



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Fred Vesey (530) 507-2783

Initiating Young Men into Manhood

August 2-4, Boulder Creek, CA. & Sept. 27-29, Napa, CA.

Napa, CA – Successfully teaching old-fashioned values in this digitally dominant era, the Bay Area based non-profit, Young Men’s Ultimate Weekend (YMUW), is hosting its fortieth initiation event in the Bay Area. Designed for young men of all socio-economic backgrounds between the ages of 13 and 20, the YMUW helps young men channel their energy constructively and become responsible and independent young men.

The YMUW is a non-religious, modern rites of passage initiation that allows all young men to freely voice their concerns about becoming a man and acquire the leadership skills necessary for a responsible adulthood.

“Every man is obligated to initiate young men into the community, and every young man should have an opportunity to have a rite of passage to learn who he is personally and discover his place in society,” said Mark Schillinger, a San Rafael chiropractor who is the co-founder of YMUW.

Reviving a tradition that is thousands of years old, the YMUW is staffed by volunteers who oversee events that include sporting competitions, intellectual challenges, drum circles, a ropes course, community service, trust falls and open forum discussions regarding issues about sex, drugs, relationships, goal setting and anger management.

YMUW event coordinator, Fred Vesey, states, “Young men not only need encouragement, they need guidance to learn what it means to be a man. It’s the biological nature of young men to want to explore, seek out and test their limits. This natural aggression needs to be honored as well as shaped by a mentor.”

The event occurs out in nature, away from family, academic and social pressures that young men face every day. The young men are mentored by mature adults who've been trained in a personal growth method that caters to the special biological and psychological needs of adolescent males.

Dr. Warren Farrell, author of “Why Men Are the Way they Are” and, "the Myth of Male Power" has observed some of the ceremonies at the YMUW and commented, " Mature men involved in the Young Men's Ultimate Weekend are needed today, more than ever before, to help prepare young men for adulthood. We need to give young men a clear message that they are valued and

needed, and we need to show them how becoming responsible sons, partners and fathers will make a difference in the world.”

The Weekend concludes when the young men and their families are reunited in a heartfelt ceremony where all family members commit to the creation of a more respectful and resourceful household.

Upon completion of his Weekend, a young man commented, "This program has pointed me in the right direction and shown me the path that leads to true manhood. This experience was incredible for me. This is the best way to get in touch with yourself and become an honorable man."

YMUW has been featured in the San Jose Mercury News, The Marin News Pointer and The Bohemian, a Sonoma weekly magazine. Articles by YMUW mentors have been published in Common Ground Magazine, Family Works Magazine, and Awareness Magazine. News stories about their program have appeared on TV and on radio.

For more information contact Fred Vesey at (530) 597-2783 or at ftvesey@att.net

XXXXX