

~ Tipi Etiquette ~

In Lakota, 'ti' means 'to dwell' and 'pi' means 'used for'. A tipi is a home, and like any home, certain Rules constitute good manners.



- * If the door is open, a friend may enter the tipi directly. But if it is closed, he should announce his presence and wait for the owner to invite him to come in.
- * A male enters to the right and waits for the host to invite him to sit to the left of the owner at the rear. A woman enters after the man and goes to the left.
- * An invited guest is expected to bring his or her own bowls and spoons.
- * Always assume your guest is tired, cold, and hungry.
- * If your guest refuses certain foods, say nothing. He may be under vow.
- * Never sit while your guest stands.
- * In another man's lodge, follow his customs – not your own.
- * Always repay calls of courtesy. Do not delay.
- * Protect your guest as one of the family. Feed his horse and beat your dogs if they harm his dogs.
- * Let not the young speak among those much older, unless asked.
- * Speak softly, especially before your elders, or in the presence of strangers.
- * Never interrupt person talking.
- * Never sit while your seniors stand.
- * Show respect to all men, but grovel to none.
- * Let silence be your motto, until duty bids you to speak.
- * When the host cleans his pipe everyone should leave.