

FOLLOWING THE SMOKE II

CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETWEAVERS ASSOCIATION



What is the Following the Smoke II Program?

The Mission of the Following the Smoke II (FTS II) Program is to support, perpetuate, and enhance American Indian traditional basketweaving at the local level by developing partnerships between government agencies and Tribes.

The program was designed to increase the transfer of traditional basketweaving skills to those who have a strong interest in pursuing this art; help basketweavers become advocates for the protection and enhancement of plant gathering areas; improve basketweavers' knowledge of, and access to, plant gathering areas; and to improve public agency employees' knowledge of traditional land practices and important traditional cultural properties.

History of Following the Smoke

The overall concept for the Following the Smoke II Program is not a new endeavor for CIBA. Indeed the FTS II Program follows the original Following the Smoke Program, which began in 1997 at the Orleans Ranger District of the Six Rivers National Forest. LaVerne Glaze, Karuk Basketweaver, worked with Ken Wilson, retired USFS Ranger, and others to develop this award winning program.

For over ten years, the annual Following the Smoke Program provided 50 participants the opportunity to camp out for a week with traditional basketweavers, where they learned how to gather and process basketry materials, gained first-hand knowledge of basic weaving techniques, and helped prepare hazel and beargrass areas for burning during the fall season, an important practice that enhances gathering areas. The intent of the original project was for participants to appreciate the values of traditional basketweaving and support agencies in managing vital ethnobotanical resources.

The Importance of Basketweaver Involvement *A Multi-generational Approach: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*

The health and wellbeing of basketweavers is at the core of all CIBA programming. As Psychiatrist, Nina Desjardins (Cree Métis) states,

"Wellness is balance between all parts of yourself, not just being in balance intellectually or not having negative feelings. It's more a matter of being centered and grounded, and connected to everybody and being in harmony with your surroundings and with your family."

CIBA's programming focuses on providing opportunities that empower weavers of all ages to partake in events which honor the spirit and spirituality; facilitate connections to families and communities through intergenerational gatherings; and educate the public about issues that effect our California Indian communities. CIBA's master basketweaving teachers hold the highest place of honor within our programs and their input and support was a vital part of the Following the Smoke II Program design and implementation.

For More Information

Please visit the California Indian Basketweavers Association website for more information about the Following the Smoke II Program and other programs that support California Indian basketweavers.

www.ciba.org

Feel free to reach out to us with any additional questions or if you would like to support CIBA's vision to preserve, promote, and perpetuate California Indian Basketweaving

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