

Cercle Sacré Anishinabe Sacred Circle

Humility, Honesty, Courage, Truth, Love, Respect, Wisdom

The Bear Bundle Project

The accompaniment

Men are working with the grandfathers, the uncles and the volunteers; there is a climate of respect for others that promotes communication and allows constructive exchanges that gives them a challenge and encourage personal growth. All this takes place in an environment conducive to questioning, discussion and decision-making, by the participants, aiming at a renewed perception of their situation and, ultimately, an improvement in their quality of life. Thus, the activities are incidental; the main thing lies in what men learn about themselves by taking action and gaining an introspective look at what they have accomplished. For us, the purpose of the activities must be clear: to give priority to the accompaniment, before, during and after the activities, and to work with what the accomplishment will have provoke in the participants.

The intergenerational approach

Currently, in our society, whether first nations communities or other communities, regardless of nationality, there is a gap between young men and elders; few bridges allow them to meet. At *Anishinabe Sacred Circle* we try to bring generations together, the team of guidance counselors and volunteers is made up of young adults and elders, which allows us to exploit each other's strengths in order to contribute in a unique way to the participants' journey. On one hand, we find the dynamism that engages men towards concrete actions and on the other hand, the slowness, which reflects a comforting presence of a grandmother or grandfather, this joint work is reassuring to participants. So, men can get what they need from each worker. In our work with young men, we try to establish a frank and reciprocal dialogue between generations.

Objectives

1. Develop a new pedagogy, focused on voice, respect, dignity and courage;
2. Accompanying men to overcome their difficulties in all areas of their lives;
3. To equip men to find their place in today's society.

how?

-  Allowing men to express themselves freely in a context conducive to discussion;
-  In initiating men to different aspects of first nation culture such as rites of passage;
-  By developing tools to help men get to know themselves better and to regain their identity;
-  In creating bonds of solidarity and mutual aid

This program is as well suited for young men as it is for more mature men!