Natural Passages

Nature based programs that support men through the unmarked doorways of life.

www.Natural-Passages.com

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place
for the first time. —T. S. Eliot.

https://vimeo.com/user/8303511/folder/2687833

The Turning

I

A bear loped before me
on a narrow, wooded road;
with a sound like a sudden
shifting of ashes, he turned
and plunged into his own blackness.

II

I keep a fire and tell a story:
I was born one winter
in a cave at the root of a tree.

The wind thawing in a northern
forest opened a leafy road.

As I walked there, I heard
the tall sun burning its dead;
I turned and saw behind me
a charred companion,
my shed life.

—John Haines

https://vimeo.com/user/8303511/folder/2687833

Indigenous cultures refer to medicine as the essence or spirit of the person, place or thing. In our terms it is the essence of being a man as a spiritual, physical, mental and emotional being. In today's society it is not always clear what it means to be a man. Moreover, it is not always clear how to be a man, nor is it always clear how to be the authentic self, fully present, regardless of circumstances. It seems that we have forgotten the essence or spirit of being a man.

Rites of Passage—The Hero's Journey

In prior times, the creation and development of men were done through various forms of initiations, now more commonly called rites of passage or Hero's journeys. These journeys were structured rituals and ceremonies that brought the boy/man face-to–face with the boyish attitudes and beliefs that no longer served the evolving man.

These rituals and ceremonies were designed to ignite the deep masculine energies that would enable the boy to let go of the boyish ways that tended toward self–centeredness and move toward family and community responsibilities. These rituals and ceremonies often involved facing the deepest personal fears of boyhood. These processes would enable the man to evolve from the ashes of the boy.

Secrets of Being a Man—Leadership

Hero's journeys were catalysts to burn away the psychology of being a boy so that new paradigms or world views could evolve. For the initiation to be successful, the initiatory process required that sacred space be created and held by others. In this sacred space, the initiates would be able to discover and release the habits and patterns of the past to create a new way of being. **New paradigms** were taught to the evolving men so that they would understand the energies within themselves that could be birthed and developed into skills and ways of being complete within the world. These paradigms or world views were considered the secrets of manhood.

Natural Passages: Men Becoming Sovereign Leaders

Natural Passages: Men Becoming Sovereign Leaders is a one year male initiation program. It is a program that enables the **core integrity of the man to surface**. It is designed to awaken, develop, and nurture the essence and fullness of being a man in today's world. **Our focus is developmental**. We seek to invoke the unfoldment of mature masculine energies. **Our goal is specific**. We seek to assist each man to find his place in the world. **Our hope is honorable**. We seek to fill the void of mature men that can stay within the center of whom they are regardless of circumstances and lead others**. Our dream is selfish**. In supporting others to find their place in the world, we envision your leading others to do the same. Therein, we can build community and make a difference in the world.

We will experience

Natural Passages will build a community amongst nature. **We will experience** the healing of reconnecting to the earth by living in harmony with nature. We will experience a purification sweat lodge every week-end to enable each man to shed old skins of being in the world to be reborn. We will experience **being fully present with ourselves and with others** so that we can make meaningful contact instead of **talk at** each other. We will experience talking circles to learn how to deeply listen while exploring what it means to be a man. We will experience the formation of a community and what it means to be a member of one. We will explore what it means to become a member of the male community. We will explore what is means to be a man.

We Will Meet

The One-year Initiation Program will meet four times over the course of the year. It includes four in-depth experiences of cycles of life and the stages of change. Each weekend will explore one of four male archetypes. Beginning in the Spring, we will explore the archetypal energies of the **Warrior**, including how we can become sidetracked into being a perpetual hero or an unconscious victim. In the Summer, we will explore, the archetypal energies of the **Sage**, including how we can be consumed by the energies of the trickster and/or fool. In the Autumn, we will explore the **Healer** energies where we come into our own sense of compassion and receptivity or become consumed by addictions or desensitization. Finally, we finish in the Winter in the world of the **archetypal Sovereign**, where we claim our internal power or become tyrants or wimps.

Who Attends

The program draws from a wide range of men throughout the world. We are diverse in age, occupation, orientation,

race, income, culture, nationality, and ethnicity. Medical doctors, international consultants, computer programmers, college graduate students, business development directors, factory laborers, construction workers, various levels of management, and several CEOs have completed the program.

