**Sundance Protocol**

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The following will provide a few insights that will guide you while you are visiting:

**CEREMONIES ARE NOT FOR THE CONVENIENCE OR FOR COMFORT OF HUMANS…THESE CEREMONIES ARE FOR PURIFICATION AND HEALING.**

**We pray for the health and happiness of**

**all living things on mother earth.**

**SUNDANCE PROTOCOL**

1**.  Do Not Pass the East Gate**at the arbor.  Do not pass the prayer sticks within the dance arbor.  You will see the prayer sticks around the entire circumference of the circle in the colors of yellow, red, black and white with tobacco ties attached. This is the sundance circle and only sun-dancers are to enter until healing day on Saturday when instructions will be given.

2.  **NO** alcohol, drugs, radios, cameras, or other recording devices.  Any of the above devices will be confiscated and you will be asked to leave for breaking a very important camp rule. Everyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs need to stay away.

3. Respect our ceremony and be a peace. Please leave any judgments, attitudes, personal conflicts, and politics at the gate—with humility, walk into this sacred ceremony.

4. During the Sundance appropriate attire is required at the arbor.  Women will  wear a skirt or shawl while at the arbor or in the sundance camp. Men should wear long pants. If you do not have a skirt or shawl, please ask at the kitchen—we may be able to find one for you.  Please also refrain from wearing jewelry, shoes (unless health reasons require you to wear shoes), glasses and sunglasses at the dance arbor. Elders may wear moccasins. A good rule is if the sun-dancers are standing, you should be standing too. Please no sun glasses.

5.  On Tree Day, everyone is invited to put prayer ties and flags on the Tree. Prayer ties are long lengths of cloth with a tobacco bundle tied on one corner and attached to the tree and contain all your prayers.

6.  On Wednesday/Tree Day all Sun dancers and supporters should gather at the sacred fire following the feast for the Tree.  After the circle at the fire all Sun dancers are required to remain in the Sun dancers’ camp and must not have contact with anyone who is not a Sundancer until the Sundance ceremony is completed on Sunday. This is a time of quiet meditation and prayer and not visiting.

7.  All Sundancers and supporters are asked to be up and at the arbor at daybreak.

8.  **SUNDANCERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO SMOKE OR CHEW TOBACCO** until after retiring for the day.  Supporters must also refrain from smoking at the Sundance arbor out of respect for the dancers.

9.  Supporters must be respectful of the 4 day fast the dancers undertake during the Sundance.  DO NOT BRING food or drinks to the arbor.

10.  At the arbor, supporters and guests will observe with reverence.  This is not the time for socializing, waving, or talking with dancers.  Disruptive or distracting behavior is prohibited.

11.  All able-bodied supporters should remain standing while the Sun dancers are dancing.

12.  While at the Sundance or during sweat lodge ceremonies, it is easy to let your emotions and feelings wander.  Please keep all negative feelings in control.  Refrain from arguments and gossip.

13. Refrain from establishing sexual relationships. Spirituality and sexuality can feel very similar.  So, keep your focus on the ceremony, tree, and spirit.

14.  This Sundance is self-supporting.  It is a tremendous financial responsibility to put this gathering together.  It is appropriate to give gifts of food, clothing, blankets, and monetary donations are always welcome.  Please give all donations to the head cook in the camp kitchen.

14.  Around the camp, elders will be in control.  You may be asked to help out in the general camp area.  These duties may include taking care of the sacred fire, hauling water, security, wood splitting, etc.  We appreciate all your help!!!

15.  Please keep your camp area clean.  Before leaving, fill in fire pits or stake holes and bag up all trash.

16.  **USE WATER SPARINGLY!**Do not throw water on the ground or let your children play with water.  Water is the giver of all life and is very sacred.

**Nikonaa Ganaa!** **Mitakuye Owasin!**

**(This Sundance Protocol was used at Pipestone Gathering of the Sacred Pipes Sundance-I just retyped it) If you have questions ask a Sundancer, there are other guidelines according to what community is putting on the sundance and any special circumstances will be shared if you ask. Remember the spriit of sharing includes sharing the work, set-up and clean up. Megwetch.**