

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in hosting a presentation of a Toward Right Relationship workshop. Our goal in presenting these workshops is for participants to understand the legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery as it has affected both the European colonizers and the Indigenous peoples of the United States since 1492. We hope to stimulate reflection, discussion, and appropriate actions toward justice, healing, and “right relationship” among all the peoples of this land.

We developed the programs in response to calls from the World Council of Churches and Indigenous leaders at the United Nations, who urge faith communities and civic organizations to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and support implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The workshops are designed as a first step in that direction. We hope that the experience and the accompanying Resource Kit will encourage groups to engage in further study and to take actions toward “right relationship” in their communities.

The Toward Right Relationship workshops are:

*Native History, Native Rights: Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change*, a 2-hour program presented by Native American facilitators for Native American communities, organizations, and colleges

*Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples*, a 2-hour workshop for the general public, faith communities, civic organizations, colleges and universities

*“Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonialism,”* a 1-hour program for middle schools, high schools, and religious education programs

The Toward Right Relationship project is sponsored by the Boulder Friends Meeting. We train and certify facilitators to present the Toward Right Relationship workshops. A certified facilitator will make arrangements with you to organize workshop presentations, in accordance with the guidelines below. You will be asked to offer a donation to support the Toward Right Relationship project. Your contributions help cover the costs of creating materials, publicizing and organizing workshops, training facilitators, and managing the Toward Right Relationship project. Please make your check to *Boulder Friends Meeting*. On the memo line, write: *Right Relationship*. Mail to Treasurer, Boulder Friends Meeting, PO Box 4363, Boulder, CO 80306.

Thank you. We are looking forward to working with you to create an experience that will move your community forward on the path toward “right relationship.”

In Friendship,

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## How to Host a Toward Right Relationship Workshop

### The Basics

A minimum of 20 participants is needed. Five of these people must agree to perform speaking parts, which requires them to engage in some pre-workshop preparation.

The ideal number of participants is 20-40. The maximum is 60.

We need a venue with a flat floor (as opposed to an auditorium) with enough space to form a circle of chairs for all the expected participants.

We need to know the approximate number of participants ahead of time, so in your publicity please ask people to RSVP or register.

**For Non-Native Host Organizations:** Consider whether and how you would like to involve the Native people in your community in the presentation of the workshop. Some examples:

*In Eugene, OR, Gordon Bettles (Klamath), Steward of the Many Nations Longhouse at the University of Oregon, welcomed people to the workshop and honored the Kalapuya people, the area's first residents.*

*In Baltimore, MD, Dennis E. Seymour, Ph.D. (Cherokee), representing the Baltimore Indian Center and wearing a traditional ribbon shirt, read the part of the Native American in the script.*

*In Seattle, WA, Native Americans chose to read the parts of the Historian and the Narrator in the script.*

*In many workshops, Native Americans have attended as participants.*

*In Albuquerque NM, the host organizations realized they did not have relationships with Native people in the community. They thought it would be strange to extend an invitation to people they don't know. They conducted the workshop and used it to raise the question of how they can begin to engage with Native people in an appropriate way.*

**For Native American Host Organizations:** Consider appropriate ways to invite elders and other honored guests to participate in the workshop. Discuss with the facilitator your ideas for beginning and ending the workshop in culturally appropriate ways (welcome, music, prayers, smudging, etc.).

Following the workshop, you may want to consider scheduling a follow-up meeting to discuss next steps among yourselves. Academic instructors may want to consider a homework assignment related to the workshop. Be ready to announce these follow-ups at the close of the workshop.

**Some specific tasks:**

**1. Arrange for the workshop facilitator's travel.**

Set a date and time for the workshop.

Make arrangements for facilitator's travel and housing.

**2. Decide how workshop costs will be covered.**

You may decide to charge a fee to participants, ask for donations, or find other sources of funding to provide a donation to the Toward Right Relationship project (we suggest \$300-\$600, on a sliding scale) and to cover the facilitator's expenses, as needed. The donation amount, which you may decide based on your organization's size and financial standing, should be paid directly to the Toward Right Relationship project. Please make the check to: *Boulder Friends Meeting*. On the memo line, write: *Right Relationship*. Mail the check to Treasurer, Boulder Friends Meeting, PO Box 4363, Boulder CO 80306. Please reimburse the workshop facilitator's travel and other expenses directly to them (the facilitator will provide receipts).

**3. Reserve the venue.** Be sure the space is the right size (so that all participants can sit in a circle).

**4. Draft flyers or announcements to publicize the workshop.** The facilitator can send you a template for a flyer, if you wish. Be sure to ask people to RSVP or register so you will know how many participants to expect.

