Nez Perce Language Pledge
Vera Sonneck (Nimipuutímtki – In the Nez Perce Language.) 7-28-03

Nez Perce Leadership Motto
Vera Sonneck (Nimipuutímtki) & Angel Sobotta - translator. Revised 5-12-04 (some static)

ABC’s
Vera Sonneck & Bessie Scott (added on 10-13-04)

Respect Mother Earth Terms
Vera Sonneck (Nimipuutímtki – In the Nez Perce Language.) 7-28-03

Name Places
Angel Sobotta (English)Vera Sonneck & Bessie Scott (Nimipuutímtki.) 12-7-03

Names of Tribes
Angel Sobotta (English)Vera Sonneck & Bessie Scott (Nimipuutímtki.) 12-7-03

Typed by Angel Sobotta Nez Perce Language Program 7-28-03 ©
Nimipuutímt
(In the parenthesis below are the body movements that go with the pledge)

**cukwenéewit**, Know it
(With both hands point to the sides of the head, by your temples)

**hitéemeneeewit**, Learn it
(With both hands, reach out with palms facing up and pull in towards body, closing palms)

**téecukwe**, Teach it
(With both hands, throw palms out in front of you like you are giving away something)

**c’ixnéewit**, Speak it
(With right hand, up to the mouth and hand rounded, throw hand out, palm open)

**titooqanáawit**, Live it
(With right hand, tap heart twice)

**wiyéeleehheyn**, Everyday!
(With both arms & hands extended on the outside, bring them in for sunrise & out for sunset)
Nez Perce Leadership Slogan (Revised)

*nimíipuu mimiyóóxat hic’iiqteenix
Nez Perce leaders speak
tim’néepkinix
from the heart
*hiwsíix qa’ánin’,
They are respectable or have good character
*wiwéepcux, wiwáaq’is ’ewsíix néekt,
Intelligence, Healthy mind,
*ciláakt kaa hewléexhewlex
body and spirit.
kúnk’u ’imamáhinaq’in
Always ready to be of service
hiwsíix wapáyatat’as nimíipuu titóoqapx.
to their Nez Perce people.

5-12-04 Revised by Adult Class. Recorded on Volume 4 as well. Some static.

*A few changes were made to this Nez Perce Leadership & Wellness Slogan in 2006. The recording and the words which can be found on CD volume 5.
Consonants that Pop and Creak:

- The glottal stop, for popping & stopping sounds. Say the word That like Tha’, you cut it off, it’s a half consonant, like “Uh oh!” Ex: wáaqo’- now.

**Consonants that Pop and Creak:**
- p’-ílp’ílp red, t’-mít’ip elderberry, k’-sík’em horse, c’-éeew’cew ghost, q’-ciq’áamqal dog, m’-tim’ine heart, n’-tin’ún male mountain sheep, w’-w’áaw’a fish hook, y’ tiy’et laughter, l’ hamol’ic cute.

**Letters not included in the nimipuutímt spelling system:** B, D, F, G, J, R, V, Z. REVISED 8-21-07
Mother Earth Terms
’eqîicqitx wéetesne
“Take Care of the Earth”
wéetes qicxnew’éet
“Stewards of the Earth”
cáapkil’akitx
“Pick it up!”
cáapkil’ax!
Pick it up!
wéetesne ’éetx ’apaqa’ánno’
“Respect the earth”
pîke ’ée qa’ánno’
“Respect your mother”
’ewqîin
“Throw away”
cáapkil’ax tíim’es!
Pick up the paper!
Nez Perce Name Places

Agatha, ID______________________________________tukeespe (tu-kehs-pa APS)
Anatone, WA_____________________________________’enetoyn
Arrow Junction (HC)______________________________yaxtooyn______________________________________________________Refers to a bench, knoll up there.
Shadow resting on a bench.
tooyn = lengthening shadows.

Asahka, ID________________________________________’asaqa
Asotin (HC)____________________________________hesuutin’or Hesutiin________________________________________The place of many eels (name source). The oldest inhabited village in Eastern Washington, dating back over 8,500 years. (GF)

Boise (HA)______________________________________qapqapa’ala
Boise/Walla Walla (HC)_________________________páasxa
Canada (GF)____________________________________kincochnim wéetes________________________________________Named after King George I of England.

