



TSÉ NITSAA DEEZ'AHÍ DINÉ BI' ÓLTA' ROCK POINT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PO BOX 560 HIGHWAY 191
ROCK POINT, ARIZONA 86545
TELEPHONE: (928) 659 - 4221
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December 09, 2025

Yá'át'éeh Song and Dance Sponsors,

Tsé Nitsaa Deez'ahí Diné Bi'Olta' cordially invites your school to the 51st Annual Diné Song & Dance Festival on January 21 & 22, 2026.

The Annual Diné Song and Dance Festival is a free signature event for students of Rock Point Community School. Local schools on Navajo showcase their Diné traditional talent in singing and dancing. Additionally this event gives local schools an opportunity to share their knowledge to help promote the preservation of the Diné culture and language. The Annual Diné Song and Dance Festival is open to all Navajo Area schools for all grades from Kindergarten to 12th grade.

The Annual Diné Song and Dance Festival will be held in the Rock Point Community School Secondary Gymnasium (Melvin Arthur Court) and open to the public. Schools are responsible for providing lunch for their students. Our school also accepts purchase orders for lunches at \$5.25 per meal (student or adult). If your school decides to purchase lunches for student & staff participants, we will need a purchase order submitted by January 09, 2026.

The schedule of events and categories are as follows and are subject to change based on the number of entries and equally distributing the entries by divisions. If there is a change, your sponsors will be notified.

- **Wednesday, January 21, 2026.** Check-in opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 10:00 a.m. Performances begin at 9:00 a.m. for the **Intermediate Division** (4th – 8th). Performances will conclude at 4:00 p.m. followed by the Awards Ceremony.
- **Thursday, January 22, 2026.** Check-in opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 10:00 a.m. Performances begin at 9:00 a.m. for the **Primary Divisions** (K – 3rd) and **Secondary Division** (9th – 12th) will follow (most likely afternoon). Performances will conclude at 4:00 p.m. followed by the Awards Ceremony.

We encourage you to register online at www.nizhonihei.com. Enclosed are the rules and regulations. The deadline for registration is January 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Rock Point Community School at (928) 659-4611 for Mrs. Carol Ashihi or (928) 223-3563 for Jennifer Brown. We look forward to your school's participation in helping perpetuate our Diné language and culture.

Sincerely,

Florian Tom Johnson, Chair – Diné Song and Dance Festival Committee
Rock Point Community School

TSÉ NITSAA DEEZ'AHÍ DINÉ BI' ÓLTA'
51st Annual Diné Song and Dance Festival
General Information

Goal:

The goal of the Diné Song and Dance Festival is to empower our children to continue using our Diné language by demonstrating their Diné cultural talents, knowledge and skills through singing and dancing.

Registration:

To expedite registration, register your students for the events & categories they will participate in at www.nizhonihei.com. Scroll to “Sponsor Registration” and a confirmation email will be sent to you. Login with your username and password from the link you are sent. Register your students first, then register for events. **Please read the entire packet even if you are registering online.** You may also fax or e-mail all entry forms by January 16, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. No on-site registration on the day of the event. Check-in opens on the day of the event at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 10:00 a.m. Please arrive early, so we can cross reference listings and registration numbers. Performances will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fax: (928) 659-4235. Emails: carol.ashihi@rpcsaz.org, jennifer.brown@rpcsaz.org.

Divisions:

The grade levels are divided into three divisions: Primary (Kdg. to 3rd), Intermediate (4th to 8th grade), and Secondary (9th to 12th grade).

Events:

There are seven different events a participant can enter: three song events (Solo, Duet and Group); three dance events (Yé'ii Bicheii, Fire Dances, and Nidáá'); and two song-act events (Shoe Game and Corn Grinding). Individual students may participate in one (1) or more events in the same division only.

All song entries should be appropriate for the school audience. Every student should represent only his or her school rather than an individual or other type of organization. Performers will not use audio/video recordings of any kind during their performances. **Only Navajo social songs and dances are permitted.** The sponsor(s) should have all the necessary dress outfits and other paraphernalia for students to use.

Performances:

All performances will take place on a medium-sized stage. The festival committee will assign numbers to each performance. All students should be ready to perform when their assigned number is called; otherwise, they will lose their chance to perform and must re-register to perform later in the order it is received.

Awards:

Winning entries for each event will receive trophies. The school with the highest score in all-rounds in each division will receive a plaque or trophy for The Highest Point Award. The scores for the awards are based on the number of entries a school performs and on the rating of the judges. Four to six people who are knowledgeable of Navajo singing and dancing will judge all performances. Judges will be people who are currently not affiliated with Rock Point Community School or schools that have students participating in the festival. This year, as in past years, sponsors can perform for the participants and the general audience during breaks or after the competitions.

