

SICC FNLKC Abstract

Workshop Title: Untitled Elders Stories

Name of Presenters: John Spyglass

John Spyglass is an Assiniboine First Nations storyteller from Mosquito, Grizzly Bear's Head, Lean Man First Nation in Saskatchewan. He is a councillor with his First Nation and speaks both his languages of Nakota and Cree. John was previously employed with the then known Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre. He has vast knowledge about First Nations arts and artifacts and is an accomplished beader, moccasin maker, mossbag maker and regalia maker. His session shares various teachings from Elders he has spent time with. This workshop will bring information and meaning behind the use of natural materials and other found objects to construct regalia, each item does come with a story and how it is gathered or obtained; i.e. use of Elk Teeth on a dress.

Abstract: Since time immemorial First Nations people have adorned themselves with natural materials found within their region, although many cultures have developed trade networks to acquire desired items not found in their region, items will be discussed in this session to bring understanding as to why these items are used in adornment. Participants will begin to understand that First Nations regalia has a purpose in culture and tradition as it is passed through the generations.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Take information from this presentation and pass it on to their students and family regarding culture, tradition and regalia
- Be able to use the information as contributions to their overall well-being and self-awareness.