Who will facilitate

Herb Stevenson is the founder of the ~20 Year old Natural Passages program. He is CEO of the Cleveland Consulting Group, Inc., where he is specializes in global executive and leadership development. Herb is on the faculty at the *Gestalt Institute of Cleveland*. He has facilitated Men's Circles for the last 25 years in the Cleveland area. Herb has spent that last 3 decades reclaiming his Cherokee and Shawnee Indian heritage. He can be reached at herb@natural-passages.com.

Website:

www.Natural-Passages.com
www.ClevelandConsultingGroup.com

Upcoming Annual Programs

2022 Dates

March 24-27, 2022
June 23-26,2022
September 22-25, 2022
December 8-11, 2022

Your Investment

The fee for the One Year Initiation program is:

$3200 for individuals
$6000 for business and corporations

If the full amount is paid by Feb 1st of the program year, there is a $800 discount for individuals and a $1200 discount for businesses and corporations, so that the program cost will be $2400 and $4800 respectively. Full payment without discounts is due May1st of the program year.

Prior Attendees

Prior graduates of the program are entitled to an additional discount. Individuals can take an additional $300 beyond the $800 discount for a total due of $2100, if paid by Feb 1st. If paid after Feb 1st, only the $300 discount applies and $2900 is due.

Business and corporate graduates are entitled to an additional discount of $600 beyond the $1200 discount for a total due of $4200 if paid prior to Feb 1st. If paid after Feb 1st, only the $600 discount applies and $5400 is due.

There is a non-refundable $200 application fee for the One-year Initiation Program and the Intensive program. It will be applied to the program fee, if applicable. See application for details. Checks should be made payable to: **the Cleveland Consulting Group, Inc. Or go to the website to use PayPal**

Payment plans are available, but must be arranged prior to the start of the program.

Camp Set-up and Tear-down

Arrival is from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Camp set-up begins at 9:00 a.m.

The weekends will close on Sunday before 2:00 p.m. after the tear down of the camp.

Some items you will need

We will be living amongst nature. Tents will be provided.

You will need to bring:

- a sleeping bag, ground cloth, and a ground pad or cot.
- rain gear as we will meet rain or shine or snow or sleet.
- clothing appropriate to being outside. Insulated boots would be appropriate for the winter.
- 2 to 3 gallons of water for each week-end, as well as dried fruits, nuts, protein or granola bars, etc. to be commingled into a community pantry.
- Flash lights are required.
- Soap and shaving gear as desired.
- You will need to be mindful that the walking path to camp is rough terrain.

