

SOL GRATITUDE VILLAGE  
Guided by Nature  
Rooted in Ceremony  
Held in Community

THERE COMES A TIME...  
WHEN A YOUNG PERSON IS READY  
TO STEP BEYOND THE KNOWN.  
TO WALK INTO THE WILD WITH  
QUESTIONS BIGGER THAN ANSWERS.  
TO BE WITNESSED, CHALLENGED,  
AND SEEN — NOT AS A CHILD, BUT  
AS SOMEONE BECOMING.

THIS IS THAT TIME.

# WILDERNESS RITES OF PASSAGE

“WHEN A YOUNG PERSON IS INITIATED WITH LOVE,  
THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY REMEMBERS ITS PURPOSE.  
LET THEM WALK INTO THE WILDERNESS — AND  
RETURN WITH THE GIFT ONLY THEY CAN CARRY.”

DEER WOMAN JUNE 22-27 WILLIAMS OR | JULY 20-25 SAN DIEGO CA  
ELK MAN JUNE 14-19 WILLIAMS OR | JULY 29-AUG 3 SAN DIEGO CA  
AGES 12-18 ALL WHO IDENTIFY AS YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN ARE  
WELCOME IN THEIR FULLNESS. THIS WORK IS TRAUMA-INFORMED,  
INCLUSIVE, AND LED BY EXPERIENCED MENTORS.

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# Summer Wilderness Rites of Passage 2025

Hosted by SOL Gratitude Village Wilderness School  
For Young Women & Young Men • Ages 12-18

## Program Overview

In cultures across the world, rites of passage have marked the sacred transition from childhood to young adulthood. At SOL Gratitude Village, we honor and renew these ancient traditions through Deer Woman and Elk Man – two powerful, nature-rooted wilderness journeys for youth seeking connection, meaning, and belonging.

Each 5-day immersive experience invites young people to step into the rhythms of the Earth, discover inner strength, and be witnessed by mentors and community as they cross into a new stage of life. This is a soulful initiation into the beauty, challenge, and responsibility of becoming.

## Program Dates & Locations

-  Deer Woman (Young Women, Ages 12-18)  
June 22-27 | Williams, Oregon  
July 20-25 | San Diego, California
-  Elk Man (Young Men, Ages 12-18)  
June 14-19 | Williams, Oregon  
July 29-August 3 | San Diego, California

**Tuition:** 1400-\$1600 (Sliding scale & scholarships available)  
Tuition includes all mentoring, ceremonies, food during the intensive, and group integration support.

## Journey Highlights

- Wilderness Skills
- Solo Vigil Experience (Optional) 24-36 hour solo time in nature, supported by preparation, mentoring, and ceremony
- Nature Awareness & Sensory Training
- Expanding with deep listening and holistic tracking practices
- Council & Storytelling
- Daily circles to speak, listen, and be witnessed in community
- Rites of Passage Ceremonies
- Threshold crossings, elemental honoring rituals, and community return celebrations.

- Soul-Centered Mentoring based on 8-Shields, Wild Mind Archetypes, and Nature-Based Human Development models.
- Grief, Gratitude, and Celebration Practices
- Honoring the beauty and sorrow of growth, with ancestral grief-tending ceremonies.

### **Who This Is For**

- Youth (ages 12–18) ready to deepen their relationship with self, Earth, and community
- Young people seeking a meaningful rite of passage into greater maturity and purpose
- Families longing for a soul-rooted, supportive, and empowering initiation for their child.

### **Our Approach**

The Deer Woman and Elk Man programs are trauma-informed, inclusive, and rooted in respect for each youth's unique journey guided by experienced wilderness mentors, elders, and rite of passage facilitators, we create a safe and sacred container for growth, reflection, and celebration. We honor the natural intelligence and inner wisdom of every young person. We trust the Earth, the soul, and the village to hold what is ready to emerge.

### **Contact & Registration**

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Limited spaces available for each journey.

“When the youth cross the threshold in beauty and courage, the future of the village is reborn.”