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"Preserving and Teaching Native American Culture to all who wish to walk the Native path."
New members are welcome, contact information above.

CHEROKEE WOMEN



The Cherokee women were empowered much more than the women of European settlers that came here from across the Great Waters. Non native women arriving here did not have the right to vote and had little to do with political decisions which were made by the men. European men were surprised that when councils were held between the Cherokees and the settlers, such as treaty negotiations, several prominent Cherokee women would come to participate. The Cherokee women participating were surprised to see no non Native women at these important meetings.

The Cherokee and other Eastern Woodland peoples had a matrilineal type of genealogy. In fact the women were the owners of the lodges and the gardens. They had a say in the treatment of prisoners, and also as to whether or not a war party should go on a raid. Women of the Cherokee nation were respected and some attained to the title of Beloved Woman.



The dignity and beauty and self assurance of Cherokee women, in large measure, explains the large number of non-Native men seeking them as wives. Very soon after the first interaction of the settlers and the Cherokee, there were marriages between the two groups. The Cherokees did not prohibit some women from becoming warriors, and there were some that went into battle alongside the men.

Today we of the Southeastern Cherokee council recognize the value and equality of the women within our tribe. Starting at our principal chief and going through several of the ceremonial leaders and officers of the council, women play a vital role among our people. In addition, several of our band chiefs are women.

One of our major ceremonies, the First New Moon Of Spring, especially honors women during the very time that we salute the awakening in the spring of Mother Earth.

We salute the women of the Southeastern Cherokee Council and encourage all to participate fully in all the activities that make our people strong. Whether it be political office, or ceremonial leader, or skills in art and Native crafts, the women are a vital part of the cohesiveness of our people and we value them greatly.

