



HONORING OUR ANCESTORS

Traditional values guided the behavior of leaders. Leaders inspired their people and ensured their survival. One quality of Native leadership is to show appreciation and respect for those that came before us.

- * Spirituality was the center of Native life and all leaders were spiritual.
- * Leaders were generous, kind, and honored all living things.
- * Elders nurtured leaders of future generations.
- * Native leaders were humble and served the community.
- * Leaders were chosen by the people based on their contributions and accomplishments.
- * Different leaders emerged for different reasons, depending on the purpose, task, and situation, on the skills and abilities needed, and for different periods of time - sometimes for a lifetime.
- * The community could simply choose not to recognize leaders or follow him or her anymore.
- * The community could stop acknowledging a leader by simply choosing to not follow him or her.
- * Native leaders led by example rather than by authority or command.
- * Native leaders took their time when making a decision. When they gave their word on a decision it was final.
- * When tribal leaders discussed a matter, they sought agreement and understanding. This process is called consensus.
- * When resolving conflict, Native leaders focused on making peace.