Lunch:

Lunch will be the responsibility of the schools whose students are participating. RPCS accepts Purchase Orders (PO) for meals. Each meal is \$5.25 (student or adult). An invoice will be sent after actual meal counts are confirmed. There is no form for requesting school lunches in this packet. However, you can include your school's purchase order when submitting this packet. Lunch requests are due on January 09, 2026, to accommodate food ordering by our school. Email POs to Alvina.Tom@rpcsaz.org.

TSÉ NITSAA DEEZ'AHÍ DINÉ BI' ÓLTA'
51st Annual Diné Song and Dance Festival
Beehaz'áñii dóó Bik'ehgo Yígií (Rules and Regulation)

Please read the “General information” sheet, the “Specific Rules for Competition Events”, and the attached entry forms carefully. Failure to comply with set rules and regulations may be grounds for disqualification. If you register online, you do not have to fax or email these forms.

1. To verify participants' grade division levels, we require that all K-12 sponsors bring or send current class rosters for the students who will perform. The roster (ENTRY FORM III – STUDENT ROSTER attached as last page in this packet) must contain the child's full name; date of birth, grade and parents' name and the school principal must sign it. (See example below). All contestants must be affiliated with and sponsored by a K-12 school.
2. There is limited space in the gym. Schools traveling as a field trip to observe (not participate) may be allowed with prior approval from the Diné Song and Dance Festival Committee.
3. We will not be responsible for people taking pictures and making recordings of your students. We are not liable for your students' personal items. Rock Point Community School is not liable for any negligible injuries or accidents that might occur.
4. Make sure that your students do not introduce themselves or mention where they are from.
5. As your host of the Diné Song and Dance Festival, we urge that each sponsor be responsible for the conduct of students. Other performers must not make too much noise, beat on the drum or shake the rattles during performances. As adult representatives of your school chaperoning the students we ask that you be with your students at all times. The judges should not be distracted during performances.
6. There will be a person stationed by the stage checking for compliance with the rules (i.e. non-sacred paraphernalia, equipment, gear, etc.). This person can recommend disqualification to the judges.
7. Decision(s) of the judges are final.

EXAMPLE OF STUDENT ROSTER:

Name of School

NAME OF STUDENT	GRADE	DATE OF BIRTH	PARENT(S) NAME
John Doe	8th	3/10/2001	Jim & Sue Doe
Mary Sam	11th	3/24/1998	Dick & Jane Sam

I have read the “Rules and Regulation” and the “Specific Rules for Competition Events” and have been provided the opportunity to ask about them if needed. I understand them to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of School Principal and Date:

Signature

Date

School

The student roster must be submitted with the entry forms. The registered sponsor will certify the information online.

Specific Rules for Competition Events

SONGS

SOLO (T'áá sáhí Hojitaal): Only **one student** is allowed for each division. The student sings one song. There can be no recorded music. Adults should not coach or help the student during the performance. The student will use only a wooden or metal drum. *Performers cannot introduce themselves, tell jokes, and make speeches. Also no dancing or acting.* All songs will be in Navajo, **and cannot be Hózhóójí or Native American Church ceremonial songs**, otherwise the participant will be disqualified. Disqualification will also occur for degrading or obscene songs. Students participate only within their grade division.

DUET (Nizhdilt'éego Hojitaal): Only **two students** are allowed for each division and must sing only one Navajo song singing equally. There can be no recorded music or assistance from the sidelines. The students should accompany themselves with only a wooden or metal drum. *Performers cannot introduce themselves, tell jokes, and make speeches. Also no dancing or acting.* All songs will be in Navajo, **and cannot be Hózhóójí or Native American Church ceremonial songs**, otherwise the participant will be disqualified. Disqualification will also occur for degrading or obscene songs. Students participate only within their grade division.

GROUP (T'áádíkwíida Jilt'éego Dahojitaal): Only **four to ten students** are allowed for each division. The group singers should sing only one song equally with no assistance from the sidelines. The students should accompany themselves with only a wooden or metal drum. *Performers cannot introduce themselves, tell jokes, and make speeches. Also no dancing or acting.* All songs will be in Navajo, **and cannot be Hózhóójí or Native American Church ceremonial songs**, otherwise the participant will be disqualified. Disqualification will also occur for degrading or obscene songs. Students participate only within their grade division.

DANCES

YÉ'II BICHEII: Dancers should not wear masks, dleesh, or foxtails nor use sacred or traditional gourds. Painted faces and clown (T0 Neinilii) are not allowed, one song is permitted and no assistance from the sidelines. There must either be six or twelve dancers. If there are **six dancers**, they must all be male. If there are **twelve dancers**, there must be six of each gender. **All must sing and dance equally** without recorded music. They must participate only within their grade division.

FIRE DANCES (Ahizhnidááhjí Azhish): There must be only **two or four dancers** perform only one dance with **no more than four singers**. A drum should not be used. Dancers should not paint their faces. The singers can use a basket or a rattle, but not sacred or traditional gourds. Only one song will be sung. There can be no recorded music or assistance from the sidelines. All students must participate within their grade division.

