



WALKING THE WAY: A VINOTOK PILGRIMAGE

A Practice of Gratitude, Balance & Reciprocity

Walking the Way: A Vinotok Pilgrimage is a self-directed walking tour of temporary art installations on Elk Avenue and in Wasteland sites surrounding Crested Butte. Each “altar” has mythological information on an archetypal character of Vinotok as well as a season-enriching activity. It’s like a mythological treasure hunt!

How to participate

1. Go to www.vinotok.org for a map of all the stops on the Vinotok Pilgrimage
2. Grab a journal and pen, bring a satchel of appropriate offerings, be prepared with a camera
3. Disconnect from technology and reconnect to yourself by taking this slow walk in nature
4. In the spirit of reciprocity, leave an offering to the land at each site (see below for appropriate ideas)
5. After each pilgrimage station, visit www.vinotok.org to download the expanded versions of the mythology, information and activities formatted with original art work by Peggy Morgan Stenmark, to compile your very own Vinotok 2020 book.
6. All activities lead to the final culmination at the Fire Circle at the crossroads of the Four-Way stop – save that one for last!

About the Wasteland Altars

The altars in the Wasteland sites hold a special purpose. In Vinotok, we rightly venerate our mining heritage. From these strong, heart-led people comes our strong sense of community, affinity for polka, and taste for potica bread. And – the mining practices that began in the 1800s and continued into the 1970s, caused an immense amount of destruction in our landscape – from the tailings that surround us, to toxic water leaching out of glory holes, to pushing the native Ute people from their ancestral home.

Each “off Elk” Wasteland site is on a mining scar in our local habitat. We believe part of creating right relationship with the Earth is to notice. We must acknowledge the detriment of our past actions, and pledge to not only restore these lands, but to move forward with greater respect. Wasteland Altars aim to heal the past destructive relationship we’ve had with the land, and recreate one based on the attributes of balance and reciprocity, strong themes in this year’s Vinotok.

Rules & Suggestions for Leaving Objects at Altars

Reinforcing our theme of balance and reciprocity with the land, you will be asked to leave a blessing, sentiment of gratitude and appreciation, offering of healing, or pardon request to the land where that altar exists.

- Must be a natural object (i.e. nothing human-made)
- Take a walk in nature and find things you would like to offer back to the land
- Please no paper, or anything else, that can fly away with the wind
- Don't pick living things (flowers, moss, mushrooms, etc.). Purchase flowers from a local florist or use flowers or herbs from your garden
- Small bundles of *dried* flowers, grasses, sage or leaves are okay, but shake out the seed pods
- No food that might attract critters
- Use respect if collecting from nature. Be careful where you step, don't collect too much from any one place
- Leave objects you don't mind departing from permanently. All gifted objects collected Saturday, September 19 in the morning to be disposed of in an honorable way. Altars themselves deconstructed Sunday, September 20.

