Waa-gikinoo'amaading
Language & Culture Division
Program Descriptions

Learning Circles

At Gide'inaan, we pride ourselves in striving to remove the barriers often found in Anishinaabe language and cultural reclamation. Instead of holding classes, we facilitate community learning circles. These are free of charge and easy to get registered. While we do not issue grades or credits, we still encourage consistent attendance for maximal learning opportunities. Some of our learning circles are offered in-person, some are offered remotely via Zoom, and others are a hybrid combination of the two. Here are our current offerings for the upcoming year:

Beginner Ojibwemowin I (fall 2026 & spring 2027) in-person/Zoom (two sections)

This learning circle is dedicated to all beginner Ojibwemowin learners. If you have never taken an Ojibwe class or maybe did years ago, this is a great option for acquainting yourself with the language, the learning community, and resources. In this learning circle, we work toward communicative language ability, using the language to communicate with one another. We learn about introducing ourselves and others, clans and kinship, routine activities and basic grammar patterns focusing on the first three persons. Students can expect to learn how to converse at a beginner level, how to ask questions in the language, and how to use and navigate the provided learning resources. We start slow and try our best to take the pressure off the students. The most fun of any of our offerings, the Beginner Ojibwemowin class is full of good-hearted laughter and feel-good vibes for all involved. Space is limited. Registration is required and consistent, dedicated attendance is expected.

Interactive Cultural Workshops (fall 2026 & spring 2027)

Most Monday and Wednesday evenings will consist of various interactive cultural workshops. Certain evenings will involve traditional harvest activities (wild rice processing, fish cleaning, deer processing, etc.), while other evenings will include cultural and spiritual offerings (drum singing, sweat lodge, crafting, cooking, etc.). Certain seasons will involve more activities offered outside of the evening schedule and off-site. These may include ricing trips, sugarbush work, spring spearing, winter ice fishing, winter storytelling, etc. All workshops will be language intensive and geared for all language abilities, beginners to the pros! Certain workshops will require registration; check our website for the latest information on upcoming workshops and registration information.

Intermediate Ojibwemowin Conversation Lunch (fall 2026 & spring 2027) hybrid

Most Mondays and Wednesdays we will hold a learning circle over the lunch hour dedicated to learners who have already taken some language classes who are looking for an opportunity to use and practice what they know and expand their skillsets. Daily discussion topics will be provided, and we will explore vocabulary and grammar for handling those conversation topics. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and get feedback from facilitators. Bring your lunch and come have fun. Space is limited. Registration is required and consistent, dedicated attendance is expected.

Beginner Ojibwemowin II (spring 2027) hybrid (one section)

A continuation of the fall's learning circle, Beginner Ojibwemowin II goes deeper into the language and expands on the topics covered. The seasonal lifeways of the Anishinaabe are explored in this group and participants learn together about the Anishinaabe culture and worldview as best expressed through the Ojibwe language. Participants work on getting the hang of simple conjugations while expanding their abilities to the sentence level, incorporating the use of all eight persons. Participants must have previously finished our Beginner Ojibwemowin I (or another approved course) learning circle to register. Space is limited. Registration is required and consistent, dedicated attendance is expected.

Intermediate Ojibwemowin I (fall 2027) in-person/Zoom (two sections)

Open to all participants who have completed Beginner Ojibwemowin I and II, this learning circle is dedicated to speaking and interpreting Ojibwemowin at the sentence level. We will review what we covered previously and expand on our ability to elaborate and speak with more detail. We will practice simple narrations while growing our daily vocabulary in an effort to master the material from the previous circles. It is in this stage of learning where our comprehension grows significantly, and we start to get the jokes. Folks in this learning circle truly realize how everything is so much better (and funnier) in Ojibwe. Space is limited. Registration is required and consistent, dedicated attendance is expected.

Intermediate Ojibwemowin II (spring 2028) hybrid (one section)

A continuation of the fall's learning circle, Intermediate Ojibwemowin II goes deeper into the language and expands on the topics covered in the previous learning circle. Continuing the focus on sentence-level speech, we work at expanding our vocabularies and practicing the "Simple Set" of VTAs in our regular dialogue. While conversational, practical language is the focus of this learning circle, we will spend time on giving speeches and providing *asemaa* talks for community events and cultural protocols. Space is limited. Registration is required and consistent, dedicated attendance is expected.

Personal Development

Most Fridays we have scheduled availability for community members to stop in and see what we're all about. Many of our relatives have questions about connecting to our Anishinaabe cultural ways and our division is here to help. From helping to coordinate feasts and other ceremonies to connecting our relatives to the bigger Anishinaabe network, this may look different for each community member. Registration is not required but participants are encouraged to contact the Division to schedule a time to meet.

Professional Development

Most Fridays and other select times throughout the summer we have scheduled availability to provide professional development trainings to the community. Professional development offerings include Cultural Sensitivity Training (great for new employees, non-native employees, non-culturally competent community members), Local Anishinaabe History, Community Tours, and town-hall style speakers and presentations. Professional development offerings can be housed on-site, or staff of Gide'inaan can provide trainings at your place of work. Contact the Division to schedule your training.

Summer Language, Cultural, & Spiritual Programming

In addition to planning and professional development for Gide'inaan staff, summer months will consist of robust spiritual activity and community language-focused events. Gide'inaan staff will be engaged in the coordination of local ceremony (*Midewiwin* and *Manidoo-dewe'igan*), regional powwows and celebrations, in addition to summer camps here at LCO and throughout the region. While the Division will be open in the summer months, programming will be based around what is needed in the community. Certain summer activities will require registration; check our website for the latest information on summer programming and registration information.

Additional Programs (contact the Division for more information)

- Elders Ojibwemowin: regular language/culture learning circle for the LCO Elders Association.
- Bizhiki Ojibwemowin: regular language/culture learning circle for the Bizhiki Wellness Center.
- Sawyer County Jail: regular support group for incarcerated community members.
- Women's Group: regular language/culture learning circle for the *ikwewag* of LCO.