



# POW 2012 WOW

WACCAMAW  
SIOUAN



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The Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe of Buckhead hosted its annual Pow Wow last week, celebrating the wholesome, traditional and colorful life of Native Americans. This year marks exactly three centuries after the tribe first appeared in written historical records; British settlers tried to recruit the tribe in 1712 to fight the

Tuscarora Indians in the Tuscarora War. The tribe is much older than that, and existed long before English-speaking record keepers could pin a name on them that could be pronounced by the British tongue. The tribe is one of eight recognized by the State of North Carolina, receiving that recognition in 1971. It has yet to gain federal recognition. The big weekend began Friday with the popular and educational field trips for school children, as hundreds

watched the amazing dancers and learned about Native American crafts and traditions. Saturday brought with it the unique parade, which traveled east along Old Lake Road from downtown Buckhead onto the tribal grounds. The parade is unique in that it actually has a purpose, to bring the dancers and participants to the event site, and also that it features dozens of Native Americans dressed in beautiful traditional dance regalia.

The county park baseball diamond that shares the tribal grounds was turned into a dance arena. Dozens of vendors filled the outfield with Native American crafts, jewelry, clothing and gifts for sale. At 1 p.m. all the dancers filled the arena for the Grand Entry, a brilliant spectacle of color and drumbeats. Tribal princesses and other youth royalty were honored, and a solemn tribute was made to military veterans and active duty personnel – both Native American and others.

After the opening ceremonies came the competition, and dancers of all age groups participated through the afternoon, each being judged on their dance skills and adherence to Native American traditions in both the dance and their regalia. Festivities continued into the evening with a social dance and supper, and 300 years after they were invited to fight in battle, the Waccamaw-Siouans danced in peace.