Proposes practical strategies for supporting new designs that link youth and community development.

Discusses how rites of passage are used in therapy with adolescents and their families.

Features a narrative style that synthesizes historical evidence of rites of passage with literature on concepts related to a psychological sense of community.

Includes a dynamic, interactive companion website with additional resources for readers.

Description

Coming of Age the RITE Way: Youth & Community Development through Rites of Passage addresses the absence of community-oriented rites of passage. This book is distinguished from others in that it combines almost fifty years of scholarship and practice to examine
the concepts of rites of passage and sense of community, as it exists in literature and life. It focuses on the reciprocal relationship between rites of passage and sense of community and ways for it to impact the development of children and the health and adaptability of their community.

This text raises and answers some of the most fundamental questions facing parents, schools and communities; How do we raise our children to be resilient, self-reliant, capable adults who are competent and with compassion that is manifested in civic engagement for social justice? The book sets forth guiding principles and clear methods for putting into practice a whole systems approach to youth development through rites of passage. The approach involves connecting and enhancing environments and building competencies, which promote the positive development of children and youth in their families, in their schools, among their peers in their community and with a strong connection to the natural world. It provides extensive narratives and case studies to illustrate how a framework of rites of passage is used to weave a common language throughout the community and links techniques for youth development with prevention, identification, intervention, and treatment and strengthens the fabric of community support.

Table of Contents

1. Let Me Tell You A Story - Introduction
2. "Whaddaya Read? Whaddaya Know?" An Invitation to Share Stories
3. The First Story - My Creation Myth
4. The Trinity of Inquiry: Rites of Passage and Our Quest for Community
5. The Meaning of Community: Symbols of Initiation Reciprocity
6. On Rites of Passage: Symbols of Initiation
7. Ritual Form - Design Elements
8. Which Write, Wright, Rite is Right? Knowing Your Rites from Your Rights
9. It's a Long Journey to a Ritual
10. Something Happened: Stories to Dream By
11. Making Something Happen: Community Institutions as Places for Initiation and Rites of Passage
12. End Notes: Reflection of a Public Artist: A Call to Inquiry & Action
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