If it is your time I will See You in the Woods

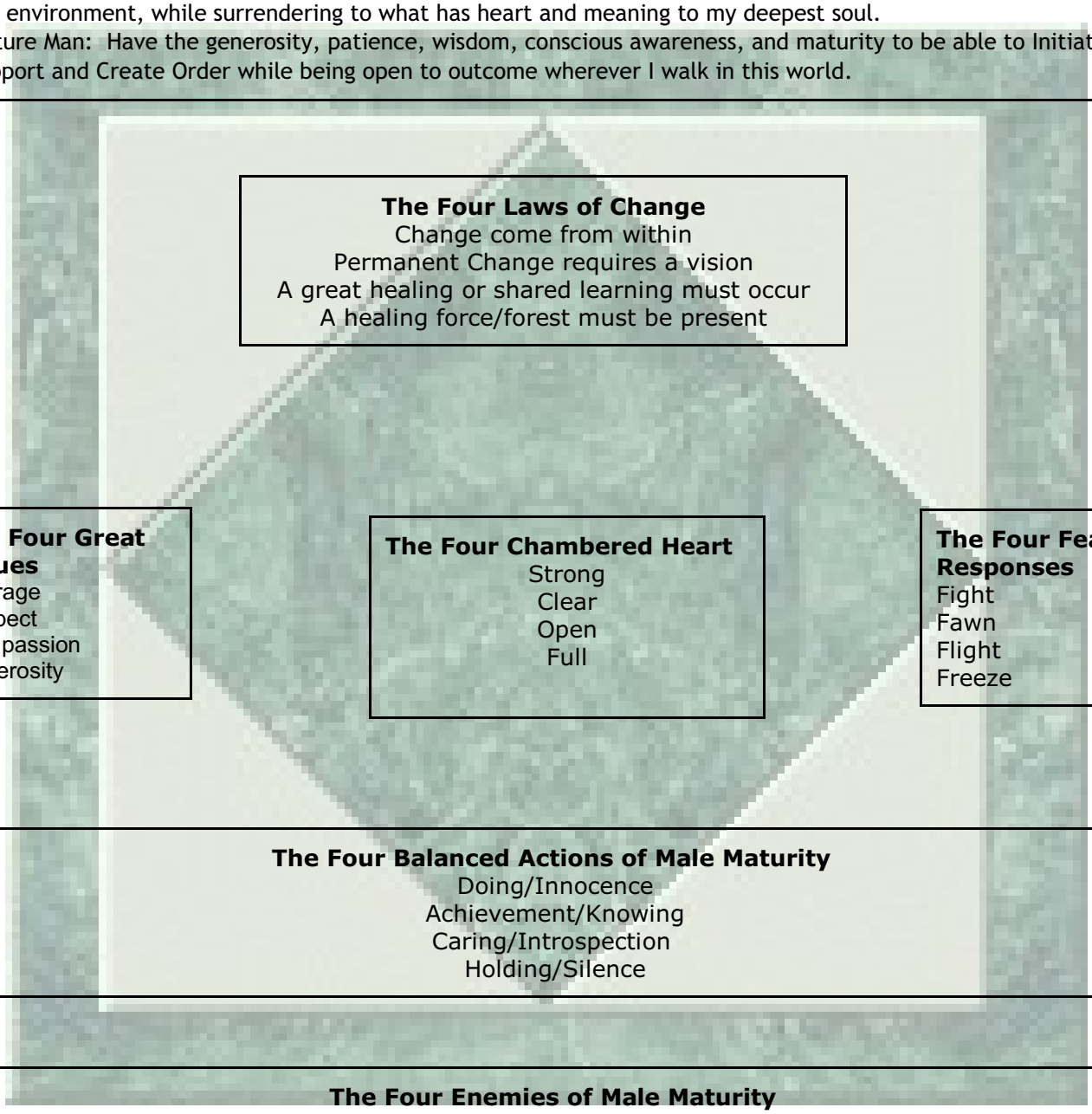
Herb Stevenson

https://vimeo.com/user/8303511/folder/2687833

We will explore

The Four Responsibilities of Manhood

Warrior: Have the courage, commitment and discipline to Show up and be present without preconceived notions, while having the Ability to Take Action and Enforce Boundaries
Magician: Have the inner self respect and the sense of responsibility to Assess, Analyze and Consciously make meaning consistent with my true integrity, while saying what is so when it is so, without blame or judgment
Healer: Have the compassion and openness to be able to Connect and Feel with myself, those around me, and the environment, while surrendering to what has heart and meaning to my deepest soul.
Mature Man: Have the generosity, patience, wisdom, conscious awareness, and maturity to be able to Initiate, Support and Create Order while being open to outcome wherever I walk in this world.



The Four Laws of Change
Change come from within
Permanent Change requires a vision
A great healing or shared learning must occur
A healing force/forest must be present

The Four Great Values
Courage
Respect
Compassion
Generosity

The Four Chambered Heart
Strong
Clear
Open
Full

The Four Fear Responses
Fight
Fawn
Flight
Freeze

The Four Balanced Actions of Male Maturity
Doing/Innocence
Achievement/Knowing
Caring/Introspection
Holding/Silence

The Four Enemies of Male Maturity

Cowardice as seen through: Victimization, conflict avoidance, dissociation, rage, irresponsibility
Entitlement as seen through: Control focused, Abuse of power,
Living behinds masks that no longer serve, judgmental, deflection
Superiority as seen through: Perfection, Seriousness, Addictive behaviors, Alienation/Separation
Inferiority as seen through Worthlessness, co-dependency, narcissism, tyrannical, know-it-all

Natural Passages: Men Becoming Sovereign Leaders

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What the program did for me was to open me up how to be more intimate with myself and other males. How to support other males with love, compassion and understanding. To be more present with myself and other males. To remove the masks and step out to be who I really am. I would like to Thank all who showed up, the men of the program, the Hawk, the hummingbird, the wolf, the creek, the rain, the snow, the snake, the spirits and to all the others.

