

## FRIENDSHIP STICK

This stick means friendship of a very special kind,  
To a friend who's great — a wondrous find.

A friendship stick is of wood, a symbol of endurance. It symbolizes that friendship can grow like the trees of the forest — strong and long-lasting — and it is curved to fit the shape of the earth.

A smiling face is on the friendship stick. It's a smile of giving and of receiving. One of the eyes is blue to represent all light-eyed people of the world, and the other is brown to represent all dark-eyed people.

A cross and a six-pointed star are symbols of peace. These are not colored, as they symbolize religion as a guiding force in all nations.

The three vertical stripes between the first two green bands are blue. They represent charity, courage, and understanding.

Green is a color of beginning, of growth, and of continuance. It represents the basis of a happy, meaningful life: faith in a spiritual force, yourself, and your fellow human beings. Green is used for the top and bottom of the stick, and for the bands above and below all other bands, symbolizing the unity of all cultures. It represents renewed life, and, therefore, hope and faith.

The white, black, yellow, and red bands represent the diversity of all ethnic groups and cultures. They are close together and are the same size to show that all peoples of the world are equally important.

A friendship stick must be carved and painted by the giver. The time, thought, and effort that go into the making of a friendship stick are the true and greatest gifts. Each creator will make their friendship stick as unique and different as each friendship is.

