

Rites of Passage Council



A Coming of Age Initiation for Young Men, Ages 14-18

Asheville, North Carolina

August 10-12

"Father, Oh Father! I hear weeping. Is it my mother I leave in grief? Have courage my son..... In your mother's womb you were born to an individual human life. It was necessary, it was good. But individual human life is not sufficient to itself. It depends upon and is a part of all life. So now another umbilical cord must be broken-- that which binds you to your mother's affections, that which binds you to the individual human life she gave you. For twelve years you have belonged to your lesser mother. Now you belong to your greater mother. And you return to her womb to emerge once again, as a man who knows himself not as an individual but a unit of his tribe and a part of all life which ever surrounds him." Frank Waters, The Man Who Killed the Deer

"Almost every culture throughout history has traditions involving the initiations or rites of passage in the wilderness by which individuals confirm the attainment of new life stations ie: manhood, womanhood, or elder years and other important life decisions. The wonder year, the pilgrimage, the vision quest and the underworld journey are typical of such initiatory experiences. Rites of passage are deeply embedded in mythological consciousness as well-- the fasting prophets of Judeo-Christianity, the questing ancestors of the Aboriginal Dreamtime, the pilgrimages of the Buddha and Mohammed, the medieval knights and their quest for the holy grail, the underworld journey of the great matriarchal deities, and Native Americans such as Crazy Horse, Black Elk and countless others." --*Foster and Little, The Book of the Vision Quest*

Over the ages we have experienced a decline in many of the meaningful rites of passage and initiation practices for our young people. The once sacred and transformative ceremonies and rituals that informed early cultures with a sense of personal vision, community responsibility, and deeply rooted connection to Earth and Spirit have often been replaced by "pseudo initiations" that do not facilitate or support the needed shift in consciousness required to cross the waters of adolescence into adulthood.

In Childhood and Society (1963), Eric Erickson speaks of modern adolescent's need to "self-initiate" himself in order to cope with a culture which inhibits his realization of full ego-identity. Because we do not provide meaningful, and coherent, and challenging adulthood initiation experiences, young people often create and experience their own passage rites. --*Foster and Little, Wilderness Rite of Passage For Youth: Technical Guide to Wilderness Safety (Teachers Edition)*

The intention of this weekend is to assist these young men with a more meaningful connection to supportive, healthy masculinity, and a conscious awareness of their own gifts, and challenges. Together will intentionally mark this threshold period of their lives with a Sweat Lodge Ceremony and deeper connection to their own masculine identities in community with other men and teens.

This weekend experience will include:

~ A Severance Ceremony that acknowledges, with gratitude and honor, the mothers and fathers of these young men who have navigated them through the waters of childhood and delivered them to the threshold doorstep of initiation. Details will follow registration.

~ The inclusion of the young man's father OR one adult male mentor, chosen by the young man and his family, that will be a part of the entire weekend experience and will stand by this young man when he returns to his community is strongly encouraged. Details will follow registration. All young men are welcome even if they come alone.

Weekend Schedule

Friday Evening: Severance Ceremony 4pm until. Mothers and Fathers: encouraged & welcome.

Saturday: Men & Youth Only: Council Circle, Solo Time in Nature, Sweat Lodge Ceremony, & Pot Luck Feast. **Sunday until 3pm:** Men & Youth Only: Council Circle, Give-Away Ceremony, Closing Ceremony



Where: Asheville, NC area. Directions will follow registration.

When: 3pm Friday August 10 to 3pm Sunday August 12

Program Cost: Sliding Scale (based on personal integrity)

\$200-\$400 per youth and \$150-\$350 per father/mentor

All tuition paid above the base level program cost will assist other young men in attending.

To register/pay with a credit card via [PayPal](#), please go to our web site at:

www.ritesofpassagecouncil/register (Note: Add 3% for online registration/payment)

Deposit of \$75 is requested by July 28.

Cost includes: all group activities, lodging, & meals (except one pot-luck). Camping is available.

Kedar Brown

Youth Initiation Weekend

45 Wells Valley Dr. Leicester, NC 28748

Rites of Passage Council Mission Statement

The Rites of Passage Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting personal growth and professional development, providing core training in ecopsychology, ritual process healing, ceremonial initiation, teaching leadership skills, and supporting the creation of sustainable and environmentally responsible communities. We advance no singular spiritual belief system. Rather, we support the opening of compassion and a trust in the Spirit of one's own understanding. For Information on Rites of Passage Council programs in the US and Ireland go to;

www.RitesofPassageCouncil.com

Kedar S. Brown, M.Ed., LPC, NCC, CHT



**“Nature is but another name for health,
and the seasons are but different states of health.” -- Thoreau**

“Kedar is truly a gifted healer. His work is a brilliant blend of psychology, spirituality, ecology, story telling and anthropology. He counsels and teaches with wisdom, compassion, humor, and authenticity and inspires others to seek their own inner gifts in order to find and follow their own paths. I consider myself blessed to be counted among his friends and students.” --Marilyn Wolf, M.Ed., LPC, President, Licensed Professional Counselors Association of NC

Kedar is a licensed psychotherapist with over 23 years of counseling practice. He is co-founder & co-director of Rites of Passage Council, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization in Asheville, NC. This organization offers eleven-day leadership training programs and weekend retreats for men, women and teens; that are some of the most comprehensive, spiritually and psychologically healing programs in North America. Kedar blends many creative and expressive forms of depth psychology with more ancient methods of healing through Vision Quest Ceremonies, Sweat Lodge Ceremonies, and other wilderness rites of passage experiences. Kedar is a guide trained in the Vision Quest Ceremony by Steven Foster and Meredith Little in the Sierra Nevada Mts. He has served on staff with the Men's Leadership Alliance in the Rocky Mountains using indigenous methods of healing, and community building among men. Kedar serves as support staff with Malidoma Some' and Associates in the Asheville, NC area offering training programs integrating the indigenous wisdom teachings of West Africa into western culture. Kedar has been a guest on Wisdom Radio discussing the need for reintroducing initiatory rites of passage back into modern culture. Kedar offers a unique blend of Celtic, Native American and African Ancestral Wisdom Teachings. He is a certified Hakomi psychotherapist providing counseling for individuals, couples, families; and consultation and training near Asheville, NC. Kedar has published writings in the book Right Use of Power: Ethics For Healing Professionals by Cedar Barstow. Kedar's November '06 article in "New Life Journal" can be viewed by going to www.newlifejournal.com/Nov06/Brown.shtml . His workshops and retreats are offered across the US and in Ireland.

**“Kedar is a skilled, compassionate, real professional...
a guide trained in wilderness passage rites, who cares
for the health of his family and community.”
--Steven Foster, Author Book of the Vision Quest**

**Kedar's contact information is:
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