

Benefits of Establishing an NHNAC Chapter

Three or more Medicine People from the same area can join together and start a Chapter of the New Haven Native American Church (NHNAC). The Chapter is the Primary Organizational Unit of the Church for the practice of regular Ceremonies, administering Sacraments, hands on teaching of the Sacred Healing Way, examining all good things, and so forth.

Establishing and participating in an NHNAC Chapter will assist in creating a sense of community and support. All Chapters are formed with a Unifying Purpose to assist the members in being “doers of the word, and not hearers only”. Members with the same like mind and interest can produce a powerful impact upon themselves, their community, society, and the world. NHNAC Chapters can also produce other great benefits for their members like assisting in having the legal safety net to perform public Ceremonies, assisting others in many areas, have relief from the burden or slavery of taxation, and much, much more.

NHNAC desires to protect and restore to the world our personal and collective religious freedoms. As a Native American Healing-Based Religion we are concerned about laws that might substantially burden exercise of our spiritual healing with the aid of natural substances. The Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRA) require governments to make exceptions to generally applicable laws that substantially burden an individual's exercise of sincerely held religious beliefs and that regulation of those exceptions must be the least restrictive means of furthering compelling government interests.

NHNAC follows the laws of the land and we follow our religion in accordance with the fundamental religious tenet of “First, Do Good”. By assisting members to articulate the religiosity of their beliefs, helping members develop their sincerity of religious beliefs, and implementing safeguards of the government's compelling interests, local NHNAC chapters can provide an associational infrastructure that demonstrates the basis for the personal and collective religious liberty of its members. By accepting members' pledges necessary for the Spiritual Adoption Ceremony and approving the members' Personal Bundle Ceremony NHNAC provides members with opportunities to demonstrate the religiosity of their personal beliefs.

NHNAC assists members demonstrate the sincerity of their religious beliefs by providing a forum for members to develop a pattern of behavior of involvement with a variety of Ceremonies guided by trained Medicine People, a variety of educational opportunities to develop members' paths toward becoming Medicine People, and opportunities for members to be of service to NHNAC. NHNAC safeguard's the government's compelling interests by training Medicine People in the responsibilities of their Healing Ministry.

By establishing and participating in a Chapter, members begin to realize a sense of continuity and support. Medicine People are also given the opportunity to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only” by becoming engaged in the higher purposes of the Church Family.

To form a NHNAC Chapter three Medicine People in your area that are willing to unite and form a Unifying Purpose are needed. Once you have this, please send a letter to NHNAC with the following:

- Name, address, telephone number, and email address of the proposed Chief of the NHNAC Chapter (Principle Stone Carrier) that has been chosen by the members. (If you do not wish some or all of this information to be made public on our website, please state such in your letter.)
- Name of the first advisor as chosen by the Principle Stone Carrier.
- Name of the second advisor as chosen by the Principle Stone Carrier.
- Requested name of the new NHNAC Chapter.
- The Unifying Purpose of the Chapter.
- Any other personal correspondence you wish to include to assist the President of the Church in understanding your Chapter and its goals.

New Haven NAC
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