

Grandmother Teachings – Coming of Age Ceremonies

Young Women's rites of passage

A NEW BEGINNING, FOR A NEW GENERATION OF WOMEN



Since the beginning, our People, The Indigenous People of Turtle Island have celebrated, honored and welcomed the child into adulthood.

It is with these thoughts and out of our love for the children, we are calling all young women to come and be in a sacred and teaching lodge - *Mikinaak Kinamagamik* - The Turtle Lodge.

Young women are invited to hear, share and experience the ways (Teachings - *Kakiikwenun*) of how to honor and carry oneself as a Woman. This will be a time for all Women to recognize and

understand the sacredness of woman.

This rites of passage event is born out of the *Annual Igniting the Fire – The Sacred Gathering* held each year at the Sacred Site of *Manitou Api*. It is out of the *Igniting the Fire – The Sacred Gathering* that the Elders have confirmed that the new life has arrived and that it our responsibility to pass traditional Indigenous teachings onto the younger generation and generations to come.

It is time for Women to claim and embrace their rightful positions of honor and responsibility in walking with and leading all of our people – men, women and children – back to our sacred way of life.

Our Elders, both women and men, have kept the knowledge and ceremonies of these rites of passage and now want to share these with all people. These ceremonies are our way of life and have always been here to help us to remain on the path that our Great Creator set out for us. That path is to be the honorable and sacred beings that the Creator meant each of us to be.

We are holding this gathering from May 26 to May 30, 2018 at the Turtle Lodge located in Sagkeeng First Nation, Manitoba. This will be led, supported, guided and directed by the grandmothers who will be supported by other Elders and mentors.

Each woman is responsible for her travel and *is to make an offering* to this gathering to support the teachings and vision being shared with them.

Contact: turtlelodge@mts.net



INFORMATION PACKAGE

GRANDMOTHER TEACHINGS ON COMING OF AGE ~ YOUNG WOMEN'S RITES OF PASSAGE

The Grandmother Teachings on Coming of Age ~ Young Women's Rites of Passage ~ are taking place at Turtle Lodge from May 26 (6 pm) until May 30. Directions to Turtle Lodge are at www.turtlelodge.org/about.

Who Can Attend

Any women who have reached their moon time (first menses) or young girls just about to have their first menses are invited to attend. Adult women who have not yet experienced their rites of passage are also invited to attend.

Priority is given to younger girls who have recently started their moon time.

All women under the age of 18 applying must be accompanied by an Adult Mentor/Chaperone – e.g. their mother, grandmother or care worker. Adult Mentors/Chaperones are expected to stay with the young women at the Turtle Lodge for the whole week. Adult Mentor/Chaperone responsibilities are stated below. Women who are pregnant or who have small babies are welcome to come and bring their child, however they need to ensure that they will be responsible for their child during the program.

Adult Mentors/Chaperones

Each young woman under age 18 must be accompanied for the whole week-long program by an Adult Mentor/Chaperone, preferably a woman. The ideal situation is a young woman accompanied by her mother or grandmother. If there are many young women in care (e.g. Child & Family Services) applying for Makoose Ka Win, there needs to be at least one care worker for every two women under age 18.

Adult Mentor/Chaperones are expected to be someone who will commit to the ongoing mentoring of the young person after the Grandmother Teachings on Coming of Age. During the Grandmother Teachings on Coming of Age they are asked to spend time with the young woman to connect with her, so that she will have someone that she can come and talk to throughout the year.

Food and Lodging

All women and girls are expected to stay at the Turtle Lodge for the whole duration, and sleep either inside the Turtle Lodge or camp outside. You would need to bring your own bedding, foams and camping gear. We will be having a Potluck Feast the first evening, May 26, at 6 pm – please bring a prepared dish to share with

everyone. As part of the program, girls will be preparing all the meals in shifts – we will send more information on what food ingredients to bring to support the gathering by May 1.

Fasting

Some women may choose to fast. This is an option for those who wish to do so. Be aware that food will be consumed and cooked as part of the Grandmother Teachings.

Codes of Conduct

Women will respect the sacredness of the Turtle Lodge and all that enter.

Women will wear long skirts.

Women will attend all ceremonies, teachings and activities. If they choose not to go into the Sweat Lodge, they can stay at the Sacred Fire. Women on their moon time are asked to refrain from participating in certain ceremonies (this will be explained by the Grandmothers).

Women will make supper some evenings, with the help of mentors.

Women will refrain from drug or alcohol use at least 4 days before and during the gathering.

Women will refrain from profanity.

Women will refrain from intimate relationships during ceremony.

Women will stay on the Turtle Lodge grounds during the whole gathering.

Women will sleep inside the Turtle Lodge (need to bring their own bedding).

Women will be permitted to use cell phones, blackberries, etc. during designated hours only.

What to Bring – Will be Updated by May 1, 2018

- ☐ Food – you will be notified by May 1 what ingredients are needed to help contribute to the meals
- ☐ Any Sacred items that you have and want to bring
- ☐ Long skirt
- ☐ Nightgown or another long skirt for Sweat Lodges
- ☐ Tobacco for offerings
- ☐ Cloth for Tobacco Ties/offerings – minimum 1 m each of red, green, blue and white (i.e. broadcloth)
- ☐ Plate, cup, bowl, utensils
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Bedding including foam or other mattress (Women will be sleeping inside the Turtle Lodge)
- ☐ Toiletries and personal items
- ☐ Towels (2) (Showers will be available, plus one towel for Sweat Lodges)
- ☐ Pens/pencils & notebook for journaling
- ☐ Food to contribute to the traditional meals (uncooked – we will be preparing it on the Sacred Fire)
- ☐ Material to make a skirt and material for a moss bag (cloth and lace, with quilt batting)
- ☐ Sewing machine (if you have one – to lend for the gathering)
- ☐ Your Offering (Donation to help cover our costs of the gathering)