



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LET GANONDAGAN'S WINTER GAMES & SPORTS BEGIN!

Seneca winter activities provide variety of hands-on and educational experiences

Victor, NY—Outdoor enthusiasts, lovers of winter, and those interested in traditional Native American ways of celebrating the winter season all have a full day in store at Ganondagan's annual **Native American Winter Games & Sports** event on **Saturday, February 4, 2012**. The activities run from **10 am to 4 pm** at **Ganondagan State Historic Site** (1488 State Route 444) in Victor, NY.

Opportunities abound for spectators and participants alike, and include:

- playing the traditional **game of snowsnake** (a popular Seneca winter pastime)
- watching a **dogsled team** in action
- walking in **snowshoes**
- observing **traditional winter craft** demonstrations
- listening to **traditional storytelling over a warm fire** in the bark longhouse
- hiking the trails
- viewing an **educational video**

Additional children's activities will take place in the Visitor Center.

Jo Lynn Stresing and her dogsled teams from **Kindred Moon Kennels** in Fulton, NY will be demonstrating from **10:30 am to 2:30 pm**.

Winter Games admission is free, although there is a suggested donation of \$5/family. Donation boxes will be located throughout the site. Ganondagan's Winter Games & Sports takes place with or without snow, and hot food will be available for purchase. Snowshoe rental costs are \$5/adults, \$3/children, and free for Friends of Ganondagan members. Snowshoe owners are encouraged to bring their own.

Lodging packages are available for those attending from outside the region who may want to make this part of a full weekend. For complete event and package details, visit www.ganondagan.org/WinterGames.html or call (585) 742-1690. This event is sponsored by Friends of Ganondagan in partnership with the Native American Resource Center of the Rochester City School District.

Note to Media: A variety of hi-res photos from past Winter Games are downloadable (with photo credits) at: www.ganondagan.org/media/WinterGames

CALENDAR:

WHAT: *Ganondagan Native American Winter Games and Sports*

WHEN: *Saturday, February 4, 2012; 10 am to 4 pm*

WHERE: *Ganondagan State Historic Site, 1488 State Route 444, Victor, NY*

ADMISSION: *Free and open to the public, with suggested donation of \$5/family; visit www.ganondagan.org/WinterGames.html or call (585) 742-1690*

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Ganondagan State Historic Site (www.ganondagan.org) in Victor, NY stands at the location of what was one of the largest, most vital 17th-century Seneca towns until its destruction in 1687. Today, it is a destination for visitors to explore the replica of a bark longhouse and hunting lodge and enjoy self-guided tours through trails on the Site's 600+ acres. It also acts as a resource for students and educators about the Iroquois Confederacy, or Haudenosaunee, and its message of peace. Every summer, *Friends of Ganondagan* hosts the Native American Dance & Music Festival, attended by more than 4,000 people from all over the world. *Friends* also sponsors the annual Canandaigua Treaty Day and presents lectures, workshops, and programs reflecting the vibrancy of a living culture and promoting a sustainable future.