



## **BOYHOOD TO MANHOOD RITES OF PASSAGE CURRICULUM**

**The overall goals of the Boyhood to Manhood Rites of Passage Curriculum are to:**

- *Create a supportive setting for participants;*
- *Promote a positive identity among participants;*
- *Enable participants to understand the importance of the transition of boyhood to manhood;*
- *Increase participants' grades, attendance, and test scores*
- *Reduce participants' oppositional behavior; reduce suspensions and expulsions; school dropout rate, and*
- *Increase participant's ability to take responsibility for their success in school and in life.*

### **MAIN RITES OF PASSAGE CURRICULUM TOPICS**

**PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:** What choices do I make in life situations and circumstances? What is my consistent code of conduct? What is my attitude and disposition toward myself and others?

**VALUES:** What do I believe in? What values do I live by?

**MANHOOD AND FATHERHOOD:** What does it mean to be a man in today's world? How have stereotypes affected how men see themselves? What realistic definition of manhood will work best for me? How must I grow to be the man that I want to be? What are the roles and responsibilities of a successful father? Which of these characteristics do I want to have? Why should I wait to be a father until I can fully accept all the responsibilities needed to raise children successfully?

**COMMUNICATION:** How would I evaluate my abilities to communicate, and manage stress in my life? Do I ever find myself feeling frustrated in conversations with people?

**DECISION-MAKING:** Do I really take the time to learn from good and bad decisions that I have and consider the consequences before acting?

**COPING WITH DISCRIMINATION:** What experiences of discrimination have I had? How have I coped with such experiences in the past? How might I cope with discrimination in the future?

**RELATIONSHIPS:** How can I be in the best relationship for everyone who needs me? How can I get my needs met? How can I communicate all these different people? How well are my important relationships working? What do I want to change?



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**MANAGING CONFLICT/HANDLING ANGER:** What is anger and violence? What is my style of dealing with anger? What happens when I am angry? How can I find ways to express my anger without hurting myself or other people?

**FAMILY AWARENESS:** Family is the foundation for love and support throughout life. Who makes up my family? Where do I fit in my family? Would I change anything about my family? What type of family do I want in the future? What must I do to have a successful family in the future?

**MALE/FEMALE RELATIONSHIPS:** What things get in the way of positive relationships with girls/women? What are women's expectations of men? Why is it important not to look at girls/women as objects? How do I really feel about women? How do I deal with the women in my life?

**EDUCATION:** Educational achievement is important for developing oneself and being able to take full advantage of future career opportunities. How well am I doing in school? What subjects give me the most difficulty? How can I improve my grades and test scores?

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY:** Understanding the economic system and managing money well helps people prosper in life. How do I understand the economic system? Why is it important to delay gratification? What job do I want in the future? How am I preparing myself to get the job I want?

**MEN'S HEALTH:** Maintaining one's physical health and living in healthy ways will ensure we feel our best at all times. Do I value my body? How often do I exercise? What is my favorite exercise routine? What sports do I like? Do I know the appropriate for my age? Why are physical check-ups good for men? What are my plans for maintaining good health?

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE:** What problems do some young people have with alcohol and drugs? How do I use substances in my life? How can I cope with life's challenges without abusing alcohol or drugs? Where can people get help for alcohol and drug problems?

**HERITAGE AND CULTURE:** Understanding one's history and culture is important and shapes one's sense of identity. What do I know about history of my people? Why is important to know the history of my people? What do I value most about my history and culture? What are my plans for making a positive contribution to my history and culture?