**Corn Ceremony**

**Lesson of Sharing and Giving to Others**

**Overview:** This ceremony is meant to be performed generally on its own. It is based on giving thanks for the harvest. It is best performed around a small to medium size campfire, not the size of a large council fire.

Gather the Longhouse around the campfire, seated one or two rows deep (preferably children in the front row with parents seated behind, close enough to hear the ceremony and to hear a story told without the story-teller having to shout.

All participants will be given a few kernels of dried corn to hold during a portion of the ceremony. Prepare or obtain enough with some extra so there is no chance of running out.

**Participants:**

* Longhouse Chief, or other as the leader/main presenter.
* Story-Teller

**Corn Ceremony – Lesson of Sharing and Giving to Others**

**LEADER:** This fall time is also the time of the Great Harvest. Some call this time of year the time of the Harvest Moon. Some Native American Indians also called this the time of the Green Corn Moon, the time when the corn and many of the crops were ready to be picked and stored for the winter. Corn was one of the more important of these crops for the Native American Indians. They could grow it in great quantities, and store much of it to help feed them as well as feeding their animals through the coming long winters.

Corn is a food that was developed long ago, mainly by the Native American Indians. They shared it with their needy neighbors, which reminds us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Corn is one of the gifts given by the Native American Indians to the early English settlers of this country. The Indians had taught the settlers how to grow corn, and the many things that could be made from it.

*(Pass out kernels, a small handful to each person, asking them to hold them in their hand.)*

Corn is one of the important foods shared between the Native American Indians and the settlers on that first celebration very long ago of the holiday we call Thanksgiving. On that first Thanksgiving, those settlers (commonly called the Pilgrims) gave thanks that they were alive, that they had food to survive, and that God had sent them help in learning to survive in their new lands in the form of the Indians, who had lived here many centuries before the English settlers arrived.

***STORY TELLER:*** *Tell the story of the Leather Bags. (last 2 pages of this script)*

*(It is encouraged, that the Story Teller should memorize the basics of the story and dramatize it, not just read it from the paper.)*

**LEADER:***(After story…)*

* Silently, think of how you would use your corn. To what good use would you put it to?
* Would anyone like to share their thoughts?

Would you all please now in silence, place your kernels into the fire as an offering of your thoughts to the Great Spirit. *(Allow time for this, encourage silence.)*

**Final Prayer:** Great Spirit above and Mother Earth below, we give thanks for all that you provide that we may live. We ask you to listen to the thoughts in the hearts of these people gathered here, and how they would use their gift of corn for the good of their fellow man.

**(Recite Longhouse Salutation!)**







