

Circle Keepers Pathway to Learning Course Calendar

FEBRUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Orientation	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Part 1	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Part 1 Spiritual – The Sacred Components, Intentions and Tools of Circle

MARCH 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Part 2	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Part 2 Emotional – Fostering Emotional Safety in the Circle

APRIL 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Part 3	27	28	29	30	

Part 3 Physical – Implementing the Key Steps of a Talking Circle

May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/ 30	24/ 31	25	26	27	28	29

June 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	May 31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Part 4	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Part 4 Mental – Reflecting Back on My Circle Process and Planning Follow-up



Circle Keepers Pathway to Learning Course Calendar

All Sessions at Haa Shagóon Hídi – Clan Room

Orientation 2 – February 15th, 2021 9:30 – 12:00

Part 1 Spiritual - The Sacred Components, Intentions and Tools of Circle *February 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 (8:30 – 4:30)*

Spiritual Indigenous communities understand the Circle through the lens of spirit and Creator. The Circle represents the belief that we are all sacred and connected through Creator. The Talking Stick reminds us that the Circle is a sacred place, and ceremony reminds us that we have entered into a sacred time. Understanding and practicing the Circle means being comfortable and capable operating in this spiritual context. The spiritual nature of the Circle is fundamentally inclusive, and the Circle Keeper needs to be able to explain this to people of any faith or ideology. Further, the Circle Keeper needs to be able to explain and use the key tools of Circle in a way that acknowledges Indigenous spirituality in a respectful way.

Part 2 Emotional - Fostering Emotional Safety in the Circle *March 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 (8:30 – 4:30)*

Indigenous communities have endured decades of severe colonial violence. Violence of any kind is an assault on the dignity of a person. Violence injures people emotionally, and shows up as shame, humiliation, grief and anger. People feel afraid all the time. People who carry severe emotional injuries find ways to protect and defend their injured hearts: Not showing up; not listening; refusing to speak from the heart; hiding; distracting; blaming; pushing others down. Being a Circle Keeper requires an understanding of emotional violence and defendedness, and how to create an environment in which people who are defended against vulnerability can feel safe enough to participate. In addition, Keepers must be able to work with a group to establish and enforce guidelines to prevent people from experiencing any form of emotional violence in the Circle. If the Circle is dominated by emotional violence and defendedness, it can't fulfill its purpose: to build relationships and community.

Part 3 Physical - Implementing the Key Steps of a Talking Circle *April 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 (8:30 – 4:30)*

Armed with a strong grasp of the sacred tools of the Circle and the capacity to foster emotional safety, it is now time for action. It is time to put your undefended heart to work. Talking Circles require movement: picking up the phone, setting up a room, going to see someone, standing up, sitting down, speaking up. It also requires action to address challenges as they emerge. Making a Talking Circle happen requires the Circle Keeper to have a feeling of mastery of the core skills needed. That feeling of confidence and mastery come from practice in a supportive environment.

Practice Circle to be scheduled before Part 4 during the week of May 31, June 1, 2, 3, 4, 2021

Part 4 Mental - Reflecting Back on My Circle Process and Planning Follow-Up *June 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, (8:30 – 4:30)*

Facilitating a Talking Circle requires a person to believe, feel and act. It also requires constant thinking and reflection on what is being done and how people are responding to what is being done, without any judgment or blame. Circle Keepers need to be able to step outside the “moral matrix” and ask themselves: What do I want from participants? What do I plan to do to elicit this response? What did I actually do? How did participants actually respond? What other influences in their social context likely shaped their responses? This is a challenging process because it requires a person to see and take ownership for what they are doing, and to accept and grapple with the real constraints around them.

Tentative Presentation (June 23rd) & Graduation (June 24th) Dates