**5. Identify 5 people who will read the 4 speaking parts in the script** (the fifth person is a back-up reader in case a reader is not able to make it at the last minute). Ask them to agree to practice reading their parts aloud and to participate in one 90-minute group rehearsal. Be sure that the readers are able to stand comfortably for 45 minutes, project their voices, and read aloud with fluidity, expression, and good enunciation.

**6. The facilitator will email the script to the 5 readers** and ask them to print out a copy for themselves. The script should be in 14-point font (or larger, as needed). It should be printed on one side, not both sides of the paper (it is

easier to read from one side). The facilitator will encourage readers to highlight their parts and to make other helpful notes on their copies (about pronunciations, for example). Please do not circulate the script to people other than the four speakers and the backup speaker.

7. **Identify one person who will welcome workshop participants** and staff the sign-in table during the workshop.
8. **Do some research and then draft a paragraph that acknowledges the Indigenous peoples** who lived in your area before the arrival of Europeans. Consult with Native people in your area, if possible, to be sure your statement is accurate and appropriate. Send your facilitator a draft so that we can work together on a final version that will be inserted into the script. You may use the paragraph below, which we use in the workshops in Boulder, CO, as a model for yours:

*We begin by acknowledging, with humility, that the land where we sit and stand today is the territory of the Arapaho people. We honor Chief Niwot, also known as Left Hand, who was the leader of the last Southern Arapaho band to spend their winters in the Boulder Valley. Many Southern Arapaho people were massacred by the US Cavalry at Sand Creek, Colorado, in 1864. The survivors were forced out of Colorado to reservations in Wyoming and Oklahoma, where most Arapaho people live still today. Let us remember that we occupy their homeland. Members and descendants of many different Indigenous nations live in Colorado today.*

9. **Gather the props.** Discuss whether the facilitator or the host organization will provide these:
  - 10 (or more) blankets (enough to cover the space you have for the exercise)
  - 4 short stools for the speakers to stand on
  - CD player or laptop with good external speakers
  - Extension cord for the CD player
  - A basket for donations
  - A table where we can put the donation basket and copies of documents

**10. Make photocopies of hand-out documents**

The facilitator will bring or email you these documents:

*Sign up Sheet*

*Response Sheet*

*Evaluation Form*

*Workshop fliers*  
*Indian Boarding School flier*  
*Others, to be determined*

## **PREPARATION AT THE WORKSHOP SESSION: SET UP**

The facilitator and host organizers will need access to the venue one hour before the workshop begins.

Form a circle of chairs, with enough chairs for all expected participants. If there are more than 35 participants, you may need to set the chairs up in two concentric circles. Lay the blankets on the floor within the circle of chairs, covering the space completely.

Place one stool in the middle of the blankets. This is where the Native American speaker will stand. Place the other three stools at different points on the edge of the circle of blankets, not on the blankets. Place the readers' ID signs (Historian, European, Native America, and Narrator) on the stools where these readers will stand.

Set up the CD player/laptop and speakers, and cue the Native American music.

Arrange the handouts and the donations basket on a table. It's a good idea to assign someone to staff this table before and after the workshop session.

As participants begin arriving, start playing Native American music.

Assign someone the task of welcoming latecomers who arrive after the workshop has started. They should bring the latecomers into the circle and give them a *pink* card.

(NOTE: The facilitator will bring the colored cards, the CD of Native American flute music, the readers' ID signs, and the basket of corn seeds.)

## **THE WORKSHOP SESSION**

Welcome participants and introduce the workshop facilitator. The facilitator will ask everyone to introduce themselves and then begin reading the script.

The reading of the script takes about 45 minutes. Afterward, there is a 40-minute period for silent reflection and group sharing. At the end of that period, the script offers some options for closing the workshop. Consider what kind of ending is appropriate for your group. Church groups may want to include a prayer of your own. Academic and other non-religious groups may want to consider appropriate alternative endings. Please discuss your preferences with the facilitator ahead of time.

During the last 10 minutes, the facilitator will offer additional resources and materials, and you may want to make announcements of your own. Participants will be asked to fill out an Evaluation Form before they leave.

NOTE: For presentations of the 1-hour youth program, *“Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization,”* the facilitator and the teachers together will decide how to structure the response/sharing time that follows the 25-minute script.

## **AT THE CLOSE OF THE WORKSHOP**

Gather all the Evaluation Forms. (The facilitator will keep these, but you should read them, too.) Announce any follow-up activities you have planned.

Please stay in touch with the facilitator. We’d like to know if your group decides to take any actions that grow out of the workshop experience. We’d like to continue to share ideas and experiences in our work toward right relationship among all peoples.

*Thank you!*