

21st Annual, Indigenous Sustainable Communities Design **Design Course 2017** **(“Indigenous solutions for a sustainable future”)**

Dear Participant,

Welcome to the 21th annual “Indigenous Sustainable Communities Design Course 2017 (“Indigenous Solutions for a Sustainable Future”), with a focus on Indigenous Women’s roles in sustainable agriculture.

What is ISCDC

ISCDC 2017 is a holistic indigenous approach based on traditional knowledge and practices (*putting the words of our elders and ancestors into actions*) as a tool for improving air quality, water quality, community health, ecosystems understanding and management, traditional farming, traditional diets and nutrition, pattern understanding, communal and global responsibilities.

ISCDC takes a permaculture approach to sustainability. Permaculture is the harmonious integration of landscape and people, providing food, energy, shelter, and other needs in a sustainable way for all species. Permaculture is working with nature rather than against it; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than thoughtless action; of looking at systems to evolve beneficially, on their own way, towards a state of maximum natural productivity and abundance.

The 21ST Annual Indigenous Sustainable Communities Design Course is a twelve-day intensive training in ecological design, natural farming and earth restoration, natural healing both human and Mother Earth, These strategies and objectives compliment the Permaculture methodology, which is: the conscious, holistic design and maintenance of biologically productive ecosystems that have the diversity, stability, balance and resilience of natural ecosystems.

Who Should Take the Course

Environmental students, agricultural department staff, agricultural students, landscapers, land owners, people thinking of purchasing land, people concerned for a healthy environment, farmers, ranchers, parks personal, range management personal, wildlife personal, environmentalist, health department personnel, indigenous peoples, and others. This course has been taught to young (13 yrs.), elders (plus 70’s) both men and women.

Indigenous Peoples, Registration Fees, Scholarships

Registration cost is **\$200.00** We have a very limited number partial of scholarships available; selection is based on need and interest. All students are encouraged to seek additional funding support to attend this course.

We are able to offer (2) types of scholarships.

First scholarship covers part of the registration fee only (100.00). We are able to work out a “payment plan” and or in-kind contribution for the remainder. The “payment plan” is agreed upon the student will pay the remainder of the registration fee of over a (6) month or less period, or an in-kind contribution (barter, service, farm produce , craft products ,etc.

Second scholarship plan, we cover the full amount of registration fee (200.00) in exchange for in-kind contribution, (barter, service, farm produce, craft products, of equal or more value.

What to Bring

This course will consist of classroom presentation, field trips and hands on work experience.

Head covering of some sort, gardening hat, cap, broad brim hat, water, canteen, bottled water, work clothes, gloves, good shoes or boots, sunscreen, pens, pencils, note paper, etc. We will be working out side at 7,000-ft elevation, or higher, the sun is intense.

TNAFA will also provide several small camp stoves if needed. Bringing your own pots and pans will be helpful.

We are providing lunch, but you **must bring your own dishes, bowls, cups, and utensils!!**

What to Expect

This course will start each day promptly at 9:00 am. If you wish to receive a certificate, you must attend the entire course. Lunch each class day and will be served at approximately 12:00 to 1:00. Lunchtime is one hour. Each day will adjourn at approximately at 5:00-6:00 pm, some days are a little longer, depending on weather and travel time during field trips.

Classroom presentations will consist of presentation from TNAFA staff and invited guest including slide shows and videos. Depending on weather some classes are held outdoors, under shade.

Field trips, we will visit several on going traditional agriculture, Permaculture, and alternative agriculture sites that will give you a first hand look and work at sustainable designs.

Hands on Experience

Learning by doing. Some presenters will require hands on activities. Such as making seed balls, seed cleaning, planting gardens, building compost piles, digging, cooking, exercising and more.

Evaluation

At the completion of each day we are requesting a written evaluation of the day's activities.