Corky Larsen, Cleveland

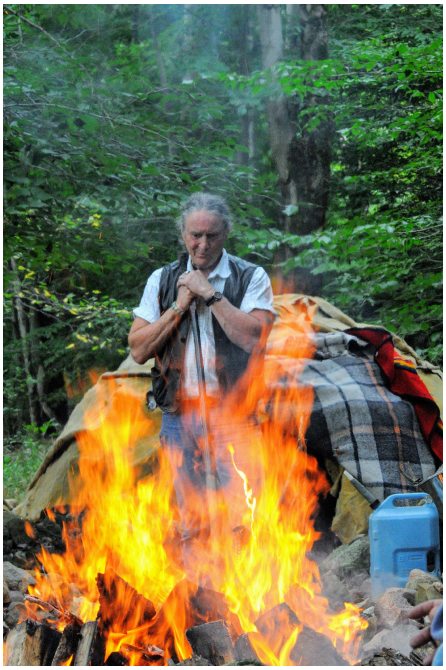
The program was transformational for me. I was able to finally say goodbye to the "boy" inside me to allow space for the "man" to come out. I learned to quiet my mind and listen to my heart. I have gained a focus and power in my personal and professional lives and am being more authentic and present in both. I have become reacquainted with the spiritual world and realize I am a unique being here on earth AND that I share so much with the matrix of life that is around me. Herb, thanks for the wake up call.

- John Griffin

Fire Spirit at Sweat lodge

The program accelerated the transformation of my consciousness from mind based consciousness to spirit based consciousness. It helped me to become more aware of my true nature. It greatly enhanced my spiritual life. It was a joy to know the other men in the program in a far deeper way than I have ever known other men and observe the growth of their spirits. Each of the original participants achieved observable spiritual growth. It was wondrous to behold. Herb Stevenson is an exceptional and mystical leader. I shall always treasure my association with Herb and with all the Men of Medicine.

Dave Noble, Wooster,Ohio



Fire Spirits

FitrrThe program has given me the tools to be a better man, peace within myself that I have never had in my 59 years, and to know how I am part of all God's creations from the earth to the stars above and everything in between. I learned how everything from the seasons, animals, water, rocks, birds, and trees, including me, are tied to each other. I can now see better as to what is really important and lasting for real peace and happiness.

The program gave me inner peace of knowing God and all his or her creations. I learned other forms of prayer. God's gifts have become more apparent to me. I was able to share and to be really present with other men and to truly listen and learn from other men in a different and more meaningful way.

It has taught me how to forgive and what forgiving others can do for me. It has taught me patience and how to listen more intently and take more in before voicing my thoughts. I better understand others. My confidence in myself, and who I am has increased. It has awakened my need to become more knowledgeable about all things including myself.

A portion of the program is about leadership and elders. It is clearly apparent to me that Herb Stevenson (One White Horse Standing) is both a leader and an elder.

Claude Fields, UP Michigan

Mark attended the program at a time in his life when he was coming out of a "dark night of the soul" experience. I was amazed at how much brighter and more focused he was when he would return home. He was more loving, sensitive and hopeful. I found myself looking forward to his next event!

Bobbi Way, Medina, Ohio

The impact on me is transformation. I let you see me and began to see more of myself. Being different and being seen while standing with and belonging. I am standing in my heart, from this I am not moved. I went out to the edge and you held me, so I did not look away. I have experienced myself. I have experienced relationships. I experience gratitude.

Adam "Bear Man" Roth
Cleveland Hts, Ohio

"The program has taught me to speak to men, as well as women, from my heart and feelings. It's essential for my life and soul. I stand taller as a man and a compassionate human being. I laugh louder, cry from a deeper place, and enjoy life from a more authentic place within me".

Paul Farley
Upper Michigan

Two words stand-out–Understanding and Spirit. Understanding—I have never met a man in my life time who understands as much as you do about life and being a man in this world. Spirit—you have been a real teacher to me and have helped me to open myself up to the spirit inside me. Thank You, One White Horse Standing. I can never put into words the gratitude I have for you and what the program has done for me, my family and friends. I will take what you have given me and go forth and use it as best I can.

Claude "P Buff " Fields
Upper Peninsula Michigan

There is a lot I would like to say about the program. The effect it has had on me has been resonating louder and louder each day. It's like the bell that calls you to your life and you can't ignore it. I am learning that these rumblings inside of me are not a bad thing to run from, but a good thing. Rumblings of a desire for life. Feelings of wanting to be present and deeply connected to other men who are my brothers as well as a deep longing to be connected to spirit. I have learned how important it is to heal old spiritual wounds (the thought of a condemning god kept me away from this desire to feel connected to spirit and sometimes people) and accept a spirit that loves all. I learned that my life starts now. My medicine (essence) and gifts are ready for the world as is.

