

Guiding Ojibwe Culture Principles & Values

The Red Lake Ojibwe follows the greater Anishinaabe philosophy of life and living. According to this philosophy and view of the world, humans did not create or weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

As a result of this philosophy, kinship among all of creation, not the mastery of our relatives (other humans, animals, plants, etc.) is vital to harmonious living. At the Red Lake Nation College, we will use, follow, encourage and support following the below listed Ojibwe Culture Principles & Values.

If we all follow these seven Ojibwe principles & values, this will lead to a more harmonious and happier life:

1. Dabasendizowin (Humility)

- *To be modest in one's actions*
- *To demonstrate sensitivity to others*
- *To recognize oneself as a sacred and equal part of the Creation*
- *To develop and practice good listening and observation skills*

2. Debwewin (Truth)

- *To speak the most honestly one can, according to our own perceptions*
- *To be loyal in all our relationships, avoiding hypocrisy*

3. Zoongide'iwin (Courage)

- *To face difficult situations with bravery in spite of our natural fears*
- *To acknowledge one's personal weaknesses and develop the strength to combat them*
- *To develop the ability to take initiative and to speak forthrightly*

4. Gwayakwaadiziwin (Honesty)

- *To maintain truthfulness, sincerity and fairness in all of our individual actions*
- *To possess the ability to manage confidential information*
- *To communicate with others and transmit information fairly and truthfully*
- *To recognize our own strengths and weaknesses and acknowledge the capacity for self-growth and change*

5. Manaaji'idiwin (Respect)

- *To be respectful of the thoughts and ideas of others*
- *To accept cultural, religious and gender differences*
- *To maintain high standards of conduct at all times*
- *To safeguard the dignity, individuality and rights of others*

6. Zaagi'idiwin (Love)

- *To show kindness and compassion toward others*
- *To work cooperatively and harmoniously with others*
- *To demonstrate acceptance and the empowerment of others*
- *To offer hope, encouragement and inspiration to others*

7. Nibwaakaawin (Wisdom)

- *To persist in acquiring knowledge and improving skills*
- *To strive for the accomplishment of goals and dreams*
- *To seek guidance from elders and qualified advisors*
- *To acknowledge the opportunity to learn from others*
- *To practice ethical behavior at all times*
- *To take time to reflect on all our experiences*