**Cross-Cultural Protocols in Rites of Passage**

**Assume Goodwill** We enter with a spirit of goodwill. We strive to trust that others are doing the same.

**Historical Context, Healing, and Reconciliation** We acknowledge historical context and historical relationships of peoples & place, recognizing that many cultures have and continue to be subjected to deep violations. This context affects access to power & justice and is embedded in relationships between peoples. We strive to educate ourselves and others about these dynamics, open ourselves to the pain, help sensitize others to it, and contribute to healing and reconciliation.

**The Right to Earth and Spirit** We recognize the rights of all people to deep relationship with Earth & Spirit, and that we all have the right & innate ability to receive information from the more-than-human world.

**Cultural Humility** We commit to a practice of cultural humility and cultural self-awareness... We take responsibility to deepen our understanding of our own cultural and ancestral practices and ritual forms, and those of others. When we share teachings/artifacts from cultures other than our own, we do so with discernment, & provide context...

**Relationship to Place** Both in our home communities and when entering into a new place, we strive to educate ourselves about the land, the historical and contemporary and political context of the peoples of that land, build relationships with the people of that place, and follow local protocols as best we can...

**Addressing and Growing through Conflict** We are committed to ongoing Cross-Cultural relationships, and strive to develop and support mechanisms and processes for working with conflict, reconciliation and forgiveness. We believe that justice and healing are central to each undertaking...

**Sexuality & Gender** We recognize the essential nature of sexuality and gender in the work of rites of passage, and openly explore the dynamics of masculinity, femininity, and queerness in our work together. We recognize that binary thinking is a product of patriarchy and colonization, and seek to bring balance by honoring and making space for all genders inside and outside of this binary...
EXCHANGE OF MONEY/COMMODOIFICATION
Many issues exist around the commodification of spiritual traditions and cultural symbols of indigenous and diasporic peoples. We strive to educate ourselves on these issues, and to act with consciousness and transparency around the exchange of money in our work...

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS AND FREE PRIOR & INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)
We recognize that many aspects of culture, including dress, symbols, ritual and language, may be subject to intellectual property laws. Additionally, some indigenous peoples have their own norms, customs or legal systems associated with the use of their cultural ways. We strive to become aware and abide by these norms, customs and laws...

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES/PERCEPTIONS OF TIME
We strive to become sensitized to different perceptions of time within and between different cultures. We recognize that ceremonial time differs from linear time... We commit to holding a long view of time, which holds in our awareness many generations of ancestors as well as future generations to come.

LEGACY
We honor our teachers and seek blessing to operate alongside of our mentors, teachers and elders in the use of ceremonial and ritual processes. Our work is inherently inter-generational, therefore we seek out participation from all generations. We are accountable to future generations for what we model by what we teach and how we teach it – today.

GRATITUDE, GENEROSITY, AND CELEBRATION
We celebrate, acknowledge, and give thanks for every step toward right relationship.

Youth Passageways helps regenerate healthy passageways into mature adulthood for today’s youth, through in-person and technology-based opportunities for intergenerational, cross-cultural gatherings, where we share practices, build ongoing relationships, and amplify efforts to that they are accessible to all. For more information on educational, consulting, or partnering opportunities, please visit our website or email us today.

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