

## The Cedar Tree

The Cedar tree starts as a seed, an offspring of a mature Cedar tree. It stands tall, straight, and very wide with branches all around. You will notice that the branches are wide and long at the bottom and further up the tree the branches are smaller and shorter.

The Cedar tree stands out from all other trees in the forest, as the sister pine tree does. When you look at the Cedar tree it touches all other trees around it, as if it is holding hands with neighboring trees, no prejudging or discrimination. The wide and long branches at the bottom represent the teachings that should be learned and used in a positive way to relate to others. Once you accomplish a task of teaching, move to the next level of branches. The more you learn and share or teach others, the more you learn, the higher you climb on the Cedar tree. As you gain knowledge, knowledge turns to wisdom.

Now you are half-way up the tree. When you look down at the ones yet to learn, your responsibilities are lessened by those who learned from you as you climbed the tree. This goes with years of teaching and sharing what you know to the younger of your people.

When you reach the top, your responsibilities are limited because your life is almost full. Only then can you rest.

The Cedar tree is also used for medicine. You can use tea for cleansing and colds, chewing some for a sore throat. Another way to use cedar is for burning in the fire when praying, or smudging (cleaning your whole being so that you can pray at ease and give thanks for certain things in your life).

One thing you must do is to offer tobacco to the Cedar tree before taking a piece of its branches. One must pray to the Cedar tree for help. Believing in the strength and power of the Cedar tree will help a person grow.

One time I was asked if I carried a piece of cedar with me. I said, "no," and was told that I should have some because it is medicine and will help you when you need it. It will also help you to teach this to others who are willing to learn about relationships.

Note: This was written by an unknown author. It was found in the archives of Bay Mills Community College. It was provided by Kathy LeBlanc to the Editor of the "Traditions" page.