



Mountain Sentinels Community Principles and Practices

The Community Principles below were originally put together by Dominique David Chavez, Shelly Valdez, Geanna Capitan, Jill Stein, and Catherine Tucker in Sept. 2022 and adapted from [Rising Voices ethics guidelines](#) & [MASS Action Community Agreements](#)). Revisions were undertaken by the Mountain Sentinels Leadership Team between August through December 2023.

The Moving Mountains Summit: Guiding Community Principles provide a starting point and considerations for good practices when working in intercultural spaces. We deeply value the time and energy that everyone contributes to the conversation, and therefore we want to create a safe, productive, healing space. These principles guide our Alliance meetings and interactions. This is a living document that travels with us. If you represent Mountain Sentinels in any way, you use these to guide your interactions.

We live our Core Values by practicing these community principles and through reciprocity with all our past, current and future relations. Our natural relations refer to both our communities and our connections and responsibilities to lands, water, people, and all beings.

Our collective purpose is to sustain current and future lifeways in mountain communities. We start by acknowledging that science is based on traditions of rigorous observation practiced by local and Indigenous ancestors for generations. We seek to disrupt past and current appropriation of place-based knowledges and wisdoms derived from our natural relations, to build new pathways guided by diverse ways of knowing and practices of reciprocity.

We value a diversity of views and opinions, We speak without judgment and assume good intentions about each other.

We are learning the history of colonialism, the enduring damages caused by the co-opting of local and Indigenous knowledges, practices and lands, and how current relationships are shaped by settler-colonial histories.

We respect all our natural relations (plant, animal, water, air, land, and ancestors).

We take care of ourselves and each other, and our space. Alert others, such as our safe space team, if you notice a harmful situation or someone in distress.



Racism, discrimination, and abusive behavior will be met with immediate opportunities to learn through facilitated engagement with the safe space team.

We are willing to stretch our limits. We lean into discomfort with the goal of deeper understanding. We engage in conversations amidst diverse worldviews and historic imbalances, in honest, meaningful ways. We ask participants to experience discomfort, especially if your background is one of privilege.

To take care of each other, we should take care of ourselves. Please ensure you do what is needed (including reaching out to whomever you feel comfortable talking to, such as the facilitators or the safe space team). We are here for each other!

We share the air – We all have something to learn and something to share. Leave space for others, including being mindful of keeping space for our virtual attendees. Please only speak from your own experience.

We are patient and flexible, “flowing where the river takes us,” being open to new perspectives, and supporting processes that allow us to engage all our voices in our collective development.

We honor our shared space (please silence your cell phones, step away for side conversations, etc). Respect local and group protocols when appropriate.

We respectfully credit local and Indigenous knowledge contributions, avoiding appropriation. We acknowledge that science is based on Indigenous systems and methodologies from time immemorial.

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