

Speak your Peace

The **Civility** Project

What's it all About?

Speak Your Peace, a citizen-led project, is a campaign to improve communication by reminding ourselves of the basic principles of respect. It is not a campaign to end disagreements.

- Speak Your Peace was founded by Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation in 2003.
- Campaign is based on the work of P.M. Forni, author of *Choosing Civility*.
- Speak Your Peace was adopted by citizens of Greater South Wood County in 2008.
- To date, 20 community volunteers are trained as Speak Your Peace presenters.

Impacts

In 2009, 24 presentations were given to local businesses, clubs, churches, non-profits and schools, with over 1,000 people hearing the Speak Your Peace message including:

- **Area technical college-** presentations have been given to cosmetology students; supervisory groups; correctional officers; operating room technicians and IT groups.
- **Municipalities-** civility tools practiced by several local cities, towns and villages.
- **Schools/School Boards-** campaign has been incorporated by students, teachers, staff and administrators.
- **Churches-** Speak Your Peace themed message series offered during service.
- **Programs-** Why & How to Run for Elected Office; Speak Your Peace is a civility platform for individuals interested in running for office.

9 Tools of Civility

1. **Pay Attention**
Be aware and attend to the world and the people around you
2. **Listen**
Focus on others in order to better understand their points of view
3. **Be Inclusive**
Welcome all groups of citizens working for the greater good of the community
4. **Don't Gossip**
And don't accept when others choose to do so
5. **Show Respect**
Honor other people and their opinions, especially in the midst of a disagreement
6. **Seek Common Ground**
Look for opportunities to agree; don't contradict just to do so
7. **Repair Damaged Relationships**
Be sincere; apologize and forgive
8. **Use Constructive Language**
Be mindful of the words you choose
9. **Take Responsibility**
Practice accountability in language and actions

Keeping Speak Your Peace Alive

Presentation Request Form- access the online presentation request form at www.speakyourpeaceswc.org.

Online Toolkit- delve deeper into each of the 9 Tools of Civility through articles and activities available on the Speak Your Peace website.

Common Resolution- a Common Resolution has been passed by many local businesses, churches, organizations, groups, and individuals in support of Speak Your Peace.

Facebook- search Speak Your Peace on Facebook. Click the "like" button to receive updates, be invited to events and participate in discussions.

www.SpeakYourPeaceSWC.org

It's not what you say.
It's how you say it.

Speak Your Peace. Owned by the community. Supported by Barker Mead Community Resource Center through Community Foundation of Greater South Wood County

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