

When the talking piece is passed around, only the one holding it should speak.

**Honor the Talking Piece**

Be trustworthy. The stories and words of others are not to be shared in gossip or backbiting.

Speak the important things that need to be heard, with honesty, courage, & humility.

**What is said in the Circle, stays in the Circle**

**Speak from the heart**



**Remain in the Circle**

**Speak in a good way**

Commit to the Circle until everyone agrees to stop, even if it becomes tense or difficult. Play your part.

Choose your words with care for others. Do not attack or manipulate. Be brief and leave time for others.

**Listen in a good way**

Listen to learn, to understand. Give respectful, interested attention. See things through the speaker's eyes, even if you disagree.

# Circle Guidelines

# Practicing Consultation

(Talking about important or difficult things, in a good way)

*How you can play your part, even if others do not:*

1. **Pause, rather than react, and consciously consider your words and actions;**
2. **Look for the greater good, free of narrow self-interest.**
3. **Let go of the belief that you are right.**
4. **Try first to understand others, and then to be understood.**
5. **Look for the truth, the right way, instead of the way you want things to be.**
6. **Do not keep useful and helpful information to yourself.**
7. **Try not to give offense, or take offense.**
8. **Focus on your own behavior, not the behavior of others.**
9. **Encourage the positive qualities of others, and overlook their faults.**
10. **When a final decision is made, support it fully, even if you have some disagreement with it.**