

What are Peace Circles

A process that brings together individuals who share a set of values to have an honest exchange about issues and experiences. Participants benefit from the collective wisdom of everyone in the circle.

Circles can be used to:

- Build relationships
- Resolve conflict
- Support Learning
- Promote healing
- Facilitate decision-making
- Repair a wrong

How the Circle process works

- Everyone is an equal participant whose voice and opinions are valued
- Everyone agrees to common guidelines such as honesty, confidentiality, respectfulness, supportiveness and consensus decision-making
- Everyone gets a chance to talk and be heard without interruption
- Participants recognize the importance of sharing with others by telling their own personal stories
- Wisdom is created through this circle process

What a Circle must have

- An agreed upon *purpose*, i.e. community building, celebration or problem solving, etc.
- A Facilitator (*Keeper*) who is an equal participant and ensures that the Circle is a safe space
- A Talking Piece that allows each person to speak one at a time
- A Centerpiece that relates to any theme about the interconnectedness of each other
- An Opening and a Closing designation

To learn more:
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