

TRADITIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN VALUES

1. Share. Honor in giving. Suspicious of those with too much.
2. Cooperate. Help each other. Work together.
3. Passive. Let others dominate.
4. Quiet. Say what is necessary. Enjoy silent companionship. Stay in background.
5. Time is here. Be patient. Enjoy life.
6. Enjoy today; it is all we have. Live now.
7. Enjoy leisure. Depend on nature and use what is available.
8. Allow time for thought.
9. Respect for wisdom of the elderly.
10. Work for survival.
11. Deep sense of humor. See humor in life.
12. Close ties to entire extended family including many relatives.
13. Live in harmony with nature.
14. Spirituality.
15. Act according to what feels right.
16. Health results from harmony with nature.
17. Great respect for ceremonials and traditions.
18. Looking in eye means aggression or anger. Looking down is a sign of respect.
19. Respect for bravery, especially if for group benefit.
20. Little evidence of emotion in public.
-- from *Teaching the Native American* by Hap Gilliland, 1988
21. Success is measured by the kind of person you are and how you relate to others.
22. There is no difference between people in this life or the next.

23. People must share. It is wrong to hoard wealth.
23. Leaders lead by example. A chief is an advisor and counselor, never a ruler or commander.
24. Teach children by example. Don't use corporal punishment.
25. Don't show your ignorance by "showing off" in public.
-- Adapted from Reuben Snake. "Some Basic Philosophical/Cultural Differences Between Winnebagoes or Sioux and Anglo-Saxons"
26. Value cooperation over competition.
27. Consider the needs of the group over the needs of the individual.
28. Be modest.
29. Respect individual autonomy.
30. Do not place a high value on the accumulation of things.
31. Ideas and behaviors are conveyed through behavior and a minimum amount of talk is desired.
32. Observe and listen.
33. Value age and the wisdom that comes from age and experience. Elders are highly prized and utilized.
34. Be in harmony with nature.
35. A large network of family provides security and support.
— Adapted from paper "Indian Values - Educational Response"
Vince Beyl, Indian Education Director, District #31
Dave Bucher, Curriculum Specialist
36. Retain as much of cultural heritage as possible.
37. People and services are valued over goods. The importance of a person is not defined by the goods he/she has.
38. Generosity is a value ranked above maintaining goods to preserve own comfort.
40. What is old and traditional is more valuable than something new.