



BAOBAB TREE - AKA "TREE OF LIFE"

TITLE: ELDERS

PURPOSE: Resource Person to advise, guide and oversee the work (Freedom/Liberation and Wellness) in the Akron African Village/Community

QUALIFICATIONS

- African Centered Training - Rites of Passage
- Willingness to Continued Training
- Demonstrated wisdom, intelligence and leadership – living a life of purpose
- Demonstrated lifestyle of fidelity – loyalty to spouse
- Person of Honest Character and Integrity
- Impeccable Reputation in the community including tactfulness
- Responsible parents
- Ability to listen to the voice of the people
- Unconcerned with self-interest
- Respected by community members – modeling, responsibility, feedback and love
- Unwavering commitment to the principles of MAAT (truth, justice, order, harmony, balance, reciprocity & propriety) and the Nguzo Saba (*The Seven Principles*): *Umoja (Unity)*, *Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)*; *Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)*; *Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)*; *Nia (Purpose)*; *Kuumba (Creativity)* and *Imani (Faith)*.
- Equipped to (Female) protect/defend (sustaining life – spiritual harmony – securing and
- establishing (Male) nurture/educate (growth & development – spiritual balance –
- securing and establishing

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Guardians of culture, future and spiritual/sacred matters for the collective good
- Perform rituals and ceremonies
- Grant Permission/counsel at community events
- Provide Counsel and Guidance to Our Village/Community (individual, organization, institutions, etc.)
- Willingness to Share Special Skills and Talents for Nation Building
- Keep Community Social Structures Strong for right living and functioning
- Ability to Resolve Conflicts, Mediate Disputes and Contradictions
- Help Support, Build and Maintain System/Processes for Our Village/Community
- Devoted to the Uplift of African People
- Intergenerational transfer/transmission of information and wisdom
- Promote healing and empowerment in Our Village/Community
- Encourage Restorative justice and peace building in Our Village/Community
- Serve as providers of stability and integration with other parts of the African community

PERSONAL

Married, Widowed, Single or Divorced

Age: 55 and older

“Failure to obey one’s elders is to disgrace your ancestors” African Proverb