

The Circle Process

The circle is a way of talking together in which all of us.....

- are respected and treated equally
- have the opportunity to speak without interruption
- tell our own stories
- speak and listen in a deeper, more heartfelt way

Values underlying circles.....

- mutual concern and respect
- consensual decision-making
- appreciation of differences
- voluntary direct participation
- interconnectedness
- focus on interests & meaning
- shared responsibility
- personal accountability
- equal opportunity
- personal & community values
- wholistic approach
- flexibility

Circles can be used to

- achieve greater mutual understanding
- develop a spirit of cooperation and collaborative skills
- work through differences, difficult issues, painful experiences
- make decisions together, building consensus
- repair, heal, and build relationships and a sense of community
- develop agreements that bring resolution and closure
- plan for the future
- ritualize or symbolize connections, transitions, significant change