



Sacred Ground



The Three Maidens are culturally significant to many people. Quarriers often place food or tobacco near the boulders as an offering before quarrying.

What does Sacred mean?

Many cultures have a word for 'sacred.' *Wakanj* (D/Lakota), *waxóñitan* (Otoe-Missouria), and *úwaqúbe* (Omaha-Ponca) to name a few. This word holds a variety of meanings for different people, but almost always conveys extreme importance.

Pipestone National Monument is a sacred area regarded with reverence by many Indigenous people. This site is often used for prayer, comparable to Christians, Muslims, and Jews visiting their own spiritually significant sites. During your visit you may see strips of cloth tied to trees and pouches of tobacco or sage. These are offerings made by Indigenous people in prayer. Please do not disturb them.

"Before we approached the sacred ground, all of us followed a three-day long purification of fasting, prayers, and sacrifices; imploring the Great Spirit to expose the holy minerals, buried beneath the rocks. On the fourth day, we painted ourselves and began working." -Strikes the Ree, Dakota (1881)

"It is difficult to verbalize in another language, for another culture, exactly what makes a place sacred, but I'll do what I can.

There are spirits that dwell in certain places that may be beneficial to a fast and helpful in other ways to the individual and to The People when one fasts and prays there.

Other things that make a place sacred are what our grandfathers and their grandfathers before us have put there, or how the Great Spirit has shaped the trees, or the ancientness of the grandfather rocks, or the power of plants. Our brothers, the animals know these places and come to these places."

– Hawk LittleJohn, Cherokee

Ways to respect this site:

- Keep your dog on a **leash** and clean up after them.
- Stay on the **paved** trail.
- Do **not climb** on the rocks or cliffs.
- Stay **out** of the water (it's contaminated!).
- **Leave** the flowers for the monarchs and bees!
- Use the bins around the trail for your **trash**.

**Thank you for helping us
protect this ancient and
unique place!**