

# Fire Circle Considerations

*Adapted from contributions by Two Feathers, J. Levin, Magnus, Spinner and Michael Wall*

Let us envision co-creating a safe, magical experience for everyone in the Fire Circle ... In support of this vision, we offer these conventions and considerations:

The area contained by the tiki torches and prayer flags is Sacred Ground. Please remember that people are focusing on Magical work in progress. With considerate intention, and avoiding distraction, we take casual conversation outside and away from the Circle, if they are needed at all.

At the Gateway to the Fire Circle , we may smudge one another or ourselves with sage smoke as a purification rite. All are invited to breathe, ground, center, and be aware that we are entering Sacred Space each time we step through the Gate

The Sacred Fire receives material for transformation. We feed the fire with consciousness and intention and wood (No trash at any time)

Please contribute to the Food Altar each night, from which we may nourish each other and ourselves throughout the night. PLEASE, resist the temptation to visit the fire circle after dark, unless you are on the fire team and there to light it. Bring anything you have forgotten to deliver there to the meal tent and place in the wheelbarrow by 11.45pm

All who wish to give or receive healing energy are invited to gather in the Healing Tent on one side of the Circle

The seats within the Circle are for use when making music. At other times, please move instruments aside and make room for other players to sit. Please ask before using someone else's drums or instruments. Please remove rings before playing, to prevent blistered hands or damage to the drum-head. Feel free to play the instruments on the Music Altar. Please return them once finished. Our Circle honors creative and sonic diversity. Please allow opportunities for quieter musical instruments to shine... may we also be blessed with silences . All are encouraged to share songs, poems, visions, experiences, and chants around the Fire .

Sacraments, smokable or drinkable, stay outside the Sacred Circle at all times, and are best left at home.

The flow of energy moves around the fire. During moments when we wish to be still, we may pause near the outer edge of the Circle, just outside of the ring of tikis, taking care to avoid standing between the drummers and the fire. Please also be aware of the movements of others around the fire and do your best to avoid blocking them- this can very easily disrupt their trance. Many dancers find electronic visual stimulation or artificial light sources distracting. Please avoid wearing or using light toys or glow sticks in the fire circle ritual areas.

Everyone is empowered, and encouraged, to offer food and water to the drummers and dancers, smudge at the Gate, and otherwise care for the space and each other in the Fire Circle

Have fun, play to your heart's content, and remember that you are in a Circle of Community. Listen, watch, feel ...and listen. Let your love show on your face. If you find yourself unhappy, embrace and feel that, but also do not avoid happiness and a smile.

When, over the course of the evening, our minds begin to drift and the brilliance begins to fade, a deep kind of work begins. In order to stay present and engaged, it is helpful to remember that we are each other's inspiration. To find and renew this inspiration we need only to discover and rediscover the mysteries within our relationships. We create and explore relationship through our artful interactions in the circle

### **We have NO STAFF:**

- no one will monitor you, assess your performance, nor provide what you desire
- If you want a song, teach it to someone, or seek quiet support at the circle to start it
- if you want a procession/theme/creative event or ritual opening closing, ...offer it
- If you want a rangoli, help design and make it
- If something is 'out" , please restock it
- If there is a meeting, attend it and contribute your thoughts and ideas
- If you are inexperienced, **say so** and ask for a mentor on your team
- if you are inexperienced know your ideas, creativity, and contributions are welcome
- if you are afraid of doing something 'wrong' , get over it and either ask or do it anyway!
- There are no excuses needed, it is what it is, you are who you are.
- Offer service to this community, and you will know love
- Say what is on your mind, else how can we know!
- You are qualified for any task, and your performance will be superb
- Check, and sign up for circle caller before each meal, and if unfilled take the job.
- Circle up before anyone leaves a meal and help organize meal cleanup / dishes

## Fire Circle Etiquette – the short list

- Avoid any casual conversation, ... heck avoid any conversation
- Be sensitive to unwanted intrusions into another's head or physical space
- Offer sustenance to all not within the crucible, but stay outside the crucible boundaries
- No more than six at the root fire, please rotate away from it so others have a chance
- Don't touch people in movement or trance
- Lead or follow dancers/spinners/movers when trance is entrained with focused rattling
- Rattle with intent, and project containing energy when tylering, but not in another's face
- Limit circle exiting, each loss is felt and disturbs you and others!
- Don't bang the porta doors, and smudge upon entering/exiting the circle
- Allow for rhythm, song, words, and silence ...variety, not dominance
- Bring what you can't carry to the circle in the procession to the circle **before dark**, or bring it to the meal tent by 11.45pm and **let the fire team deliver it!**
- Resist the urge to visit the circle after dark!
- Bring a cup for tea and leave near the Root Fire
- Always enter/leave through the West gate - night or day
- Smudge with sensitivity and restraint
- Reserve healing or intervention in another's experience to those who feel competent
- When individuals need healing or guiding attention, maintain the overall intent of the circle. It is important the energy building continue
- Add a prayer flag at least once each night
- Use peripheral vision in service, dancing, trancing. Stretch your boundaries!
- Only designated Fire team should enter the circle after 11pm or before procession
- Don't dominate any one area, we need you everywhere!

### Tobacco etiquette:

- Do not use within the main circle either day or night
- Do not use under dining tent, upwind from it, or within twenty feet.
- If in doubt, ask your neighbors, even camping and outside in 'nature'.
- DO use nicotine gum/patch
- Be at least ten feet past the porta at the fire circle
- Know the loss of your energy, whenever you are separated, is felt by everyone!