

Spirit Days celebrates Native culture, heritage

"Spirit Days," the annual celebration of Native American Heritage, this weekend will again bring thousands of Anchorage's people together to share in the pride of Alaska's own Native peoples.

Last year's "Spirit Days," began a new tradition by selecting a "Miss Spirit Days," Luanne Pentetac. A new person will be crowned during the Saturday community potlatch. Com-

petition is based on cultural presentation, talent and poise.

Alaska's "Sportsperson of the year," Carol Pickett, will keynote opening ceremonies. The host group will be the Tlingit and Haida Dancers.

This year's gathering features the Savoonga Comedy Players of St. Lawrence Island and traditional Alaska Native games, including the

blanket toss. Also, this year the men have pledged to win the annual "Tug of War," against the women. Both are public participation events.

Native artisans will be selling their artwork, and Native foods will be on sale.

Several Native dance groups will be performing.

All events are free. Non-Natives are

invited to join Natives. Events begin at noon on Saturday and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Previews of "Spirit Days" are scheduled for Friday at 5 p.m. at the Dimond Center and 7:30 p.m. in the Northway Mall.

Those who would like more information may contact Dian Clair, 248-0391 or 273-3616.