Celilo (HC)______________________________________silayloo
Clarkis, Mountain near Clarkis (APS)________________tu-yahl-ko-lum
Clarkston, WA (the other side of River) (HA)_________simiinkem neqeey
Clarkston, WA (The place below Clarkston) (APS)____’al’pawawaii_________________________________________________Place of plant called “Ahl-pa-ha”
Clearwater River - The place along (Unit 70)____________kuumkxtoyn_________________________________________________The place where shadows are falling.

Colfax, WA (GF)_________________________________ti’natpa’ama____________________________________________________Seat of Whitman County
Columbia River____________________________________xuyelp_________________________________________________________The Great River.
Cottonwood (HA) Area of many cottonwood trees.________________qapqapiin____________________________________________Area of many Cottonwood trees.
Cottonwood (HC)_________________________________qapqap_________________________________________________________Qapqap is Cottonwood Tree.
Cottonwood Creek area (HA)________________________maaqa
Cottonwood Creek Myrtle __________________________toy-yoy-mekhs_________________________________________________Referring to the rocky point above Myrtle/Cottonwood Creek (APS)

Coyote Gulch – West of Coyote Gulch (HA)___________ciwiikte
Craig Mountain (GF)______________________________weeyekiinwees_________________________________________________A place where one goes to seek a guardian spirit; also related to the word weeyekin. It is also known as teyemexs, or the distant mountain.

Culdesac (HA)____________________________________kaltaspa
Culdesac (GF)____________________________________tiqiikespe____________________________________________________The Landing Place/Descend to bottom.
Elk City (GF) _ Tatlohisnima _ The place of many ground squirrels
Ferdinand (HA) _ Palxóockin
Garden Gulch (GF) _ Paplawam _ Village Site at Lapwai Creek.
Grangeville (HC) _ Sayxsayqii _ Smooth scouring rush-water plant
Tolo Lake (GF) _ ’alwan’iwetem _ Place where Wooley Mammoth bones were located.

Hatwai _ Héetwey _ To spill or throw out.
Juliaetta (GF) _ Yeqe _ Comes from qemu or Indian Hemp.
Kamiah (GF) _ Qemyexp _
East Kamiah (HA) _ Nikise
Kendrick (GF) _ Hey’uxcpe _ Place of Cottontail Rabbits.
Kendrick (HC) _ Yeqe
Kooskia (GF) _ Leewikees _ Shelf and deep pool where Salmon
Kendrick (HC) _ Yeqe _ Refers to a basalt shelf in the river with a pool below it where salmon gathered. This was a major fishery place.

Lapwai (GF) _ Léepwey _ From the word “Butterfly” - leепlep
Lenore (The Eddy) (HA) _ S’uuley (px) _ Convergence of two rivers
Lewiston (GF) _ Simiinekem _ (confluence of Snake & Clearwater Rivers, but can be the confluence of any river.)

Little Salmon (HC) _ Múulpel’
Lo Lo Trail _ Khoo-say-ne-ise-kit
Lochsa River (GF) _ Láqsa _ Rough water - A Selix (Salish) word.
Mason Bt, Talmaks (HC) _ Táalma’xs _ Summer Campground for Nez Perce Presbyterians.
McComas Meadows Camp 58 (GF) _ Piineem _ Emerge from the woods into a Meadow.

Meadow Creek (Church Town) (HA) _ Wit’ixp _ Refers to the place of Parsnips.
Mission Creek (GF) _ ’Aysnima
Moscow, ID (HA) _ Tatxinnea _ Place of many fawns.
Mud Springs (APS) tse-tekh-pa (ciitexpe)
Musselshell (HA) séewi’snite
From the word mussel. This is the area of 1st encounter with L& C expedition.

Nez Perce, ID (GF) ’alya
Seat of Lewis County.

Oklahoma Territory (GF) ’iyeq’iispe
The hot place.

Orofino, ID (HC) téewe

Orofino people tewéepuu

Pacific Ocean (GF) ’eteyekuus
Big Water.

Palouse, Pullman area (HA) pelúucpe

Payette Lake pe’xseliitkuus

Peck, ID (HA) pipyuuninma

Pendleton, OR (HA) nixyaawii

Pierce, ID (GF) tawaanw’am
Headwaters of Orofino Creek.

Pilot Knob, mountain east of Grangeville tam’loicmaxs
Sacred mountain west of Newsome Creek.

Pomeroy WA. Area, Pataha Creek (HA) patáha

Potlatch Creek (APS) yukh-toyn (yaxtóoyn – same as Arrow Junction.)

