

About Us



Pathkeepers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to build the next generation of Native American youth leaders, self-directed thinkers and social entrepreneurs by combining alternative education approaches with Native lifeways to solve the significant educational, economic and social issues facing Indian Country in the 21st century.

For more information about Pathkeepers, our Youth Camp, and other projects, visit our website, Facebook and Twitter, send us an email, or give us a call!

We are grateful to our sponsors who are critical to helping us provide these opportunities for Native youth!

If you can sponsor a youth or donate, please contact us about a tax-deductible donation.

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Pathkeepers Free Learning Method



Self-Directed Education Initiative

What is the Pathkeepers Free Learning Method?

The Pathkeepers Free Learning Method is based on the idea that Native youth should be provided the freedom, time, and opportunity to explore their own unique identity, culture, innate passions, and self-motivating curiosity.

In Free Learning, Native youth learn much as their ancestors did by self-directing what they learn and how they learn it, freely exchanging and offering ideas without fear of judgment or testing, and democratically determining the rules that govern themselves.

Where can the Pathkeepers Free Learning Method be Applied?

The Free Learning Method can be applied in any learning environment and can be used with any age group, for example:

- Schools
- Title VI programs and classes
- Independent projects
- Native language and culture classes
- After-school classes and activities
- Performing arts programs
- Summer camps
- Early Learning programs
- Pre-Schools/Head Start
- Home-schooling and Un-Schooling

Why the Pathkeepers Free Learning Method?

When given opportunities to pursue their own academic, artistic and personal interests, Native youth learn with greater enthusiasm and motivation and retain what they learn. In addition to academics, Free Learning youth learn how to allocate resources, work with others, be accountable for their actions, and cultivate community. This combination of freedom and responsibility results in Native youth who develop happiness, confidence and comfort in their learning and themselves.