



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Cultural Immersion and Mission Trip South Dakota

June 7-23, 2019

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, home of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Nation



Pine Ridge 2018 participants

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South Dakota
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Chaperones:	Karen Beck, Program Director (Spanish teacher - World Languages Department) Brebeuf Chaperone(s) - TBD Michael Dwyer , Japanese teacher, North Central High School (<i>Spouse of Shihling Chui, Brebeuf Jesuit Chinese teacher. Michael chaperoned Pine Ridge 2017</i>)
Spiritual Advisors:	Fr. Bill Verbryke, S.J., Brebeuf Jesuit President Fr. Chris Johnson, S.J., Vice President for Mission and Jesuit Identity Fr. Ron Seminara, S.J. (Pine Ridge Indian Reservation)
Cost of the program:	\$1,950. 00 Cost <u>includes</u> transportation, lodging and camping, all food, fees
Transportation:	Mini-vans
Lodging:	Campgrounds: KOA campgrounds (TBD); Horse Thief Lake campground in the Black Hills, Bear Butte State Park campground. On the reservation, students and chaperones will stay together at the Jesuit house in Kyle, a small town on the western edge of the reservation.

Each summer, Brebeuf students are invited to experience a unique cultural immersion and mission trip to the **Pine Ridge Indian Reservation** in the southwest corner of South Dakota. This cultural immersion experience reflects the Brebeuf Mission Statement in that this type of experience fosters a culture of understanding and dialogue with people of diverse religious, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Native American reservations in the United States are among the most impoverished areas, and students are immersed in the realities of “*third world countries*” within our own. **Pine Ridge Reservation** is the second-largest reservation in the United States (approximately 2.1 million acres). The median household income is **\$26,721** per year, and the unemployment rate is approximately 80-90%. About 97% of the population lives below federal poverty levels. Tribal Government records show 46,855 enrolled members living on **Pine Ridge Reservation**.

Pine Ridge Reservation was originally part of the **Great Sioux Reservation** which was created by treaty with the U.S. Government in 1868. The Great Sioux Reservation included the whole of South Dakota west of the Missouri River. During the years in the 1800's several treaties were entered into between the Sioux and the U.S. Government. With each new treaty the Sioux lost more land until finally, in 1889 the Great Sioux Reservation was reduced to five separate reservations, one was the **Pine Ridge Reservation**.

The **Oglala Sioux Tribe** is part of the **Great Sioux Nation** whose land base is in accordance with the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851. The **Great Sioux Nation** extended from the Big Horn Mountains in the west to the eastern Wisconsin. The territory extended from Canada in the north to the Republican River in Kansas in the south. The **Great Sioux Nation** was reduced in the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty from the Big Horn Mountains in the west to the east side of the Missouri River, the Heart River in North Dakota in the north and the Platte River in Nebraska to the south. This includes the entire western half of South Dakota. The **Black Hills** are located in the center the **Great Sioux Nation**. The **Black Hills** are sacred to the **Lakota/ Dakota** people and today considered an important part of their spiritual lives. Despite all the adversity encountered by the **Oglala** they remain a people of vitality, hopefulness, and with their cultural identity intact.

The purpose of this trip is multifaceted. Students will:

- Camp in the sacred Black Hills and complete spiritual pilgrimages, ascending two holy mountains
- Learn about the history and culture of the **Oglala Lakota Sioux**
- Come to understand the tremendous poverty, social injustice issues, and economic challenges that the **Lakota** and other North American indigenous people struggle with every day
- ❖ Explore the **Jesuit** connections and missions to the Native Americans
- ❖ Establish new friendships and bridges of understanding with the **Lakota** people
- ❖ Attend and/or participate in culturally important events and deeply spiritual ceremonies
- ❖ Dialogue with **Jesuits** currently serving on the Reservation
- ❖ Participate in volunteer work on the reservation for one or more Lakota families rehabbing houses, cleaning debris, painting, and other much needed services

The **Jesuit** presence and influence continues to be a very strong one, dating from the late 17th century. This cultural *immersion experience reflects the Brebeuf Mission Statement in that this type of experience fosters a culture of understanding and dialogue with people of diverse religious, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds.*

Pine Ridge Cultural Immersion and Mission Trip 2019 planned activities include:

- ❖ Camp in the sacred Black Hills. Students learn about *Leave No Trace* wilderness preservation and why the Black Hills are sacred to several Native American Tribes, notably the Lakota (Sioux).
- ❖ Hike to the summit of Black Elk Peak, located in the Black Elk Wilderness. Black Elk Peak is the tallest mountain east of the Rockies and the site where Nicholas Black Elk, Battle of Little Big Horn survivor and Lakota healer and visionary, received his great vision.
- ❖ Tour the Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorials.
- ❖ Tour Wind Cave National Park, and learn the creation story of the Lakota, and the significance of the cave.
- ❖ Tour Custer State Park and observe the amazing western wildlife in the park.
- ❖ Camp in Bear Butte State Park at the foot of Bear Butte, one of the most sacred mountains to Northern Plains Indians for thousands of years. Before the hike, Native American park rangers lecture students on the history of the mountain, and instruct students how to complete the hike respectfully. Park rangers often assist with the creation of individual prayer ties that students can carry with them up the mountain.
- ❖ Tour Badlands National Park, adjacent to Pine Ridge Reservation.
- ❖ Visit Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and mass grave, site of the 1890 massacre and the AIM (American Indian Movement) occupation for equal rights and social justice in 1973.
- ❖ Visit the gravesites of important Lakota leaders and holy men, including Black Elk and Red Cloud.

