

A I M S

1. TO BE CLEAN IN BODY AND PURE IN HEART  
(CLEAN BODY, GOOD HEART)

**CLEAN:** Make motion of rubbing hands as if washing.

**BODY:** Take hands, starting at shoulders, and go down your body.

**GOOD:** Bring the right hand across breast level with heart, palm down, then with a sweeping motion extend to right of body.



**HEART:** Bring cupped right hand pointing downwards over heart.



2. TO BE PALS FOREVER WITH MY DAD/SON  
(FRIENDS FOREVER WITH MY DAD/SON)

**FRIENDS:** Hold right hand in front of neck, palm outward, index fingers extending upwards, raise the hand until tips of fingers are as high as head.



**FOREVER:** Bring right hand up alongside of head close to ear, then move back and forth twice.



**MY:** (possession) Hold fist in front of neck, back to right; swing hand slightly downwards and by wrist action have thumb point to front.



**DAD:** (man) Hold right hand in front of chest, index finger pointing up, and raise it in front of face.



**SON:** Make sign for man, then with right index finger pointing upwards, lower hand to indicate height of child.

3. TO LOVE THE SACRED CIRCLE OF MY FAMILY  
(LOVE MY HOUSE)

**LOVE:** (fond) Cross wrists, a little in front and above the heart, right wrist nearest body, hands closed, back out; press right forearm against body and left wrist against right arm.



**MY:** As above.

**HOUSE:** Meaning - Corner of longhouse. With hands in front of body, interlace fingers near tips, fingers at right angles, horizontal. This is the primitive sign for house, though Cheyennes frequently indicate shape of gable roof with both 5 fingers pointing up.



4. TO BE ATTENTIVE WHILE OTHERS SPEAK  
(YOU TALK - ME LISTEN)

**YOU:** Point right hand at person addressed.

**TALK:** A little talk or ("one person talking to another") is expressed as shown; place back of right hand against chin with nail of right index finger pressing against thumb, move hand a trifle to front and snap the index finger straight forward. (Repeat motion)



**ME:** Point right thumb at breast.

**LISTEN:** Hold right hand behind ear.

5. TO LOVE MY NEIGHBOR AS MYSELF  
(LOVE ALL PEOPLE SAME AS ME)

**LOVE:** As above.

**ALL:** Move right flat hand in horizontal circle from right to left, breast high.



**PEOPLE:** Hold both hands shoulder high, fingers spread and pointing up. Move hands together and apart a few times, by wrist action.



**SAME AS:** (equal; like) Hold hands in front of breast, indexes two inches apart, move them both to front, keeping tips opposite, and indicating an even race.



**ME:** Same as above.

**6. TO SEEK AND PRESERVE BEAUTY OF THE GREAT SPIRIT'S  
WORK IN FOREST, FIELD, AND STREAM  
HUNT GREAT SPIRIT'S WORKS, FOREST, FIELD & STREAM**

**HUNT:** (look) Hold right hand just below right eye, index and second fingers slightly parted and pointing ahead.



**GREAT:** Hold hands in front of body, palms facing body, and spread them.



**SPIRIT'S:** (Medicine) Hold fist over right eye, point upward with index and middle fingers and move hand upward in spiral motion.



**WORK:** Place hands, palms facing each other, a few inches apart in front of body. Move hands up and down past each other.



**FOREST:**

(Many Trees) Raise hands in front of body, fingers slightly curved. Then sweep hands together in a looping curve. Hold left hand open in front of shoulder, fingers spread. Then raise hand slowly upward to indicate growth.



**FIELD:**

(Grass) Hold hands near ground, fingers curved upward and slightly apart. Then swing hands out in a slight upward curve.



**STREAM:**

(River) Cup hand and raise to mouth as if drinking from it. Then place right hand across face, index finger extended, and draw it to the right until it is even with the right shoulder.



THESE INDIAN SIGNS ARE TAKEN FROM PUBLICATION  
INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE BY ROBERT HOF SINDE (Grey - Wolf)