



Tsha?tekohsélha

Midwinter



Faithkeepers will meet to set the date.

- θ Five sleeps after the new moon. (night of new moon first sleep)
- θ The Seven Dancers (**Tehútkwa?**) are straight above.

Day One: **Kanehelatúksla** - Thanksgiving Address/Opening

*On each side of the house the speakers will ask if any family has had misfortune/this will also be mentioned.

- “Inform the minds” - the agenda/what will happen today.
The singers and



dancers will also be selected

- **Ohstowa?kó· 3X's** - Great Feather Dance
Speaker will encourage the people to dance.

1. Titleholders - **Kutiyánéshu, Lotiyánéshu, khale?**
Clanmothers, Chiefs, and

Kayé Niyolí·wake Lonatlihu·tú
The four Sacred Matters They're Responsible for (Faithkeepers)

- Speaker will thank and encourage each person to continue with their duties and responsibilities.
- Inform the people of the next four days.

2. **Kat'yóhkwa?** - **Né· tsi? ka·yá· áhsu te?kalahwayat'ahkwáni**
People (those who not yet appointed)

- Speaker will thank everyone.

Words of encouragement - Speaker will encourage everyone from the Chiefs to the smallest child to continue to fulfill their duties and



responsibilities.

3. **Shukwayaʔtísu** - Thanks to the Creator

- Speaker will thank everyone.

- Takwanuhwela·tú·** - Closing

- Feast

Day Two: **Kanehelatúksla** - Thanksgiving Address/Opening

*On each side of the house the speakers will ask if any family has had misfortune/this will also be mentioned

- Atwanuhsahalákwahte?** - We will divide the house in half – (sit in our clans.)

- “Inform the minds” - the agenda/what will happen.

Atwaʔkahlawáli - We will stir the ashes.

Né· Atwanahalo·lí· - we will renew the seeds of life.

Mid-winter is the beginning of our ceremonial cycle. We stir ashes to represent turning over the earth in preparation for the growing season. We are thankful and ask that all things on the earth continue.

- Speaker announces for each side to look for someone to *open* the “Stirring of the Ashes”, one from each side to speak or sing. Speaker announces the person chosen from each side. Two men *open* Stirring Ashes, then the Faithkeepers.

- A man is chosen from each side of the house to handout paddles. The people are asked not to refuse the paddles. Each side alternates as the people are given a chance to stir the ashes.
- When all have stirred the ashes, the speaker, singer and all the title holders will stir the ashes again to close the stirring ashes ceremony.
- Acknowledgement of what has been accomplished.



- Takwanuhwela·tú· - Closing - Feast
- Day Three: **Kanehelatúksla** - Thanksgiving Address/Opening
- *On each side of the house the speakers will ask if any family has had misfortune/this will also be mentioned.

- “Inform the minds” - the agenda/what will happen today. A man is appointed to do the Tobacco Burning. Two men are appointed to collect tobacco/one for each side/this is announced to the people.

1. **Kayu?kwátho?** - tobacco burning

- They will use Native tobacco - né· ʌhʌ·nústse? oyú?kwa?u·wé.
- A white basket will be used in place of a white dog.

2. **Hatu·wáh** - Men’s Chant - ʌhanhotu·kó· - he’ll open the door

*A man will be appointed to *open* the Men’s chant.

*When he is finished, the men are encouraged to give their personal thanksgiving and song.

*When all the men are done, we will look for someone to look after the names. (a man for each side of the house.)

ΛhatihsΛnakala·táte? - they will raise the names

*Each side announces to the people the name of the man that will help



wit
h
the
na
mes

*If someone from that clan has a name to be put up, they will tell that person.

*Each side alternates as the people are stood up and names are raised for all Creation to hear.

*When all names are put through, Medicine Friendships are taken care of.

Λskanho·tú· ki? - the door will be closed/the same one that opened will close.

