How to Be a Good Relative

If you feel called to join a movement that has camp or camps in place upon your arrival, there are some important things you should know as a guest. We have highlighted some of these important things below. Please take into consideration everything that we have shared here, as your presence upon arrival and how you carry yourself, is key.

**7 Key Things to Keep in Mind**

1. Know the land you are on
2. Make sure you know who the leadership is and follow Indigenous leadership at all times
3. Make sure you know the ground rules or common values of the camp or action that you are going into and follow those
4. Be self-sustaining! Be sure you are able to sustain yourself so that you are not a burden to the people in the community
5. Make sure you are adding to the strength that is already there
6. Read through this link on How To Be A Good Guest – [https://www.bowerbirdatelier.com/journal/goodguest](https://www.bowerbirdatelier.com/journal/goodguest)
7. Leave the land better than you found it

**How to Be an Authentic Ally**

As yourself the following questions:

* Am I being an ally to mask my personal guilt/shame caused by my bloodlines actions?
* Am I being an ally for personal gain?
* Am I only an ally with certain people?
* Do I romanticize Indigenous peoples in my allyship?
* Are my behaviors coming from a place of authenticity?
* Are my behaviors coming from a place of avoiding my own pain or a place of being truthful in who I am?”

Don't be the cause of more unnecessary harm!

**Know Why You Are There**

Make sure you are there for the right reasons. Are you there for your own ego or your own reasons? Or are you truly there to support Indigenous folx who are fighting against destruction and degradation of their homelands and cultural ways.

This isn't a play-ground or a selfie weekend spot. This is not something you get to take part of for one weekend and check off on your IG checklist. These are legit people who might not have clean drinking water. These are real people having real struggles and a reality they cannot escape from. This is about generational thinking, not 'what can I gain from this moment.'