



Invitation to Circle: In Our Role as Land Stewards



We are all caretakers together of our land, sharing the role and responsibility of fostering a community of women stewarding soil. We remember the many people and cultures who have stewarded this place before us. We draw on the Indigenous teaching tool of the Medicine Wheel and the 5 Key Components (below) to gather us. The universal imagery of a circle, important to diverse cultures over the centuries, reminds us of how we are all connected to the land and each other.

Self

May I feel my two feet grounded in this place. What gifts do I bring to my work as a steward of our land? How can I use my strengths, abilities and resources to nurture our Wisconsin landscape in a way that ensures her healthy future for many generations to come?

Spirit & Purpose

May we remember that we are all on a beautiful, continuous conservation journey in community. Though the work is never finished, the tasks become lighter as we draw strength from this circle today and the generations of women who have loved this soil before us.

Heart

May I remain gentle on myself in this work. There will be times when the work of protecting and stewarding our land feels lonely and insurmountable, at which point let me remember this circle and know I am not alone.

Mind

Like the rivers that flow through Wisconsin, may the ever-moving water remind us that we, too, are continually evolving - growing through new ideas and challenges. May the teachings of our elders expand our mind and world view.

Body

May my physical body reflect the healthy ecosystem we are co-creating around us, respecting the value of healthy, sustainable foods, fresh air, and movement. May I delight in the ability I have to align myself and truly become a part of the land around me, in collaboration with those gathered here.

This "Invitation to Circle" is offered by the Wisconsin Women in Conservation project, collaborating with Professor Annie Jones, Organization Development and Tribal Nations Specialist, University of Wisconsin Madison - Division of Extension, to plant seeds of reflection around how we can together do better in caring for our world and each other. For more information on Wisconsin's American Indian Nations, please do open the QR code below.

