

Drum Circle + Firewood Gathering



Introduction (*For Facilitators*):

This activity brings together practical land stewardship and cultural revival. Gathering firewood teaches responsibility and supports the community (for winter or ceremonial use). The drum circle provides space for singing, storytelling, and cultural pride. Choose a safe, accessible location for firewood gathering. If possible, pair this with a forest thinning effort or community fuel wood program. Ensure safety measures are in place for any youth using tools. End with food, drumming, and shared teachings around the fire.

Materials Checklist:

- Axes or splitting tools (with adult supervision)
- Work gloves
- Safety gear (e.g., goggles, boots, first aid kit)
- Drums and/or rattles
- Fire pit or safe fire circle area
- Tea and bannock (or other traditional snacks)
- Seating (logs, benches, blankets)

Steps:

1. Start the Day: Gather together and discuss who or what the firewood is for (Elders, ceremonies, or community needs).
2. Assign groups: Ensure each group is a good mix of adults, youth, and children. Discuss safety protocols when gathering or cutting wood. Assign the cutting to adults.
3. Work Together: With safety gear, help gather, cut, or stack wood.
4. Distribute the Wood: Deliver or stack the firewood at homes or ceremonial sites.
5. Drum Circle: End with drumming, singing, and sharing stories or teachings around a fire.

Works Cited

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. "NIHM 2022 | Elder Cecile Calliou | Tobacco Protocol Teaching." YouTube, 7 June 2022, www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYbvl3raneA.

The Earl W. Brydges Artpark. "Land Based Healing Circle & Stories by the Fire." Artpark & Company, Inc, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, 2025, www.artpark.net/event/100132/land-based-healing-circle-stories-by-the-fire.