NIDÁÁ'DANCES (Nidáá'jí Azhish): These dances include two-step, skip, parallel, and round dance with **8 to 12 students** who will perform one dance and one song with the exception of parallel which they may sing only two songs, one male and one female. The singers and dancers all perform equally. Only a wooden or metal drum will be used. Navajo clay drums and sacred drumsticks are not permitted. All dances should be done in a clockwise fashion. There can be no recorded music. No one should coach or help the students. All students must participate within their grade division.

SONG ACT

SHOE GAME (Késhjéé'): **Six to ten students**. Singers should sing only up to four short Navajo songs and all should sing and perform. The presentation should not be more than five minutes long, or the judges will deduct points. There can be no recorded music. No one should coach or help the students from the sidelines. All students must participate within their grade division.

CORN GRINDING (Ak'áájí): **Six to ten students**. Singers should sing only up to four short Navajo songs and all should sing and perform. The presentation should not be more than five minutes long or the judges will deduct points. There can be no recorded music. There must not be any coaching of the students once the performance begins. All students must participate within their grade division.

In all events, students should wear appropriate attire. Points will be deducted at judge's discretion if clothing is not appropriate for such events, and if parts of the outfit falls off.

TSÉ NITSAA DEEZ'AHÍ DINÉ BI' ÓLTA'
51st Annual Diné Song and Dance Festival
ENTRY FORM I – SCHOOL REGISTRATION

School Name: _____

RULES

- All contestants must be affiliated with and sponsored by a K-12 school.
- All contestants must participate in their appropriate grade division. For instance, a primary student cannot participate at any level other than primary.
- Individual students may participate in one or more events in the same division only.
- For each event, there can only be one song for each individual or team entry except for Nidáá' Parallel.
- It is mandatory that sponsors of K-12 participants send copies of class roster verified by the school principal. (Refer to rules and regulations on page 3. The registered sponsor will certify the information online.)

TO ENTER: Indicate the events per division your school will participate in by checking the appropriate boxes below. Each school may enter only one event per division.

DIVISIONS

#	EVENTS	Primary (Kdg. – 3 rd)	Intermediate (4 th – 8 th)	Secondary (9 th – 12 th)
1	SONGS			
	Solo			
	Duet			
	Group			
2	DANCES			
	Nid11' Dances			
	Ye'ii Bicheii			
	Fire Dances			
3	SONG ACT			
	Shoe Game			
	Corn Grinding			

Additional Required Information:

How many students are you bringing?

Boys _____ Girls _____

How many Sponsors/Bus drivers are you bringing?

Men _____ Women _____

Your Name and School Address:

Name of Sponsor(s): _____

School Name and Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Email(s): _____

Telephone number where you can be reached after 5:00pm (if necessary): _____

RETURN ENTRY FORMS AND ROSTER OR CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION TO:

Diné Song and Dance Festival

Rock Point Community School

P. O. Box 560 Rock Point, Arizona 86545

Phone: (928) 659-4221 Fax No.: (928) 659-4235

Email: jennifer.brown@rpcsaz.org, carol.ashihi@rpcsaz.org

TSÉ NITSAA DEEZ'AHÍ DINÉ BI' ÓLTA'

51st Annual Diné Song and Dance Festival

ENTRY FORM II – EVENT REGISTRATION

***** **ONE FORM PER ENTRY**. Duplicate as needed. *****

School Name: _____

Division: (Check One)

Primary: _____ Intermediate: _____ Secondary: _____
(Kdg. – 3rd) (4th – 8th) (9th – 12th)

Activity: (Check One. For Nidáá', check additional appropriate box.)

SONGS		DANCES			SONG ACTS	
Solo (1 Student)		Nidáá' (8 to 12 Students)		Yé'ii Bicheii (6 or 12 Students)		Shoe Game (6 to 10 Students)
Duet (2 Students)		a. Skip		Fire Dance (6 to 8 students Total, 2 or 4 dancers & up to 4 singers)		Corn Grinding (6 to 10 Students)
Group (4 to 10 Students)		b. Round				
		c. Parallel				
		d. Two-Step				

#	Name	Grade
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

The Entry Forms, Roster and Categories are correct:

Name of Sponsor(s):

RETURN ENTRY FORMS AND ROSTER OR CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION TO:

Diné Song and Dance Festival

Rock Point Community School

P. O. Box 560 Rock Point, Arizona 86545

Phone: (928) 659-4221 Fax No.: (928) 659-4235

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TSÉ NITSAA DEEZ'AHÍ DINÉ BI' ÓLTA'
51st Annual Diné Song and Dance Festival
ENTRY FORM III – STUDENT ROSTER
(Duplicate as needed)

School Name: _____

#	Name	Grade	Date of Birth	Parent(s)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

Name of Sponsor(s):

I certify that the following information about the students listed above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and these students are currently enrolled at the above listed school. (The registered sponsor will certify this information online.)

Name of School Director or Principal

Date

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 Email: jennifer.brown@rpcsaz.org, carol.ashihi@rpcsaz.org