

## **Native American Tribal Dance and Culture Presented at the San Bernardino Public Library**

As part of the Summer Reading Game theme, *Read to the Rhythm*, the San Bernardino Public Library will host Ben Hale and his Native American Tribal Dance & Culture program, a cultural look at North American tribes as seen through their dance and music. This all-ages free event will take place on Saturday, July 25 at 2:00 PM in the Bing Wong Auditorium at the Feldhey Central Library at 555 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street in San Bernardino.

Ben Hale, a member of the Navajo tribe from Arizona, demonstrates North American Tribal Dances with cultural context, music, and brilliant, authentic regalia. A few of the several dances presented include: the Eagle Dance, Horse Dance, Grass Dance, and the ever popular Hoop Dance where Ben takes about 15 hoops and using his body shapes them into symbols revered in the Native American culture.

From the time he could walk, Ben's parents taught him the importance of culture and traditions through customs passed down through the generations. Dance and stories are an integral part of Native American life as a means of expression and perception of self, and Ben was exposed to this daily. Ben is an enrolled member of the Navajo Indian Reservation and is affiliated with many local agencies such as American Indian Children's Council, Southern California Indian Center, and American Indian Healing Center, to name a few. Ben and his multi-generational family dance troupe known, as the Eagle Spirit Dancers, have been presenting North American Indian Culture programs at schools, libraries, fairs, and Pow Wows throughout the Nation. He's one of a small number of American Indians invited to participate and even coordinate Pow Wows because of his knowledge and authenticity. He regularly performs at the Indian South West Museum and Gene Autry Museum in Los Angeles. Ben is dedicated to dispelling misinformation and/or misconceptions many people hold towards American Indians.

Participants in the library's summer reading game will get credit for coming to the program. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the San Bernardino Public Library. For more information on this event call Linda Yeh at 909-381-8238 or visit [www.sbpl.org](http://www.sbpl.org)

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