

# PEACE AND DIGNITY CAMP

A weekend of camping, learning and sharing with Indigenous Elders

## JUNE 19-21, 2009 Camp Nahaco, Eastford, CT



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#### WHAT IS PEACE CAMP?

Peace Camp began in the summer of 1990. The purpose is to allow people access to Native Elders of the region and of the world as we share ceremony, insights and thoughts for our future. Maestro Tlakaelel, a Tolteka-Chichimeca Elder, will act as the Spiritual Advisor for the camp. One of the originators of the first Peace Camp, Tlakaelel has traveled the world bringing a message of unity and peace to all peoples. Grandmother Celia, our esteemed Elder from Michigan, and others will attend as well. The Peace and Dignity Camp welcomes and encourages teens and kids to join us with their family.

#### ACTIVITIES

Much of the benefit is for folks to participate in the many tasks that make a working/communal weekend happen. There will be organized talks with the Elders and other group activities, including the youngsters. We will be building the Temazkal (sweatlodge) as part of the Camp. All may participate in the Temazkal after it is constructed, most likely Saturday afternoon or evening. We typically have talking circles for men, for women and kids choosing to participate. You can take a dip in the lake too! Finally, we hold a Four Colors ceremony on Sunday morning. This is a beautiful ceremony honoring all the races of people of the Earth...all are invited to participate.

As this camp begins and ends with a Sacred fire, we request that participants abide by our Elders tradition regarding clothing worn during ceremony. Throughout the weekend, men are asked to wear long pants (vs. shorts) and women skirts and modest tops or simple dresses. Shorts for men and simple cotton wraps for women are fine in the sweatlodge itself.







### WHERE AND WHEN:

We will be camping again this year at Camp Nahaco, a former Boy Scout camp, in Eastford CT from Friday evening June19, until Sunday afternoon, June 21. We have use of most of the facility including a large indoor meeting/dining hall. The camp is located in a rural, wooded area with trails, and is on the edge of a lake. Peace Camp gates will open at 2 pm Friday for folks to come set up their tents, etc. but come any time you can.

#### PEACE CAMP...YOUR CONTRIBUTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

In order to share this effort there will be signup sheets for such things as kitchen duty, fire watch, security, camp cleanup, etc. Each camper is responsible for their own tent, camping gear, and removing all trash to the camp dumpster. There may be lean-to shelters or primitive cabins available, but you will need your own sleeping bags etc. It can be rainy or quite cool in June. We all share food and the responsibility for its preparation as well as the clean up. Food, dishes and utensils are provided. If you bring food to share, please take care in its preparation and storage until it arrives at camp where refrigeration is available!

We suggest that each person or family attending bring a few pieces of firewood, an old, large blanket (to help cover the lodge) and one or more stones (double-fist sized is good) for the lodge. The stones should NOT be taken from a river or stream, as these may have pockets of moisture that could explode. This is a gathering where drugs, alcohol or weapons are not appropriate.

#### COST

We request a donation of \$40 for individuals, and \$95 for families to help defray the costs of the camp, support our work, purchase food, and to assist the Elders with their travel expenses. **Please consider donating more if you are able, and donating less if your circumstance dictate**. Your donation above the requested minimum is tax deductible. You are welcome regardless of how much you are able to donate. Please register early so we can prepare for the camp!

## **DIRECTIONS** to Camp Nahaco in Eastford, CT, 06242.

Share a ride if you can! From Rt. 44 in Phoenixville, go north on RT 198. At the center of Eastford where six roads come together, take a left on Westford Rd. Go past the school and fire house and take your first right onto Weeks Rd. About a mile down Weeks Rd., the pavement ends and about 500 ft further is the entrance to the camp on the left. There will be Four Colors (Red, Black, White, Yellow) signs to direct you. You can drive all the way down thru the camp to the dining hall to register, but parking will be near the road.

REGISTRATION FORM	1	
Name(s)	NO. OF INDIVIDUALS	AT: <b>\$40</b> OTHER \$
Address:	FAMILIES	\$95 OTHER \$
CityStZip	extra to help defray costs (Tax deductible)	\$
PhoneE-mail	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$