

Cry For A Vision

The "Crying For A Vision" is a very old and sacred custom primarily for young people who are progressing into adulthood. It is like the Vision Quest but normally not so intense. The Cry For A Vision Ceremony can last from one to four days, and is to be always be under the guidance of the Chapter's Stone Carrier (Principal Medicine Chief) or their designee (herein referred to as "Guide")

The Quester, upon receiving their calling by the Spirit, will approach the Guide with their request. It is customary to bring a gift of sacred herbs, tobacco, or some other offering. The Guide will hear the story of why the Quester feels the desire to participate in this Ceremony. From there the Guide will either will accept or deny the request for the Ceremony. If the Quester is denied, they can request again after one calendar year. If accepted, the Quester and the Guide will determine when this Ceremony will begin.

The guiding Elder will fast and pray to The Great Spirit to bless the Quester with a vision.

The Crying for a Vision Ceremony will begin a couple of hours before sundown. The Quester will go into the Sweat Lodge with the Elder and there the Elder will pray over the Quester for the Great Spirit to bless them with a vision. The Quester will then exit the sweat lodge and say goodbye to their loved ones. The Quester will take no food for their journey, and only minimal water. (This experience requires fasting.)

The Quester will then go into the wilderness (someplace quiet for solitude). At this place, the Quester will perform their personal bundle ceremony four times daily (morning, afternoon, evening, and night). They will ask the Great Spirit to bless them with a vision. They will continue until they receive the vision and guidance by the Spirit that they have requested or when four days are over (whichever comes first).

Items allowed for the vision quest:

- Water
- Ceremonial Bundle
- Blanket
- Lighter (or ability to make fire)
- Knife

The Guide will check on the Quester each day for safety and will pray each day, four times a day, for the Quester to receive their vision.

If no vision is given, the Quester may try again in one calendar year. If the Quester receives a vision, the Quester is to reveal the vision to the Elder, but is not required to share it with anyone else. If the Quester did not receive their Spirit Name during their vision, the Guide will usually give the Quester one based off the vision received.

A waiver of liability is always to be signed by the Quester and Quester's parent or guardian if the Quester is under the age of eighteen.