

BROTHERHOOD OF MEN

RITE OF PASSAGE

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Brotherhood of Men: Rite of Passage, Facilitator Guide

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INTRODUCTION

When does a boy become a man?

When his elders say he is a man...

In the heart of every man is a need to be self-sufficient, to be independent, to be respected and honored, and to be appreciated. There is a need to receive affirmation for his sacrifices and value for his contributions, and to be recognized and rewarded for his accomplishments. The heart of a man needs to be encouraged and strengthened in the face of adversity and opposition, motivated in the midst of challenge, and, most importantly, lifted up during trials and tribulations. To be the best men we can become will require other men in our lives—father figures, mentors, coaches, teachers, and

friends. Although we have an insatiable desire to be independent, men need other men in their lives—those men who have embarked on the journey before us, who have achieved success and tasted failure. Men who care for the men around them, who know that their success in life is our success. Men who are joined together by a bond that reaches back to the beginning of recorded time. Men who are united in heart, mind, and soul, forming an indestructible community that I call the “Brotherhood of Men.”

**Take heed that your candidate is ready for his
rite of passage.**

The “rite of passage” ceremony is the process by which a boy, who is ready to cross over into manhood, is presented to his elders in order to prepare, equip, and welcome him into this Brotherhood of Men. As the facilitator, it is extremely important that your candidate is ready and prepared for his rite of passage. The rite of passage ceremony is not intended to be used as an intervention to help get his life back on track. If your candidate is displaying open aggression toward you or the adults in his life, or has a rebellious spirit, it is likely he is not ready for his rite of passage. These types of issues will need

to be addressed well before any rite of passage ceremony should be conducted. The candidate should be comfortable, ready, and prepared for the ceremony as well as aware of its importance in his life. Bottom line, he should actually want to be there, not dragged in kicking and screaming. Take the time to prepare him for the ceremony. This is why I have included the candidate's guide in the rite of passage. In the end, be sensitive and respectful. You will know when the time is right.

This facilitator's guide, the tokens, and the emblems are specifically designed to help you provide an impactful, memorable, and life-changing experience for all participants involved.

For example, the rite of passage includes the following items.

- The ceremonial rite of passage ceremony box which is presented to the candidate at the end of the induction ceremony.
- The challenge coin and stand which is presented to the candidate at the end of the induction ceremony.

- The witness card is signed by all the elders present and presented to the candidate at the conclusion of the induction ceremony.
- The ceremony question cards are used by the facilitator during the induction ceremony.
- The book *The Heart of a Man: Restoring the Rite of Passage, Building the Next Generation of Men* is the story behind the creation of the rite of passage.
- The *Rite of Passage Facilitator Guide* lays out the format and instruction for the ceremony, providing explanation, meaning, and the tools used for each part of the ceremony.
- The *Rite of Passage Candidate Guide* is provided to the young candidate to prepare him for his rite of passage ceremony.

The rite of passage is a wonderful and unique experience in the life of a boy. However, what I have prepared is definitely not chiseled in stone. You are free to change whatever format, content, or context you would like. You are also free to add whatever tokens, elements, emblems, or instructions you deem appropriate. As you read through each chapter, take the time to visualize the rite of passage. If the format works for you, great! If the tokens

or emblems work, great! If the essentials line up with what you want to provide to your candidate, great! This entire rite of passage is designed with you and the young candidate in my heart. My desire is to give you the resources and support through the process in order to restore the rite of passage in our culture.

I am only one part of a greater whole. It is our responsibility, our legacy as their elders, to do whatever we can to ensure the next generation makes it through their passage prepared and equipped for their journey into manhood. Restoring the rite of passage is the beginning of reclaiming our heritage, re-establishing the foundation of our culture, by building the next generation of men. I humbly offer this to all my brothers who will join me in building the next great generation of men.

