



# Fathers and Sons of Tradition

The Elders have told us that we must teach our children to pray and we must teach them respect. The Fathers and Sons of Tradition curriculum is a character education program designed to enable fathers and their sons to learn the traditional teachings, cultural and spiritual practices of their communities together. Through this weekly program, fathers and sons can develop an understanding of traditional values together. Talking Circles enable fathers and sons to share their experiences and learn from each other in a safe environment. In addition, they can practice applying the Seven Philosophies for Native American Men to their everyday lives.

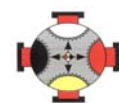
## A Community Program

Fathers and Sons of Tradition sessions can be implemented in local churches, community centers, social services or family services facilities, Boys and Girls Clubs, or as part of the after school programs at local schools. It is best to coordinate this with these organizations so that they can help you with the promotion and recruitment of the fathers and sons.

## A Traditional Healing Approach for Relationships

The Fathers and Sons of Tradition would also work well for healing relationships. (If fathers are not available, a male mentor or other adult male relative would be appropriate). There are several benefits for this approach:

- ◆ This would allow the adult men to learn how they might mentor the boys effectively.
- ◆ It would also be an excellent opportunity for fathers who have been separated from their sons as a result of treatment, divorce, or incarceration, to get reacquainted and to develop new parenting skills.
- ◆ Having the father or other adult mentor there will also help promote the benefits of the program in the community.
- ◆ The adult mentors will also learn how they can enhance their own connections to their culture and traditions.
- ◆ These individuals also may participate as co-leaders, resource people, and help with other aspects of the program such as chaperoning on field trips or transporting boys to community events.
- ◆ The boys would have the opportunity for more reinforcement between the sessions.
- ◆ The responsiveness and attention of the boys might be more focused with an individual mentor at each session.





**Caring Adults,  
Parents, and Grandparents are  
the number one prevention  
resource against alcohol and  
substance abuse!**

