

Makoose Ka Win

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 **June 1 to 5, 2012** 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

MAKOOSE KA WIN ~ YOUNG WOMEN'S RITES OF PASSAGE

This Information Package is for Makoose Ka Win ~ Young Women's Rites of Passage, taking place at Turtle Lodge from **June 1-5, 2012**. Please read through thoroughly before applying to ensure that you can meet the requirements of the program.

Who Should Come

Any women who have reached their moon time (first menses) or young girls just about to have their first menses are invited. We can accommodate 50 young women plus their Mentors.

Adult women who have not yet experienced their rites of passage are also invited to apply – a smaller number of places may be reserved for them.

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

All women under the age of 18 attending 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 apply and bring their child, however they need to state how they will ensure that they will be responsible for their child during the program.

Deadline

A maximum of 50 girls/women (this number does not include the Adult Mentors/Chaperones) will be accommodated in this spring's program. Please send this form in by March 1, 2012. You will be notified by March 15, 2011 if you have been accepted ☺

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 Makoose Ka Win. During Makoose Ka Win 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.

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

- 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
- Sewing machine (if you have one – to lend for the gathering)
- Your Offering (Donation to help cover costs of Makoose Ka Win)



SIGN UP FORM ~ MAKOOSE KA WIN ~ YOUNG WOMEN'S RITES OF PASSAGE

ATTENDEE Information

APPLICANT'S NAME _____

Please indicate if applicant will be bringing a newborn baby. If so a separate application must be filled out for the baby and an additional page attached indicating how the mother plans to take responsibility for her baby while camping at the Turtle Lodge.

AGE _____ DATE OF BIRTH (YY-MM-DD) _____ PHONE # _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ ALLERGIES _____

MEDICAL NUMBERS (e.g. Manitoba Health #/PHIN) _____

MEDICAL ISSUES _____

(Note: a medical doctor will be on site for the entire duration)

Adult Mentor/Chaperone Information (Please fill in only if applicant under 18 years)

ADULT MENTOR/CHAPERONE'S NAME _____

CHAPERONE'S DOB (YY-MM-DD) _____ PHONE /MOBILE #s _____

CHAPERONE ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ ALLERGIES _____

MEDICAL NUMBERS (e.g. Manitoba Health #/PHIN) _____

MEDICAL ISSUES _____

WILL THE ADULT MENTOR/CHAPERONE BE AVAILABLE FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK? (mandatory) _____

WILL THE ADULT MENTOR/CHAPERONE BE AVAILABLE TO THE YOUNG WOMAN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR ONGOING MENTORSHIP & SUPPORT? _____

Applicant Question: Why do you want to participate in Makoose Ka Win? (May attach more pages)

If accepted, attendees will be required to provide medical clearance and a signed waiver before entering Makoose Ka Win. (Forms will be provided upon acceptance). Please email form to turtlelodge@mts.net, fax it to 204-367-1403 or mail to PO Box 1267, Pine Falls, MB R0E 1M0 Canada.