

insights



The loss of healthy rites of passage

by Dr. Arne Rubinstein

Rites of Passage have always been a significant part of community life, until now. Each stage of a person's life was marked and celebrated including the significant step of moving into adulthood.

The shift from childhood to adulthood has always been marked by a rite of passage, which represents entry to the adult world and the rights that go with it. This new set of rights is also accompanied by a responsibility to serve and contribute to the community.

The loss of healthy rites of passage

For many young people Schoolies Week, the annual Year 12 endless party, is the only rite of passage they have. The loss of meaningful rites of passage is having disastrous consequences on young people.

Too often we see young men in their twenties and beyond acting like boys in constant need of acknowledgement from their peers, dodging responsibility and still seeking approval from their mother. Many young women are stuck in perpetual adolescence, more worried about how they look than how they can contribute to their communities.

Adults have a role to play

It's the role of adults to recognise and bring out children's strengths and natural gifts so they can contribute fully to their communities as adults. One of the most significant roles of the elderly is to care for and pass on wisdom to the young. Not surprisingly in the past it has been the elders who were responsible for overseeing the Rites of Passage and their timely delivery.

Rites of Passage are not supposed to be done in isolation. As a child becomes a young adult parents also need to take a step and move to the next stage in their lives. Each new stage of development for a child or young person represents a new beginning for parents as well.

Unfortunately, elderhood is not highly coveted or respected in these modern times and there is a global marketing campaign telling us that youth is the desirable and only really acceptable life stage. When adulthood is not fully appreciated or understood, then it's little wonder that many young people are hanging on to their adolescence well into their twenties. Some never make the leap into adulthood.

Families and communities can rediscover the notion of rites of passage and begin to invent their own pathways to adulthood, complete with markers and appropriate recognition. They can put their own celebrations in place that mark significant ages, and the all-important transition to adulthood. These celebrations should include a bringing

together of significant adults and a passing on of wisdom and stories from past generations to a young person. These rites of passage can be creative, must be inclusive and need to be appropriate to each family or community situation.

As your school has a membership with Parenting Ideas, you can attend the [Creating 21st century rites of passage webinar](#) – at no cost!

About the webinar

Join Dr Arne Rubinstein as he discusses the importance of rites of passage in the 21st century. In this webinar you'll develop clear guidelines and learn impactful strategies to support you to build strong healthy relationships with your children, bolster their independence and support them in their use of technology in these rapidly changing times.

When

Wednesday 28 August 2019 8:00pm AEST.

Price

This webinar is \$37 per person to attend, and is free of charge to families at schools that have a membership.

How parents can redeem the voucher

1. Click this link: <https://www.parentingideas.com.au/parent-resources/parent-webinars/webinar-creating-21st-century-rites-of-passage>
2. Click 'Add to cart'
3. Click 'View cart'
4. Enter the voucher code **RITES** and click 'Apply Coupon' (valid until 28 September 2019). Your discount of \$37 will be applied.
5. Click 'Proceed to checkout'
6. Fill in your account details. These details are used to login to your account and access your parenting material
7. Click 'Place Order'



Dr. Arne Rubinstein

Dr. Arne Rubinstein is an internationally recognised expert on Rites of Passage and adolescent development. He is the author of the best-seller 'The Making of Men' and has won multiple awards for his work including being nominated for Australian of the Year 2008 for his work with youth. Dr Arne is the proud father of two wonderful young men and a mentor to many others.