

Kwafie Festival

Kwafie Festival

November-January

Kwafie Festival

Kwafie Festival

November-January

The Kwafie Festival is celebrated in Dormaa Ahenkro, Berekum, and Nsuatre in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana to commemorate the bringing of fire to the area, said to have been accomplished by ancestors who emigrated to this region long ago. The celebration lasts about three days and can occur in either November, December, or January. In Dormaa Ahenkro the festival begins with an evening torchlight procession from the palace to the house where the sacred stools are kept. The ancestors are worshipped with libations, then the procession returns to the palace. The next morning everyone gathers at the palace where the chief presides over the "laying of logs," or Nkukuato, in which lower-level officials bring in logs on their shoulders to give the chief. The highest ranking official chooses three logs to begin the fire, which is then used for cooking a ritual meal.

Later in the day an even grander procession carries the ancestral stools to a nearby body of water for ritual purification. Other sacred ceremonies are also performed. Then the final day of the festival is marked by joyous dancing, music, and feasts on the palace grounds.

CONTACTS:

Ghana Embassy

3512 International Dr. N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20008

202-686-4520; fax: 202-686-4527

www.ghanaembassy.org

SOURCES:

FestGhana-1970,
FestGhana-1970, p. 70

p.

70SOURCES: