



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## GANONDAGAN CELEBRATES WINTER!

*Traditional Seneca activities create a day of fun learning experiences*

Victor, NY— For the 10th year in a row, outdoor and cold weather enthusiasts as well as those interested in traditional Native American can revel in the wonder and beauty of winter at Ganondagan's annual **Native American Winter Games & Sports** event on **Saturday, February 23, 2013**. The festivities take place **10 am to 4 pm** at **Ganondagan State Historic Site** (1488 State Route 444) in Victor, NY.

Attendees can participate or observe a wide range of Native American activities such as:

- the Seneca **game of snowsnake** (a popular winter pastime)
- watching a **dogsled team** in action
- walking in **snowshoes**
- **traditional winter craft** demonstrations
- **storytelling over a warm fire** in the bark longhouse
- hiking Ganondagan's beautiful trails

Jo Lynn Stresing and her dogsled teams from **Kindred Moon Kennels** in Fulton, NY will be demonstrating from **11 am to 2 pm**.

Admission to the Winter Games is free, although there is a suggested donation of \$10/family or \$3/individuals. Donation boxes will be located throughout the site. Ganondagan's Winter Games & Sports takes place in all weather, with or without snow. Delicious hot food including delicious traditional favorites Three Sisters Harvest Soup and Roasted Corn muffins and cookies will be available for purchase. Snowshoe owners are encouraged to bring their own.

This event is sponsored by Friends of Ganondagan in partnership Ganondagan State Historic Site.

**CALENDAR:**

**WHAT:** *Ganondagan Native American Winter Games and Sports*

**WHEN:** *Saturday, February 23, 2013; 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 \$10/family; visit [www.ganondagan.org/WinterGames.html](http://www.ganondagan.org/WinterGames.html) or call (585) 924-5848.*

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**Snow Snake** -- The game is played with long, smooth, polished, and flattened rods from five to nine feet long made from maple, hickory, or walnut hardwoods. The front of the one-inch diameter stick is rounded. The object of the game is to throw the snake the longest distance through a trough made of snow.. It is still a very popular sport for Iroquois men. The men at Ganondagan have built a snow snake track and will demonstrate the game if weather permits.

**Storytellers** - The storyteller has held a special place of honor for Native American people. They help to entertain and educate and carry traditions from one generation to the next through their stories. Storytellers, Tonia Loran and Ronnie Reitter, from the Ganondagan staff will entertain those who join them at the bark longhouse.

**Ganondagan State Historic Site** ([www.ganondagan.org](http://www.ganondagan.org)) in Victor, NY stands at the location of what was one of the largest, most vital 17<sup>th</sup>-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.