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The Talking Stick Ceremony

Developed in the field by educators affiliated with NSRF.

Whoever has the stick talks, and everyone else listens. The stick is passed to the right, and as it reaches each person, s/he is invited to share briefly what the day meant for him or her. Participants might share a new insight or a question, describe some significant learning they did, or talk about what they propose to do in the future as a result of their learning during the day.

If someone does not want to speak at this time, s/he may pass the stick on to the next person. The stick can go around the circle several times in this way.

Some people conclude the activity by asking participants to look around at the people in the circle, acknowledging them in silence — what they have learned from them, what they have accomplished, and what they hope to do. Some groups then stand and turn completely around in their places, facing outward, and imagine what they will be doing in the days immediately ahead.

And then it is over.