Prairie (HA) texpe’em

Rapid River (GF) yawwinma
Cold Water from the Mountains.

Red River (GF) tukpanw’am
Headwater of South Fork Clearwater

Reubens, ID area (APS) ah-lut-le-koots

Riggins, ID (GF) múlpe
Large Village at Mouth of Little Salmon.

Salmon River (HA) naco’x kuus
Salmon water.

Salmon River (GF) tamanma
Comes from the word Tamaca: Someone or something laying down on its side.

Selway Falls (APS) te-kam-pa

Seven Devils Mountains (GF) siseqiyémēx
Mock Orange (Syringa)

Slate Creek (HA) ’iyeesnime

Snake River (GF) weyikespe
Where the Nez Perce had a major crossing point.

South Fork (GF) leq’exc or tukupe
Dirty water caused by mining.

Spalding (GF) ’iyiwewiy
Estuary of Lapwai Creek.
Split Rocks (GF) .............................................. tīpa’xliwam ..................................................... Ancient campground at Rocky Canyon.

Spokane, WA (HA) ............................................. tikemtuustim ..................................................... Falls above.
Stites (HA) ......................................................... welwelhiituuukpe .................................. Thunder Hill.
Thunder Hill (HA) .............................................. yewninwees .......................................................... North Lapwai Village just below Thunder Hill.

Tom Beall (HA) ............................................. sew’iise
Troy, or area - (HA) ..................................... wináha
Tucannon (HA) ............................................. tukeecywewiy
Tucannon River (APS) ..................................... took-kahl-la-toin
Umatilla (HA) ............................................. wey’ilet’pu’
Walla Walla (HA) ............................................. pāasxa
Wallowa Band of Nez Perce (GF) ..................... wal’wama
Wallowa River (GF) ........................................... The winding river.
Wawawai, WA (HA) ........................................... wawaawawiy
Weippe (GF) ....................................................... ’oyayp .................................................. The place of many bears.
Whitebird (GF) .................................................... lamáta .................................................. Precipitous or bothersome passage.

Names of Neighboring Tribes

A Assiniboine_____________wihnen’iipel’uu (’isequulkt qúul V) Ne Nez Perce________________________nimíipuu N (niimii)
B Blackfoot_________’isq’óyxnix N NP Northern Paiute_________________________hey’úuxcpel’uu N (héey’uxc)
Ca Cayuse_________weyíiletpuu N Pa Paloos_________________________pelúcupuu N (pelúuc)
Co Coeur d’Alene____’iskíicu’mix N Pe Pendleton___________________________nixyáawiiipoo N (nixyáawii)
Col Colville________páapspaloo SB Shoshoni Bannock________________________tiwélíqe N
Cr Crow___________’isúuxë N Sk’ Sk’in_________________________tike’éspel’uu N (tík’ë)
F Flathead_________séelix N Sp Spokane_________________________heyéeynimuu N (héeyey)
Ka Kalispel________qem’éspeł’uu N (qém’es) U Umatilla________________________hiyówatalampoo N (hiyówatalam)
Ku Kutenai_________kuusplet’úu N (kúus) W Wasco_________________________wecq’úupuu N (wecq’úu)
L Lemhi_________lémhaay N Y Yakima_________________________lešéyuu N

N – Noun  V – Verb  (in parentheses – the root of the word.)

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The Nez Perce and Their Neighbors

A Assiniboine wił̓nən̓-pelał
  thíq̓uílt q̓uí V
B Blackfoot q̓isqwóynix N
Ca Cayuse wéy-lerpu N
Co Coeur d'Alene q̓ísiqué'xmíx N
Cr Crow q̓ísúxe N
F Flathead selix N
Ka Kalispel q̓em̓é-spelał q̓éne N
Ku Kutenai kʊ-spélʊ kʊs N
L Lemhi lémhay N
Ne Nez Perce ními-pu ními N
NP Northern Paiute heyú-xpelał heyúxc N
Pa Palos pelú-čpu pelúrc N
Pe Pendleton níxyá-wipo níxyá-wi N
SB Shoshoni Bannock tiwélc N
Sk Skin tiké'espelał tiké's N
Sp Spokane heyéynimu heýey N
U Umatilla hiyówatalampo hiyówatalam N
W Wasco wécqu-čpu wécqu N
Y Yakima lexéy N