

Francene and Corky Ambrose (Cultural Leaders, Ambassadors)

Francene Ambrose and her father, Corky, are members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde who participate in cultural revitalization efforts by helping to connect people to the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), and food knowledge in particular – knowing plant harvesting areas, seasons, and preservation techniques – of their ancestors.

As part of her work for the Confederated Tribes, Francene manages the Iskam Mək^hMək-Haws (“House where you get food”). These locations provide traditional foods to tribal citizens and host classes on gardening, cooking and food preservation. This work contributes to food sovereignty for tribal members, emphasizing the nourishment provided by traditional foods hunted and gathered locally, and honored and shared in traditional ways.

Another aspect of their work is hosting First Food Celebrations. These gatherings provide the chance for elders to share generational knowledge with stories and memories of fishing, hunting, and gardening. As they share their stories with families, it provides the chance for people to regain the knowledge of traditional food names, locations, and harvest times.



“Elders come out on the floor during our First Foods Celebration and share their favorite memories of tribal foods and their favorite stories about fishing, hunting and harvesting while growing up.”

Francene Ambrose

