

How to Make Prayer Ties

(The mechanics) By: Zoe Bryant

Note: This information is only “the mechanics”. Making Prayer Ties is a ceremony within itself and should be done with much reverence and respect. The Process I have found is different with many elders or teachers. Instructions as to colors, when to smudge, honoring of the directions and other things might change. Therefore, I give only the mechanics.



Get your materials together and ready to sit and pray.
Items needed.

- Small squares of fabric(about 2” square)
- String (kite strings works best; you don’t want it to break!)
- natural tobacco (Native Spirit & Bugler both work well)
- Sage (to smudge yourself and all your supplies)



Preparing your fabric squares for the Prayer ties:

The easiest way to get multiple pieces of fabric is to notch your material about 2” apart and tear long strips the length of the fabric. Fold them in half, fold again and continue folding until your folded strip is only 2” wide. Cut all the folds with scissors.



Putting your tobacco prayer into the tie:

Place a small pinch of tobacco in the center of a square of fabric. Fold the fabric over ... Fold it a second time and then a third time. Now pinch the bundle together making what looks like a little ghost.

Tying your prayers onto a continuous string:



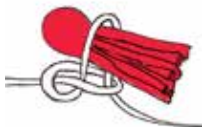
Loop the string



Bring the end back through loop



Closer look at bringing Loop through.



Insert your tie into loop and pull string tight. Do the process of looping the string again and insert another prayer tie making a continuous length of prayer ties.