Lesson 1: Goo Dm Wila Gwildm Qawdiin Dm Sah Hat’aln

How to prepare to gather bark

1. Sgūū mdm saksn na t’ilgoosgn ada mwilaay goo dm dzabn nagooga dm baxyaan a spagayt gangan mdm wil goo hat’al.
   You should clear your mind before you enter the forest to gather bark.

2. Sgūū mdm wilaay nda sgabuu goo dm dzabn ada ‘nii ɠasgaaaw hat’al dm gaadn.
   If you have multiple items to make, you should know how much bark is required to make each item.

3. K’ap sgūū dip dm ɬooda na laxyuubm ada yetisk ada ‘na wa’naa ɬa yagwa dip sagayt doo hat’al.
   It is important to treat the land, animals and plants with the utmost respect while gathering your bark.

Delores Churchill showing students what to look for in a red cedar tree: wide enough to hug, straight grain, with high branches and deep in the forest away from the shoreline.
Lesson 2: Goo Dm Wila Ksiniidza Ğan

How to select a tree

1. ‘Natxasgyisiyaask dm wil haytga smgan.
The red cedar should be on a northward facing slope.

2. ‘Nii wil man ‘nuunga laxs ada abuu aniis.
   Its branches should be high up the trunk with little to no knots along the way.

3. Sgüü dm aats’iga hat’al.
The cedar should have straight grain.

4. Dzida ‘wah aats’iikt, dm haaxga dm wil beexgit ada aka dm di aamt.
   If it is twisted, it will be hard to pull from the tree and hard to work with.

   Choose a tree that you can hug.

6. Dzida gal ‘wiileekst, dm gal xts’ii hat’al ada aka dm di aamt.
   If the three is too large, the bark will be too thick and no good.

   Don’t touch the trees along the shoreline.

8. Gängantk ndii hat’alt.
   Their bark is hard.

   Select a tree that has little to no brush or obstacles in the area.

10. Dm wil ‘wah sa’oksn ligi sgayksgn.
    You don’t want to trip and fall or get hurt.

11. Dziłam ksinii gan, dawila gyigiingwaxłgn adam t’oyaxsa Sm’ooygidm Smgan
    ada laxyuub wil haytga gan.
    Once you’ve selected the tree, give thanks and a prayer to the red cedar and area you are
gathering from.
Lesson 3: Goo Mdm Wila ḳ’odza Hat’al

Cutting a strip of bark

1. Gaa na hałabiiṣgn, ada man’nakan a s̱ga’nakdẕa da’axḻgn ada tgi’kodẕa na maas a gań da miyaan gań. Using your knife, reach as high up the trunk as you can and carefully cut a line to the base of the tree.

2. Sgūū ḳ’odza mala maas ada hat’al. Make sure to cut through both the outer and inner bark.

3. Ksa q̱asgaaw dm q̱alksiaxḻgit da hak’otsliiti dm gaadn. Only take a piece narrow enough to pull through your jerry stripper.

4. S̱ga’naga an’on ‘nii dm ‘na ḏabn da q̱asgaaw maas dm gaadn. Cut a piece the length of your hand or smaller.

5. Dzida gal ‘wiileeksa gaadn aka dm dit da’axḻga da smq̱an dm mootgit. If you take too much, the cedar won’t be able to heal.

6. Hoy na gyigyoottgn adam hagwil sa q̱eemgan maas a gań. Using the hatchet, gently pry the bark away from the trunk of the tree down both of the lines you cut.

7. Dẕa ḳ’odza maas a na miyaan gań. Cut a line at the bottom of the tree.

8. K’a aam la wagayt na miyaan gań mwil ḳ’odzt dm wil q̱atga dm manse’iga maas. Cutting low gives you more leverage to pull the bark off.

9. Hoy na gyigyoottgn adam sa q̱eemgan maas a miyaan gań. Use the hatchet to pry the rest of the bark away from the base.
Left: Sarah Owens reaching up as high as she can to cut a line down through red cedar bark.

Center: Shayla Kitson cutting her second line down through the bark.

Right: Kandi McGilton prying red cedar bark away from the tree with a hatchet.

Left: Anna Kitson loosening the outer bark from the inner bark by rubbing the outer bark against a tree.

Center: Annette Topham making her cut into the inner bark to begin prying it away from the outer bark.

Right: Delores Churchill teaching Kimberlee Anderson how to separate inner bark from outer bark.
Lesson 4: Goo Dm La BeexŁgn

How you pull the bark

1. Hoy mala ḡa’an’on adam snyaagwa maas a miyaan ḡan.
   Using both hands, hold the bark at the base of the tree.

   Step back and pull up and away from the tree.

3. Tguyeltgn adam mansnyaagwa maas a lax’o t’mgawsn.
   Turn and pull the bark over your head.

   Do not look up, bark can get in your eyes.

5. ḋa dm wila se’ikyn wagayt mdm wil sa ḡa’axίtga maas.
   Keep pulling until it comes off.

6. Dzida haaxgął dm wil se’ikyn dm ɣatgyetgm suuin maas.
   If you have a hard time pulling the bark off as it gets higher, you can give it a good shake.

7. Dm suuin maas widi yagwa uum hoon.
   Shake like you’re casting off with a fishing pole.

8. ḋam ɣatgyetgm suu maas ‘nii dm wil beega maas.
   The force of the shake will help tear the bark from the tree.

9. Dzida akadi beext, ḡa’axίgn mdm baal mdm se’ikyt a ‘na midigya’wn ada mdm se’ikyt a ‘na smya’wn.
   If this still doesn’t work, you can try pulling a little to the left and right.