



Contact: Karen Francis, Government Relations Officer  
Office of the Chief Justice  
JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE NAVAJO NATION  
Telephone: (928) 871-6920  
Email: [karenfrancis@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:karenfrancis@navajo-nsn.gov)  
<https://courts.navajo-nsn.gov>

---

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: Wednesday, December 5, 2024**

### **PEACEMAKING TO HOST WINTER CONFERENCE**

The Peacemaking Program will be hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Peacemaking Winter Conference on December 18-19, 2024, at the Navajo Nation Museum with the theme of, “Prevention to Counter Social Trends.”

The public is invited to attend the annual conference and learn about traditional teachings over two days. The conference will feature speakers sharing their knowledge on culturally related topics including the story of the stars, string games, male and female hogan, walking in beauty and working together. Most of the presenters are peacemakers and staff from the Peacemaking Program or Judicial Branch.

The conference aims to change the mentality of how disputes can be resolved by showing how traditional peacemaking is an alternative to the court system. It also addresses the program’s purpose in the Navajo Nation Code of providing education and training on Navajo culture and traditions to individuals, organizations and communities.

Dempsey Harvey, Peacemaking Program Coordinator, noted that he sees a trend where people often do not communicate with each other but pay more attention to technology, are abusing alcohol and/or drugs, or are in conflict with each other, which led to the development of the theme. The conference is a way to engage people to listen to stories of traditional teachings and core values and apply those teachings to daily life.

“I can’t walk in the dark and just ignore things. I observed and said I’m in the capacity and I have a program where at least maybe one out of a hundred will see and notice what we’re talking about and understand and change his or her ways,” Harvey said. “Being a human being is significant and special.”

The presentations for the conference are about how each person is special and connected to the spiritual creation, Harvey said. He added that the teachings should be shared with family members to instill them in young children to be successful in a changing world.

“Part of this is to get our own people to feel good about themselves. It is empowering,” Harvey said.

The conference is planned for the winter because some stories and teachings can only be told in the winter.

Last year was the first conference and it was a huge success for the program, Harvey said. The conference is part of the program’s continued plan for outreach and prevention.

Programs are invited to set up resource booths during the conference.

The agenda and registration forms are available on the Judicial Branch website at [courts.navajonnsn.gov](http://courts.navajonnsn.gov). For more information, please contact (928) 871-6388.

###