATULATIONS  
GRADUATES OF 2021!

## Student Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

## School Information

Central     Community     Red River

## Eagle Feather

Have you obtained your Eagle Feather?

Yes     No

If no, would you like assistance from the Native American Program in obtaining an Eagle Feather?

Yes     No

I hereby request an accommodation to the graduation tassel be approved by GFPS administration. I understand that the accommodation will be limited to the attachment of the Eagle Feather to the tassel.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If under the age of 18, signature of a parent/guardian is required.

## American Indian Graduation Honoring

Are you interested in participating in an American Indian graduation honoring sponsored by the GFPS Native American Program & Native American Parent Committee?

Yes     No

**Procedure for High School Graduation Attire Accommodation Request:**

1. American Indian student and/or legal guardian submits request to the Native American Program Liaison.
  - a. Mail: 2400 47<sup>th</sup> Ave South Grand Forks, ND 58201
  - b. Fax: 701.772.7739
2. To ensure adequate processing and review, the accommodation request should be submitted by May 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. Prior to Grand Forks Public School general commencement, all applications will be reviewed by the Native American Liaison, Assistant Superintendent & High School Principals.
4. Graduating American Indian students may participate in:
  - a. Workshop provided by Native American Program to explain the significance of an Eagle Feather and the Accommodation Requirements & Established Guidelines
  - b. In addition to the general commencement, an American Indian graduation honoring graduates will be sponsored by the Native American Parent Committee and Native American Program.

**Accommodation Requirements & Established Guidelines**

The office of the Assistant Superintendent procedure regarding commencement attire states that the items approved through the Native American program is appropriate and will not detract from the general graduation commencement ceremony and gown. The request for the Native American students to attach an Eagle Feather to the tassel is considerate to the Grand Forks Public School District graduation commencement procedure.

**For office use only:**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Native American Program Liaison: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Background Information**

### **Office of Attorney General – Eagle Feather Policy**

[http://fcnl.org/issues/nativeam/doj\\_eagles/](http://fcnl.org/issues/nativeam/doj_eagles/)

In 1975, Department of the Interior Secretary C.B. Morton issued an enforcement policy (known for the past 35 years as the “Morton policy”) declaring that his department would not enforce the laws that protect migratory birds against Native Americans who possessed eagle feathers and other parts of migratory birds for religious and cultural purposes.

The policy states an intention to follow the 1975 Morton policy, which provided that eagle feathers and other culturally significant bird parts could be given to craftspeople who would incorporate them into ceremonial regalia and objects. Although the eagle feathers themselves cannot be bought or sold, the craftsperson may be compensated for the work that goes into the garment or ceremonial object. Specifically, the policy provides that Native Americans will not be prosecuted for the following:

- Possessing, using, wearing or carrying federally protected birds, bird feathers or other bird parts (federally protected bird parts);
- Traveling domestically with federally protected bird parts or, if tribal members obtain and comply with necessary permits, traveling internationally with such items;
- Picking up naturally molted or fallen feathers found in the wild, without molesting or disturbing federally protected birds or their nests;
- Giving or loaning federally protected bird parts to other members of federally recognized tribes, without compensation of any kind;
- Exchanging federally protected bird parts for federally protected bird parts with other members of federally recognized tribes, without compensation of any kind;
- Providing the feathers or other parts of federally protected birds to craftspersons who are members of federally recognized tribes to be fashioned into objects for eventual use in tribal religious or cultural activities.

### **National Eagle Repository – Laws & Regulations**

<http://www.fws.gov/eaglerepository/laws.php#one>

50 CFR 22 (Title 50—Wildlife and Fisheries)

§22.22 What are the requirements concerning permits for Indian religious purposes?

(b) *What are the permit conditions?* In addition to the general conditions in part 13 of this subchapter B, permits to take, possess, transport within the United States, or transport into or out of the United States bald or golden eagles, or their parts, nests or eggs for Indian religious use are subject to the following conditions:

(1) Bald or golden eagles or their parts possessed under permits issued pursuant to this section are not transferable, except such birds or their parts may be handed down from generation to generation or from one Indian to another in accordance with tribal or religious customs;