

University of Montana Smudging/Pipe Ceremony Policy 1016 (Updated August 25, 2020) Procedure: Smudging/Pipe Ceremony

Purpose and intent:

Smudging is an Indigenous tradition which involves the burning of sage, sweetgrass and/or cedar. Sage smudge produces a strong and distinct aroma, however the smoke associated with smudge is minimal and lasts a short time. Sweetgrass has a mild aroma and produces even less smoke than sage. Cedar produces a mild aroma and also produces minimal smoke. Sage, sweetgrass and cedar are used primarily for purification and are used to help create a positive mind set.

Tobacco is used in pipe ceremonies by a pipe carrier. Tobacco smoke produces a mild to moderate aroma and is used primarily to bless others and self.

Ceremony procedures:

Those who want to conduct a smudging/tobacco ceremony in one of the designated areas must their request to the appropriate administrative office prior to activity.

Designated locations are the Payne Family Native American Center Rotunda, Classroom 105, and Suite 113 (a-c), McGill Hall-rooms 024 and 031, The Branch Center in the UC, and student living spaces located on UM property, are approved locations for smudging/pipe ceremonies.

Residence Halls, University and Lewis and Clark Villages procedures:

Any person wishing to smudge within UM Housing student living spaces must make their request by submitting a Smudging Request Form to the UM Housing Office:

<https://umhousing.submittable.com/submit/169736/request-to-smudge-in-um-housing-facilities%20>

All submissions will be reviewed by the Executive Director of UM Housing, and then the student will receive an official email from the UM Housing office regarding their request. No resident may smudge on UM housing premises until they receive that email from the UM Housing office acknowledging their request (submitting this form does not complete the process). All students upon requesting to smudge is required to acknowledge that they have read the policy above and agree to follow the expectations outlined in the policy.

Approved burning receptacles:

A large shell or fire proof pan can be used to burn the sage, cedar and sweet grass. This smudging procedure only applies only to UM Housing and other designated smudging areas. Please contact the UM Tribal Outreach Specialist for more information, to ask questions or to see if the receptacle you use for smudging is inside of these parameters by e-mailing bradford.hall@mso.umt.edu.

Facilities standard:

Ceremonial locations shall be periodically inspected by Facilities Services to ensure appropriate ventilation, smoke alarms, and fire extinguishers are available and in working condition.

Emergency contact procedures:

In the case of an emergency, the University of Montana Police Department must be contacted immediately at 243-4000 and/or 911.