




Batang Wapato was developed and organized by Zavic and Rogelio Batarao, Jr in September 2003. After completing courses at Heritage College, they presented a plan to form a youth dance group to the FACYV Board who fully supported their plans.

Batang Wapato dancers are in Kindergarten through 5th Grade or from ages 6 to 13. The dance group goals are:

-  • to help youth understand and gain knowledge about the Philippine Islands and its history so they can be aware of its culture; preserve and be proud of its heritage.
-  • to provide youth the opportunity to develop their dance and group skills while building self-confidence.
-  • to create positive reinforcement, socialization and a safe environment.

Folk, ballroom and modern dances are taught during 3-hour classes at the Wapato Filipino Community Hall.. Monthly background study sessions on the folk dance origins and costume authenticity help the dancers relate to their performances.

Batang Wapato membership is free but a commitment from the dancers to participate is the foundation for its success.



Batang Wapato

“ The Kids of Wapato ”

***The Youth Dance Group
Encouraged & Supported By***

***Parents & Members of
The Filipino-American Community of
Yakima Valley
&
The Non-Profit Mabuhay Foundation
PO Box 298
Wapato, WA 98952***

Parents, members of FACYV and the non-profit Mabuhay Foundation, are the **Batang Wapato** support community. A dynamic youth group at the Filipino Community Hall is the legacy left by the pioneer families who help finance and build the hall
 “for the children.”

To fully support this legacy and to give back to the community, **Batang Wapato** is ready to share their talents and ethnic diversity with special interest groups throughout the state of Washington.*

If you would like to have **Batang Wapato** participate in a future program or cultural event, just contact the Director or one of the Advisors. These adults recognize and honor the privileges of being “kids” and commitments are based around their age, school schedules, and their family activities. An upcoming performance is always met with great anticipation and giggling!

Costumes, dance music, a sound system, folk props and the hall for practice sessions are partially funded and supported by FACYV and the Mabuhay Foundation. However, a contribution toward their operating expenses or toward their fundraising projects is graciously accepted.

*With limited funding, travel outside of Yakima Valley is feasible if the hosting group and sponsors can provide transportation and overnight accommodations expenses.



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