

Wisdom Keepers Gathering

November 2012-11-27

Projects

- Traditional Sugarbush
- Weaving
- Canoe building
- Basket making
- Beading and Quilting
- Connect the elders to the teachers in schools
 - o Create a common curriculum and code of ethics
 - o Create a mentoring system with the older children to help the younger ones
- Help Jacob write a book, film
- Song and drum workshops
- Building a wigwam
- Teaching respectful way to hunt
- Rediscovery Program
 - o 2 weeks full immersion in the forest lead by elders, incorporate talking circle, trapping, fishing and Vision Quest
- Dream catchers
- Dying of textiles
- Stone painting

- Traditional uses of horses.... riding, Travois,.... week long camps learning to care for them, power symbol and Vision ride (blindfolded to awaken the senses)
- Traditional uses of dogs and how they fit into the community....caring and loving them
- Flash Mob
 - o Coming together in various places with drums, flutes and signing....giving out info on saving the forest.
 - o Co-ordinate to have several take place simultaneously to draw the light to the plight of trees, water and animals
 - o Forum to awaken the senses

Report from the KNOWLEDGE CIRCLE:

WALK OUR TALK: Within ourselves and the circle: how are you behaving outside the community?

A CODE OF ETHICS: For the good of the community: this is what makes who we are in our community and within the circle. This is how the community recognizes us – not what we call ourselves or claim to be.

KEEPERS OF THE SACRED KNOWLEDGE

Circle for all: all circle members have a commitment & responsibility to each other and the circle

1. Code of Ethics: Commitment & 7 Grandfather Teachings
Honesty, Truth, Humility, Love Wisdom, Courage, Bravery
2. Commit to getting the teachings and follow through
3. Circle: Share our teachings for the good of the community.

- Be part of the circle, share what you are doing so all know what your ability, knowledge, talents are.
4. Recognize limits and know when to say No: pass on people with questions and requests to someone who can help them.
 5. Forgiveness: admit mistakes – forgive=don't do the action again
 6. Be consistent, reliable dependable & follow teachings. Know when to take it slow, don't rush
 7. Pick one elder and accept and work with the answer and guidance they give and follow through with the commitment. Accept, Don't shop around!
 8. Appropriate conduct of circle members towards to each other and all of the community.
 9. Use traditional words for ceremony and sacred tools etc.
 10. Governance of Circle members by other members. Be supportive, considerate, respectful, loving, kind - Need to have bravery and courage to address real issues,
 11. Impartial Mediators: Circle of Elders from each direction/ culture who know and live by traditional law and 7 GF teachings. Also gives us the ability to direct people to these elders. All must have an elder
 12. Don't minimize traditional knowledge or take shortcuts
 13. Sobriety: purity of self
 14. How does a child know you have the rights and wisdom to teach them?
 15. Elders Status: Community must recognize you, You cannot self appoint yourself
 16. Discuss any issues in person, not on the Internet!
 17. No criticism of others, no gossiping or backstabbing. Have the ability to bring mistakes or upsetting words or behaviors kindly & gently to others, find solutions.
 18. Respect
 19. Reputation & Integrity: The culture defends itself,
 20. We have nothing to hide and everything to protect

21. By following the code of ethics and basic protocols and respect all others you'll never embarrass yourself or your elders (women wear skirts from the moment the sacred fire is lit to the end. etc)
22. Credentials: the circle & community is multicultural there is a diverse spectrum of each person's teachings. All a bit different but with basic sameness
23. Define what the men and women's teachings are. Men do men's teachings; women do women's teachings.
(Can't teach what you don't know, Can't be what you're not.)
24. Define what these protocols are as a circle and all agree upon them.
25. Balance
26. For the good of the Community
27. Healing Circle of community members: that we can call upon for help, discussion, healing

Report from the Organization and planning work group

(to prepare for an event, workshop, project or festival)

1- First, define your objectives: write a vision statement.

This will be your base for advertising, raising awareness and orienting the planning of your event.

2- Then determine the site, the date, and time the event will take place and target your age group.

3- Determine what you will need: food, materials, advertising, entertainment, accommodations, coordinating, helpers, how many volunteers, permits from the city, tents for shade, amount of money, etc.

- a) Administrative
- b) Accommodation
- c) Material

4- Personnel needed:

a. it is good to form committees of responsible persons for different aspects of the gathering.

- i. qualification
- ii. staff

b. Also, determine what the sacred ceremonies will be and who will be responsible of leading them.

5- The funding is important. There are grants available from government. It is wise to have knowledgeable persons or person in your group to look into this aspect. You can also ask private groups or organizations who have the same goals and could sponsor the event. By integrating other groups with related interest to your event, it makes it livelier and opens up to the community.

6- It is good to prepare an agenda. Have an idea of the order of the different activities and ceremonies.

7- It is important in every event that you look at safety. Who is responsible? Do you have shelter? Do you have communication? Do you have a first aid kit? Is your site secure? Be mindful with children near the fire and axes/knives. Have a waiver signed. It was suggested to not use internal traditional medicines in case of allergies. External traditional medicines can be used, on a small part of the body first (to check if there is an allergic reaction).

8- You need to know what you provide and what the participants need to bring. Equipment, chair, lunch, extra socks, tent, etc., depending on your event (and specify that in the promotion of the event).

9- A back up plan is always handy (ie: if it rains): shelter & events, material.

10- To attract people out of the big city into the woods, put some fun in the program! We want to make them fall in love with our forests. When we love something, we automatically have the instinct and desire to protect it! (interactive programs)

11- The group used the example of a maple syrup outing with children.

Final product on site/in sight for introduction.

In this example you need material like buckets, wood, shelter, food, etc. In one day you will not have time to collect the sap, boil it and bottle it before they leave. You need to think of having the final product ready for the kids to take home (which means start boiling some sap at 5am). You also need workers or personnel. Who is going to do what? It is important to provide people with expertise to teach or do ceremonies, someone who is knowledgeable of the protocol and capable of leading a group.

Academic material accessible. In a workshop it is good to integrate many subjects. Ecology, mathematics, and hands on experience. Like asking the number of trees it took to fill the bucket. How many buckets of sap to make a liter of syrup? Why is the sap running? What are the good conditions for making the sap run? Talk about the environment. During lunch and while their sap is boiling, you can tell legends, stories and traditional teaching.

Bibliography on site. When organizing an event or workshop for the kids it is good to prepare the kids in advance with suggested reading material for reference. It is also recommended to have a follow up with questions about what they liked and what they did not. (to prepare future events)

Interactive activity program: When doing a workshop for kids, if the parents are present you do not need to separate the children/adults in age group. The parents will explain what the little one did not grasp. The children will feel more secure this way.

12- Teaching of medicine properties of the maple tree and other trees from Elders, professional.

Subject relating to workshop:

The maple tree is called the grandmother of trees because it gives sweets to the young ones.

It is the first one to give sap.

The next one is the yellow birch.

Then the white birch can be cut/tapped. It's sap, when boiled down to a good thickness is mixed with the maple syrup to prevent it from molding. This way you can keep it all summer/year.

The next one is the poplar. You have to collect the sap before the pollen falls in the water.

This sap is a good cleanser.

You can collect these saps one after the other. Starting in spring and ending at the end of summer.