Location

Northern New Mexico,

Camping students

Camino de Paz School /Farm (CdPSF) allows student camping. (we/they also require students to sign a letter of responsibility) Students that are camping must provide their own tent and camping equipment, sleeping bag, lamps, sleeping pads, etc. CdPSF permits the student to access to their school kitchen, two showers and laundry.

Previous students have scheduled themselves for shower and kitchen use. Most evenings organizing “pot lucks”. We will provide a list of local grocery stores and farmers markets; CdPSF also sells produce including eggs.

Field Trip Transportation

Dependent on funding and size of class, we maybe able to provide a passenger van. If you have your own transportation this will be helpful. Some field trips are 15 miles from home base; others are only a few miles.

Certificate

After completion of the course and design presentation of certificates.

Clayton Brascoupé

Program Director, Traditional Native American Farmers Association

Selected student's evaluations from previous courses

“EXCELLENT EXPERIENCE”

“I LEARNED DURING THIS WEEK, MORE THEN I HAVE LEARNED ALL MY LIFETIME. THANK YOU TO ALL MY TEACHER”

“DOING HANDS-ON REALLY WORKS FOR EVERYONE”

“IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BETTER”

“IT WAS GREAT TO HAVE EVERYONE TOGETHER AND APPLYING THE LESSONS OF THE COURSE TO THE PARTICULAR SITUATION AT HOME”

“THE EXTRA TOUCHES, LIKE THE WONDERFUL MUSIC WITH LUNCH KEPT THE WHOLE THING SPECIAL”

“NOW I CAN CLEAN AND GERMINATE MY OWN SEEDS”

“YESTERDAY WAS VERY INTERESTING. THE REASON BECAUSE I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT DROUGHTS. I FIGURED OUT HOW TO PREPARE TO DROUGHT”

“IT WAS A GOOD THING TO HAVE PUSHED THE PHYSICAL LIMITS OF THE CREW A BIT”

“[THE COURSE] GAVE ME A PERSPECTIVE ON THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF SWALES”

“THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD IDEAS, BUT SOME MORE, TOO – WHICH IS ABOUT CONNECTING THEM ALL TOGETHER. THANKS FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE”[TO ORGANIZERS AND FUNDERS]

“THANKS FOR AN EXCELLENT LUNCH, IT WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED CORN, SQUASH, BEANS, GOOD BREAD AND FRUIT, VERY HEARTILY”

“[THE COURSE] GAVE ME IDEAS THAT I HOPE TO USE WHEN I RETURN TO MY JOB AND ON MY LAND AT HOME”

“ELDERS SPOKE, PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCE WITH WORKING WITH THE LAND, AND SPIRITUAL CONNECTION AND THE ‘DISCONNECTION’ OF PEOPLE”

“A FRAME FOR CONTOUR SWALES GREAT -- SO EASY, FUN. AMAZING HOW MUCH WE ACCOMPLISHED IN SUCH A SHORT TIME”

“VERY SENSITIVE AND RESPECTFUL -- LINKING PERMACULTURE TO NATIVE WISDOM AND TRADITIONS”

“I CONTINUE TO BE IMPRESSED AND INSPIRED BY THE SPIRITUAL ORIENTATION OF THE COURSE”

“IT SHOWED PEOPLE HOW TO PUT THEIR ENERGY INTO THE LAND”

“IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A LOT OF PREP WORK INTO SCHEDULING THE COURSE, VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE IS BEING SHARED -- THE GENEROSITY OF THE PRESENTERS IN THIS PROCESS DESERVES RECOGNITION, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PRAISE”

(NOTE: THE ABOVE STATEMENTS ARE DIRECTLY FROM A COMPILATION OF EVALUATIONS, WHICH ARE HANDED IN ON A DAILY BASIS DURING THE COURSE)

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Made possible by grants from:

The Swift Foundation The Lannan Foundation , NOVO Foundation

Four Sister's Farm and generous support from Camino De Paz Center

TNAFA an affiliate program of the SEVENTH GENERATION FUND (501) (c) (3)