



TAKOJA NIWICIYAPE

SESSION FOURTEEN: MITAKUYE OYASIN



MITAKUYE OYASIN [*Mee-tah'koo-yay O-yah'seen*] - **We Are All Related (Celebration Feast)**: This session will begin with a feast and focus on honoring families for completing the 14-week prevention program. This *wopida* should include participant's *tiyospaye*, friends, support systems within the community, and program staff. Families will enjoy a slide show of their participation throughout the program (that will include a review of the concepts learned along with the Twelve Oyate Values), write a personal mission statement, and hear from a special guest speaker (tribal leader). Families will be invited to follow through with and review their learnings and commitments regularly. In the breakout segment, youth will complete the "My Family Values" activity (including a review of their Oyate Values) and revisit the traditional story of "*The Legend of the White Buffalo Woman*." Parents will briefly review parenting topics covered throughout the program and participate in parental goal setting to incorporate those concepts into their personal and family's lives after the program. At the conclusion of the breakout segment, parents and youth will complete a post test. Families will then be honored and recognized for participation in, commitment to, and completion of the program through gifts and program certificates.

OYATE VALUES-A Final thought on the Twelve Oyate Values from "The Lakota Way"...

"Life goes on, it continues to cycle. The sun comes up each morning and with it comes new opportunity, new hope. No matter what kind of mess I've made of the day before, no matter what victories I've celebrated, each new day is a chance to set the record straight, atone for a mistake, achieve another victory, and take another step on my journey. Each new day is an *inikagapi*, a chance to be renewed and reborn-another opportunity to be part of the circle that is life, knowing that it is a journey, not a race, and that one doesn't travel it alone." ("*The Lakota Way*" *Joseph Marshall III, p.229*)

OBJECTIVES:

1. Participate in a special celebration of thanksgiving
2. Provide recognition for all participants, family members, and staff
3. Gain a sense of accomplishment for completing the program
5. Promote commitment to cultural values and a good way of life
6. Review each session's objectives and long term investment
7. Explore and come to understand the following cultural and family-based themes:
 - Family
 - Traditions
 - Community
 - Spirituality