- ❖ Attend teaching sessions with Francis White Lance and/or other Lakota spiritual leaders.
- ❖ Be invited to participate in or simply observe a Sweat Lodge ceremony experience with Guy Dull Knife, Jr., decorated Vietnam veteran and Lakota spiritual advisor.
- ❖ Attend a Wacipi (Pow Wow) celebration.
- ❖ Be invited to observe, with special permission and accompanied by our Lakota guide, part of the Sun Dance ritual, the most sacred religious ceremony to various nations of the Plains Indians.
- ❖ Participate in a Lakota language learning session.
- ❖ Tour the Oglala Lakota College and cultural center, including the memorial to all Lakota warrior veterans of all wars.
- ❖ Visit Red Cloud Indian School in the town of Pine Ridge and tour the Museum and Heritage Center of Red Cloud Indian School. Interview Jesuits serving at the school. Red Cloud Indian School (Grades K-12) was founded as Holy Rosary Mission in 1888 by the Jesuits at the request of Chief Red Cloud.
- ❖ Participate in programs for Lakota children, including Vacation Bible School. Brebeuf students have been instrumental in organizing and implementing VBS for five years in Kyle for Our Lady of Sorrows parish. Students work with the Lakota parishioners, children, and parish Jesuit priest/director.
- ❖ Participate in volunteer work on the reservation for one or more families.



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Home of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation
Cultural Immersion and Mission Trip
South Dakota

June 7 - 23, 2019

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019

APPLICATION PART I: GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION

STUDENT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT OR ELECTRONICALLY ENTER ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY)		
Student Name	Grade	Student's e-mail
Home Address (including city and zip code)		Student's Cell Phone
Mother's Name	Mother's Home Phone	Mother's Cell Phone
Father's Name	Father's Home Phone	Father's Cell Phone
Mother's email:	Father's email:	
Physician's Name & Address		Physician's Phone
Emergency Contact	Relationship	Emergency Phone
SCHOOL INFORMATION		
Date of Admission to BJHS	Cumulative GPA	
Extracurricular Activities		
Community Service Experience		
ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM EXPERIENCE OR CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM EXPERIENCE		
TRAVEL EXPERIENCE		

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE COURSES IN WHICH YOU ARE MOST INTERESTED, THOSE CURRENT AND/OR PRIOR TO THIS YEAR. IN A FEW WORDS, EXPLAIN WHAT IT IS ABOUT THESE SUBJECTS THAT COMPEL YOU TO WANT TO LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

DESCRIBE YOUR PERSONALITY, ADDRESSING BOTH STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.

APPLICATION PART II: *ESSAY*

Write an essay (minimum 500 words) that explains your reasons for applying to the **Pine Ridge Reservation Cultural Immersion and Mission Trip 2019**.

In this essay you must clearly address the following:

- Why an exchange trip to a Native American reservation is of interest to you
- In what ways this experience might challenge you or change you
- Your role in helping to create intercultural bridges and friendships
- How your participation in this immersion experience will move you to being more **(a) open to growth; (b) intellectually competent; (c) religious; (d) loving; (e) committed to promoting justice**.

This essay should be typed and attached to the application.

APPLICATION PART III: *TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS*

Please ask **two** BJPS teachers to complete the attached recommendation forms on your behalf. Please ask these teachers to return the recommendations to Mrs. Beck in the World Languages Department.

APPLICATION PART IV: *PARENT RECOMMENDATION*

Parent(s)/guardian(s): Please write a paragraph or two including the following information (use the space below or attach paragraph):

- Why have you agreed to allow your son/daughter to apply to participate in this cultural immersion and mission program?
- What do you hope s/he will learn from this experience?
- What strengths will s/he add to the group?
- Are there any concerns of which you feel the chaperones should be aware?

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

**THIS APPLICATION FORM, ALONG WITH THE REQUIRED
ESSAYS AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS, MUST BE
RETURNED TO KAREN BECK IN THE WORLD LANGUAGES
DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 21, 2019**

**APPLICATIONS MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TO
KBECK@BREBEUF.ORG**



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GENERAL TEACHER RECOMMENDATION I

Student name: _____

Teacher/Department: _____

Length of time you have known this student: _____

Thank you in advance for your willingness to write a letter of recommendation for the above named student. This student is applying to participate in the **Pine Ridge Reservation Cultural Immersion Trip 2019**. Your opinion will serve as a critical component in our evaluation process. It is important that we take students who are open to growth and willing to respect the customs and traditions of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux).

On the checklists below, please evaluate the applicant according to the listed criteria, using the student's peer group as a reference point.

	EXEMPLARY	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	NO BASIS FOR JUDGMENT
Achievement: achieves ambitious, measurable results	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
..					
Perseverance: persists when times are stressful and remains positive in the face of obstacles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
..					
Adaptability: adjusts to new task demands without becoming overly frustrated and/or shutting down	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
..					
Integrity/Maturity: honest and ethical in behavior; assumes responsibility for mistakes; behaves in a respectful manner; complies with authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
..					
Overall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.					

Please describe this student's strengths and weaknesses based on the information described above. Please indicate whether you would feel confident and willing to supervise this student.



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GENERAL TEACHER RECOMMENDATION II

Student name: _____

Teacher/Department: _____

Length of time you have known this student: _____

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