

# Intervention 4:

## Giving Back to the Community

*Community Service offers a purposeful response to the youth's decision to set a fire by allowing the youth to giveback to his/her community. By focusing on repairing the damage caused and the needs of the community, a community service project can restore the balance between the youth and his/her tribal community by giving back.*

*The youth must be held accountable for the harm caused by their decision to set a fire. Requiring him/her the to restore the harm they caused to their victim and their community provides the youth with the opportunity to experience change within themselves and their capacity to contribute to the greater good. Giving back allows the youth the begin to be woven back into their tribe's tapestry by being made to become a responsible, contributing member of their community.*

*It is essential for tribal members and,or representatives from community-based agencies to work alongside the youth while they are completing their community service project. Their presence not only gives credibility and value to the community service, they can also provide encouragement and insight to the youth about the value of engaging in and contributing to the tribal community.*



# Objective:

To give the youth the opportunity to take responsibility for his or her actions by giving back to their tribal community and to reintegrate the youth into his/her community in a positive way.

# Material/Resources needed:

- ☛ materials needed will vary depending on project selected

# Instructions:

1. Identify an appropriate community service project for the youth that will allow him/her to giveback to the community for setting a fire. The community service project selected should be related to the youth's fire incident. For example, if the youth's fire resulted in damage to trees or other natural resources, he/she may be expected to replant this resources.
2. Talk with appropriate community members or agency personnel to coordinate the project. Make sure adequate supervision will be provided.
3. After the project is completed, the youth should be expected to write a summary of the project, how they contributed to the project, how the project benefits their community, and what they learned from the experience.

# Community Service Projects Ideas

- ☼ Cleaning/painting area damaged by the youth's fire
- ☼ Paint a mural over graffiti
- ☼ Work with the fire department to test and install smoke alarms in the neighborhood
- ☼ Write an article for the tribal paper or newsletter about fire prevention
- ☼ Join or form a school or neighborhood safety committee
- ☼ Work at an afterschool program
- ☼ Conduct a canned goods drive during a school event and donate the items to a local food bank
- ☼ Work with the fire department to inspect your school and/or neighborhood for fire hazards
- ☼ Participate in a neighborhood clean-up
- ☼ Help build a play structure at a school or public housing project
- ☼ Assist in planting and tending a garden for an elderly neighbor
- ☼ Rake leaves, shovel snow, clean gutter or wash windows for a senior citizen
- ☼ Visit a senior center and teach them your dances/ask them to teach you theirs
- ☼ Adopt an Elder
- ☼ Volunteer at an animal shelter. Help clean up, play with the animals, or do whatever's needed
- ☼ Plant a garden or tree where the whole neighborhood can enjoy it
- ☼ Set up a recycling system for your home and/or your neighborhood
- ☼ Make bird feeders for public places
- ☼ Adopt an acre of a park or a mile of roadside to keep clean
- ☼ Clean up around the community SWEAT area
- ☼ Clean up the community swimming hole
- ☼ Clean up trash along a river or in a park
- ☼ Create a habitat for wildlife
- ☼ Conduct a can/bottle drive and donate the money to a charity
- ☼ Set up, serve food, and clean up at a public meeting or tribal event
- ☼ Form a volunteer lawn mowing service
- ☼ Repair homes or abandoned buildings
- ☼ Clear a new trail at a nature center or park
- ☼ Toy drive for needy children