



Fathers of Tradition

for Native American Fathers in Prison

Purpose: *A Native American Curriculum for Developing Effective Fathering Skills*



Objectives of the Fathers of Tradition Program:

- ◆ Develop an awareness of the sacredness of the role of fathers
- ◆ Teach men to be aware of the characteristics of healthy fathering
- ◆ Emphasize the role of traditional values and culture for fathers
- ◆ Introduce the Talking Circles as a healing and teaching process.
- ◆ Provide a framework and structure for creating Fathers of Tradition
- ◆ Introduce skills for effective fathering.

How the Program Works:

This is a grassroots program. That means it can be implemented by Native American men who are interested in becoming healthy fathers and who are interested in helping other men become healthy fathers. It can be set up in community centers, family services centers, churches, local neighborhood centers, in homes, in prisons, in treatment centers, or half-way houses. The curriculum is designed around principles and teachings of the Elders from a variety of Native American communities. For instance, The Seven Philosophies were introduced at the Gathering of the Native American Men held in the Pike National Forest, in Colorado, May 31, June 1-2, 1996. We are very grateful to them for their wisdom and their assistance.



Three day training

Helpful for developing a group of fathers who want to start community circles using the Fathers of Tradition curriculum. Please contact Wellbriety for Prisons. at 1-866-461-9194 for information about bringing the training to your community.

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The Fathers of Tradition for Fathers in Prison Kit Contains:

Facilitator Instructions (copies also included on a CD for easy duplication)

Workbook: Seven Philosophies for Native American Men (copies also on CD)

4DVDs

How to Implement Talking Circles (DVD)

Making Relatives (DVD)

Cycle of Life (DVD)

Sacred Hoop Journeys (DVD)

To schedule the Fathers of Tradition for Men in Prison or at the re-entry center for your facility, please contact Blaine (Woody) Wood at Wellbriety For Prisons Inc. (info@wellbrietyforprison.org or 1-866-461-9194).

Sessions for the Three Day Facilitator Training:

Objectives:

- ◆ Equip facilitators to lead the Fathers of Tradition Circles .
- ◆ Introduce facilitation procedures
- ◆ Explain the use of each of the components of the Fathers of Tradition Kits
- ◆ Train facilitators to implement talking circles

Opening Ceremony

Overview of the Wellbriety Movement (and Sacred Hoop Journeys video)

Overview of the curriculum materials

Significance of Seven Philosophies

Healing Forest Model and the Four Laws

How to recruit participants (posters)

Importance of the Five Promises

Implementing Talking Circles (video) and practice

Cycle of Life (video) and discussion

Effective Fathering Skills (Cycle of Life)

Using the video tapes in the sessions

Creating a Lesson Plan (Using the materials)

How to facilitate the training

Presenting the Lesson

Reconnecting Fathers (Making Relatives video)

Using the website resources

Evaluation and Sustainability

Closing Ceremony

