

Constructing a Ciiporoke at Tower Rock School

The project consisted of several events: Two field trips to forest in the Baraboo Hills to learn cultural practices and harvest materials for the ciiporoke; a day spent building the ciiporoke in small groups; repairing poles on the structure in preparation for adding canvas; designing and preparing artwork to decorate the ciiporoke with; covering the ciiporoke with canvas. There have been several outcomes as well. For example, Tower Rock now has a Ho Chunk outdoor learning space in our back yard that classes use from time to time. Students, staff, and the school as a whole have begun to develop a relationship with local Ho Chunk people, and the beginnings of an understanding of Ho Chunk culture, which were weak or non-existent prior to this project; students have made early steps of internalizing the message that when you take something, you have the responsibility to give back as well.



Students gather in the ciiporoke for winter storytelling and compare answers on an outdoor learning scavenger hunt.

Photo by: Sarah Zajicek, 12/12/2023.



Student artwork freshly installed on the frame, to be covered with canvas.

Photo by: Jeff Wright, 12/8/2024



Students work with Lightning to build the ciiporoke frame.

Photo by: Angus Mossman, 9/30/2022