Dano "the Tree" Cavanaugh
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Winter Weekend

Therapy versus Male Maturation

Therapy	Male Maturation
Aims for enhanced coping and social adjustment based on modification of one's behavior to the external authority in one's life...social, cultural, parental, employer, etc.	Aims for initiation and cultural change that can lead to the re-establishment of internal authority as a vessel for how to live one's life.
Work is done in and about the middle world of day-to-day life, where emotional wounds, development of personal bonds, the cultivation of physical grace and emotional expression, and the blossoming of empathy, intimacy, and personality authenticity are addressed.	Work is done in the under world, home of the soul, where embodiment of the soul deepens individuality through the discovery of our particular place in the world and the embodiment of our unique form of service, and brought into the middle world, home of day to day life and personalities.
It can be focused towards saving marriages, facilitating divorces, cultivating social skills or friendships, enhancing performance or enjoyment in our current careers, raising economic standing, ending depressions, helping us understand or express feelings, gaining insight into our personalities or personal histories, or being happier.	The focus is to cultivate a relationship between the ego and the four parts of the soul. **It is not** focused towards saving marriages, facilitating divorces, cultivating social skills or friendships, enhancing performance or enjoyment in our current careers, raising economic standing, ending depressions, helping us understand or express feelings, gaining insight into our personalities or personal histories, or being happier, even though it might occur as a side effect.
Descent into the underworld is often avoided or bypassed by initiating coping or reframing techniques. Discomfort and/or suffering is eased as quickly as possible. The elimination of the symptoms is foremost.	The initial descent into the underworld may make life more difficult or lonely or less comfortable, secure, or happy as social stability and psychological composure can be lost while internal authority is restored so that the active, mature adult male of the soul can surface.
Male maturation means assuming socially and culturally defined adult responsibilities such as economic and employment sustain-ability, family and relational stability, and/or personality congruence.	Male maturation means moving closer to the soul. This can be done by returning to nature and experiencing the elements, exploring the symbols that give meaning to your life, discovering the vision that has been waiting for you to claim.

Adapted from Bill Plotkin, *Soulcraft: Crossing into the Mysteries of Nature and Psyche*, 2003

Natural Passages: Men Becoming Leaders

Registration

Name:_____

Address _____

City_____State_____ZipCode_____

Telephone_____ Cell Phone_____

Fax_____ E-m ail_____

Commitment

I understand and accept that:

•I am responsible for showing up for each week-end, physically and otherwise.

•I am responsible for fulfillment of the financial obligations of this program including tuition fees and all personal expenses, including supply and equipment purchases and travel expenses.

•I am responsible for acquiring and bringing the necessary supplies and equipment for each week-end.

•I am responsible for taking care of myself as an active member of the community.

•I am responsible for making full payment by March 1st of the program year.

Financial Responsibility

[ ]**Individual: The program fee is$3200.** I've enclosed the $200 application fee. I will pay the additional amount of $2200 for a total of $2400 by April 1st of the program year. I understand that if I pay the balance due after April 1st of the program year, the balance due is $**2800** for a **total of $3000.**

[ ]**Business/Corporate: The program fee is $6000.** I've enclosed the $200 application fee. I will pay the additional amount of $4600 for a total of $4800 by February 1st of the program year. I understand that if I pay the balance due after February 1st of the program year, the balance due is $**5200** for a **total of $5400.**

Prior Graduates

[ ]Individual are entitled to a $300 discount if paid by April 1st.

[ ]Business/Corporations are entitled to a $600 discount if paid in full by April 1st

No refunds are rendered for cancellation within one month prior to the first workshop.

_____

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Signature **Date**

Mail Application and Payments or Use PayPal
Cleveland Consulting Group, Inc.
Herb Stevenson
9796 Cedar Road
Novelty, Ohio 44072-9747

Call us

If you have questions at any time, please contact us at 440 241 6908 or go to www.Natural-Passages.com

March 24-27, 2022 June 23-26,2022 September 22-25, 2022 December 8-11, 2022

We look forward to being with you man to man to man.

Some Thoughts to Guide Our Way

Walk firmly in your own shoes, it is who you are.

Fate is not what happens to us;
it's who we are—if we are true to ourselves.

To keep the world from closing in on you,
do one thing every day that is uncomfortable,
dislike-able or unnerving.

Holy has become identified with moral perfection
[when in fact] holy is an awareness of the presence
of the something beyond ourselves
that can be creative or destructive,
divine or demonic.
The choice is ours.
—paraphrased Paul Tillich

"One must still have chaos in oneself
to be able to give birth to a dancing star"
—Nietzsche

Anxiety tests our courage to stand alone,
our courage to be part of a larger whole
such as a family or community or organization, and
the courage to be responsible to the whole of creation,
including all that is of or on the earth.