



Welcome to Pipestone National Monument! This is an Indigenous place. We appreciate that you are taking the time to read these guidelines for interacting respectfully with members of American Indian Tribes.

Do:

- Admit the limitations of your knowledge and be open to learning.
- Listen and observe more than you speak. If someone is comfortable with you, they will share what is meant to be shared.
- Be open to the fact that someone's oral tradition or knowledge may not align with what you have been taught.
- Recognize that pipestone has been quarried for thousands of years, and Indigenous people from many different Tribes and geographic areas are home here.
- Understand that tobacco mixtures are smoked in pipes for prayer. It is hurtful to "joke" about misuse or abuse.
- Ask permission to take someone's photo.
- Remember that this is a sacred site. Show your respect by staying on the paved trail.

Use Caution:

- Avoid the term “Indian.” Use “Indigenous,” “Native American,” or “American Indian” instead. Notice personal preferences and adjust vocabulary accordingly.
- Avoid the term “Sioux.” Use “Dakota” or “Lakota” instead.
- Do not ask “What kind of Indian are you?” That is a derogatory way of understanding Native American identity. Instead, you could ask “What Tribal Nation are you a member of?”
- Do not ask about blood quantum or DNA percentage.
- Be careful about telling stories of your own distant American Indian genealogy as an attempt to establish rapport. Ancestry is not the same as lived experience.
- Avoid stereotyping or making assumptions based on looks, language, dress, and other outward appearances.
- Be careful not to impose your personal values, morals, or beliefs onto Indigenous people sharing their traditions with you.
- Do not touch or hug employees. You might feel strong emotions, but please express them in another way.
- Do not touch tobacco ties you see on trees or shrubs.