3. **Oneho·lú** - Drum Dance

Tekaná·tsyake sá·yes - 2 pails of blackberry medicine

- * We will look for someone to speak for the Drum Dance, sing, lead dance and holler/names are announced.
- * Half-way through the songs the speaker enters and asks for the continuance of the world on behalf of the people. We should all be listening to the speaker.
- * Two pails of blackberry drink are made, one for the women and one for the men. Families are encouraged to bring blackberries to contribute to the medicine.
- * When completed, thanks is given to all for their participation.
- * The speaker informs the people that tomorrow will be **Kayátowa·nΛ** - The Peachstone Game - He explains how the game is played.

* Kayatowa·nÁ is Shukwaya?tísu's game, for his entertainment.

* Né·n ÁtwatÁ?uwáya?ake? - we'll hit the bowl

Items to put up for Kayatowa·nÁ:

o?nikólha? owískla? niwahsohkó·tÁ -



whitewampum

ukwehuwehnéha atslunyákhwa? - native clothing

kanyáhtÁ astawÁ·sli - turtle rattle

tewa?a·látu ká·nhi teyuttsihkwa?ékta
netted (lacrosse) stick for hitting knuckles with

Watahlístu ÁhsyÁ·táhkwe?

It is forbidden for you to gamble with

né· tsi?náhte? ísi? yesáti - it is whatever you discard (no value to you)

kwa?a·ósku onikwÁhtala? - entirely red (represents anger)

kwa?a·ósku o?swÁ·ta? - entirely black (represents dark side of life)

tsi?náhte? teyostaláthehe? - shiny (represents greed)



Announcements of people to assist with the game

2 score keepers (Men)

2 bean holders (Women)

2 to collect items (Men)

Speaker will announce if they don't pick up items from your house, not to feel bad, and bring your



items to the Longhouse to be matched up.

Who starts the Peachstone Game?

- Turtles/Bears vs. Wolves
- The last two who ended the game at Harvest.
- IF they are not there, the Faithkeepers will start the game, then the people.
- The game will begin after all the items have been collected and matched up, then tied in a bundle.
- Game begins with a holler.
- The game can only be played till ½ way between noon and sunset. (3PM). The bowl is turned over and the game will continue the next day.

How is the game scored?

- There are 101 beans/6 peachstones, one side light, one side dark.
- When the game starts there is a pile of 101 beans on the mat.
- Each player begins with 6 beans until the pile is gone, then five beans are used and they are played off.
- 6 peachstones of one color equals 6 beans, five and one equal 1 bean, until the pile is gone then we switch to five's.
- Encouragement - **ohΛ·tu·** - go ahead! **Khale? sheku oya·** - and yet another!
- The Creator will decide who wins the game. The side with the 101 beans wins the game.
- Acknowledgement of what has been accomplished.
- Takwanuhwela·tú·** - Closing
- Feast



Day Four - KayΛto·wanΛ - Peachstone Game

- People gather at the Longhouse, waiting for all the items to be matched up and the bundle tied. Once tied no items can be added.
- Kanehelatúksla** - Thanksgiving Address/ Opening
- “Inform the minds” - Overview of the game, names of people who will assist and who will holler to begin the game.
- KayΛtowa·nΛ** - Peachstone Game is played.
- When the game is complete the winners are announced. Everyone is

encouraged not to feel bad, this is the way the Creator decided it should be. We should all have a good mind.

- We look for singers for Ohstowaʔkó.
The speaker will announce the names of the singer's and the one's who picked up the items. They will lead the dance.
- Ohstowaʔkó** 1X - Δ kalihwahni·látsteʔ - strengthen the matter
- We will look for someone to tell the story of Skanyatali·yó (Handsome Lake) and the áhs Δ naʔtekut Δ hnu·téhleʔ (Three Sister's).
- Kunukwehnéha** ol Δ naka·yú·seʔ - Old Women's Dance
The women's old songs
- Osahé·taʔ** aotil Δ ·ná· - Bean Dance
Bean their song
- Δ shalihwaló·loke** – he'll recap the matters
The speaker will go back to when the Faithkeepers first met and will go over what happened on each day and who did what each day during the Mid-Winter ceremony.
- Feast
- The **Hatúwi** and **Katsíhsa** medicine societies open up the door for people to renew their medicine societies. The ceremony is left open until medicine day. When the people have finished renewing their medicine societies, the closing is done to close up the Mid-Winter ceremony

