

Ceremony #71
Native American Wedding
With Smudge Ceremony & Lasso

Welcome! Good afternoon, family and friends. We have come here today to celebrate the wedding of _____ **and** _____.

Marriage is a bond to be entered into only after considerable thought and reflection. By making this commitment today,

_____ **and** _____ relationship will become stronger, better, and deeper. Today, _____ **and** _____ demonstrate their devotion to each other by dedicating themselves to a life together and they show their respect for each other by setting forth to honor the vows they have created. Today, their lives, which began on separate paths, will be joined as one

One of the great joys of the wedding day is the joining together of the couple's families and friends _____ **and** _____ are filled with gratitude to each and every one of you for the loving, caring, friendship and support that you have given them throughout their lives. Being able to share their wedding day with you, surrounded by your love and support, is a treasured blessing. Let us continue to be there to support them in fulfilling the vows they are making here today.

Deep abiding affection, the magical and compelling shared impulse that makes us seek each other's company, is among the greatest gifts of the human experience. Any of us who has been fortunate enough to find and express the kind of loving devotion that we are celebrating here today knows that it is an awesome and beautiful blessing

The step which you are about to take is the most important into which couples can take. It is a union of two people founded upon mutual

respect and affection. Your lives will change, your responsibilities will increase, but your joy will be multiplied if you are sincere and earnest with your pledge to one another.

(A friend or family member may lay your lasso out at this time or you may have it pre-placed prior to the ceremony, and the wedding blanket may be placed over the couples shoulders)

I would like to ask _____ **and** _____ to step into the **Wedding Lasso**. As the couple steps into the wedding lasso or lasso of love, I would like to ask everyone to rise at this time and join hands forming a circle of love around _____ **and** _____.

At this time I will perform a Native American Smudge Blessing.

Creator, giver of all life, Bless with your goodness _____ **and** _____ who come now to join in marriage. Grant that they give their sacred words to each other in the strength of your love. Enable them to grow in love and peace with you and with one another for all their days. **Smudge the outer circle of family and friends**

Oh Great Spirit Bring The Blessings Of The
East **South** West **North** Mother Earth **Father Sky**
Creator Of Our Souls Within

Smudging Prayer

Smudge _____ **and** _____

May your hands be cleansed, that they create beautiful things.

May your feet be cleansed, that they might take you where you most need to be.

May your heart be cleansed, that you might hear its messages clearly.

May your throat be cleansed, that you might speak rightly when words are needed.

May your eyes be cleansed, that you might see the signs and wonders of the world.

May this person and space be washed clean by the smoke of these fragrant plants

And may that same smoke carry our prayers spiraling to the heavens.

In honor of _____ **and** _____, I cleanse them of all negativity.

I banish away all those who would harm them and I send away all negative thoughts, Let _____ **and** _____ be filled with love and light from this day forward.

Great Spirit above please protect the ones we love. We honor all you created as _____ **and** _____ pledge their hearts and lives together. We honor Mother Earth and ask for their marriage to be abundant and grow stronger through the seasons. We honor fire and ask that their union be warm and glowing with love in their hearts. We honor wind and ask that they, sail through life safe and calm as in our father's arms. We honor water to clean and soothe their relationship -- that it may never thirst for love. With all the forces of the universe you created, we pray for harmony and true happiness as _____ **and** _____ grow forever young together in marriage. Amen." Or "aho".

Minister: We shall now say your vows.

Please take your partners hands and repeat after me:

Do you, _____, take _____ into your life, to live with and love, to share all of what life has in store for the two of you? 'I do'

Do you, _____, take _____ into your life, to live with and love, to share all of what life has in store for the two of you? 'I do'

I invite you now to make your promises to each other. May these vows that you make today continue to inspire you and warm your soul through all the years that lay ahead.

I _____, choose you _____, To be my partner for life from this day forward; You are the one I choose To spend my life with. I make this commitment to you out of my deep love and respect. I wish to share the rest of my life with you, To be by your side Through our life's journey together I promise to cherish you, To honor you, To love and respect you, To hold you close, To listen when you speak
To nourish you with gentleness, To comfort and encourage you, In sickness and in health. To uphold you with my strength, And be a safe haven in your life. To never take you for granted, And to always give thanks, For your presence in my life.

I _____ promise to love you, All the days of my life.

I _____, choose you _____, To be my partner for life from this day forward; You are the one I choose To spend my life with. I make this commitment to you out of my deep love and respect. I wish to share the rest of my life with you, To be by your side, Through our life's journey together I promise to cherish you, To honor you, To love and respect you, To hold you close, To listen when you speak
To nourish you with gentleness, To comfort and encourage you, In sickness and in health. To uphold you with my strength, And be a safe haven in your life. To never take you for granted, And to always give thanks, For your presence in my life.

I _____ promise to love you, All the days of my life.

_____ **And** _____ **'s Personal Marriage Vows or Wedding Words**

May you embark upon your life-long journey together. Arm-in-arm, hand-in-hand. May you delight each other with your timeless love and affection for each other. May your love grow ever stronger; may you

love long and happily in one another's arms.

In as much as _____ and _____ have consented together in wedlock and have witnessed the same before this company, and pledged their vows to each other, by the authority vested in me , I now pronounce you partner's in life.

You may now kiss .