



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Cultural Immersion and Mission Trip Oglala Lakota Sioux Nation South Dakota

June 11-July 1, 2020

Application Deadline: December 9, 2019

Apply online: brebeuf.org/pineridge or pick up an application in the world languages office from Sra. Beck

PINE RIDGE CULTURAL IMMERSION AND MISSION TRIP 2020 OVERVIEW AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES



PINE RIDGE 2019

Chaperones: **Karen Beck, Program Director**, Spanish teacher, World Languages Department

Brebeuf Chaperone(s) – Cory Watkins, Brebeuf Jesuit Head Wrestling Coach

Michael Dwyer, Japanese teacher, North Central High School (Spouse of Shihling Chui, Brebeuf Jesuit Chinese teacher. Michael chaperoned Pine Ridge 2017, 2018, 2019

Matthew Tippel, Director of Choirs/General Music Teacher

Other chaperones TBD

Spiritual Advisors:

Fr. Chris Johnson, S.J., Vice President for Mission and Jesuit Identity

Fr. Ron Seminara, S.J., Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Red Cloud School, South Dakota

Cost of the program: \$1,950. Cost includes transportation, lodging and camping, all food, tours, guides, fees, service goods and mission work contributions.

❖ **TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!** Apply via this link:

<https://brebeuf.org/2018-2019-travel-scholarship-application/>

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. The total land area of the Reservation is 2.1 million acres, with 1.7 million acres held in trust by the United States government. By land area, the reservation is the seventh largest in the country. The median household income is **\$26,721** per year, and the unemployment rate is approximately **80-90%**. The officially reported poverty rate for American Indians living on Pine Ridge is **53.75%**. The United States average is **15.6%**. Pine Ridge Reservation has the lowest per capita income (**\$8,768**) in the country, and ranks as the “poorest” county in the nation. The South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations reports a total tribal enrollment of **38,332**, with **19,639** living on the reservation.

BLACK HILLS REGION & VICINITY

- ❖ Camping in the sacred Black Hills. Students learn camping and outdoor survival skills, are assigned rotating daily chores, learn to function as a team, 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.
- ❖ Guided tours of Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorials.
- ❖ Guided tour of Wind Cave National Park, and guided teaching session on the creation story of the Lakota, and the significance of the cave.

- ❖ Chaperone-led tour of Custer State Park, home to abundant and protected wildlife, including elk and bison herds, bighorn sheep, prairie dogs, pronghorns, and mule deer.
- ❖ Camping 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.
- ❖ Silent hike to the summit of the sacred mountain, Bear Butte at sunrise. The evening before the hike, Native American park rangers lead a teaching sessions for students, lecturing on the history of the mountain, and instructing students how to complete the hike respectfully and prayerfully.
- ❖ Teaching session the evening before the hike led by Lakota park rangers on the importance of prayer ties in the four Lakota colors that correspond to the four directions. Students create individual prayer ties, assisted by the Lakota leader/ranger that they will carry with them up the mountain to hang in the four directions.
- ❖ Tour of Badlands National Park, adjacent to Pine Ridge Reservation.

PINE RIDGE CULTURAL IMMERSION AND MISSION TRIP 2020 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: PINE RIDGE RESERVATION

- ❖ Lodging at the Jesuit volunteer residence in the town of Kyle, located in the southwestern portion of the reservation.
- ❖ June 23-26. Service as leaders and crew of the summer Vacation Bible School for the parish of Our Lady of Sorrows in the town of Kyle. Father Ron Seminara, S.J., pastor, oversees the process. For over six years, Brebeuf students have planned, organized, and implemented the weeklong Vacation Bible School sponsored by the parish for the Lakota children in Kyle. Students work with the Lakota parishioners, children, and Father Ron.
- ❖ Participation in service work on the reservation for one or more families clearing property, cleaning debris, assisting with painting, repairs, and general labor needs.
- ❖ Guided visit to 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.
- ❖ Guided visit to the gravesites of important Lakota leaders and holy men, including Black Elk and Red Cloud.
- ❖ Teaching session with Guy Dull Knife, Jr., Francis White Lance and/or other Lakota spiritual leaders.
- ❖ Participation in and/or observation of a Sweat Lodge ceremony (Inipi) offered by the Dull Knife family. The patriarch, Guy Dull Knife, Jr., is a decorated Vietnam veteran, tribal elder, and Lakota spiritual advisor.
- ❖ Guided tour of the Oglala Lakota College and cultural center, including the memorial to all Lakota warrior veterans of all wars.
- ❖ Observation of the Oglala Lakota College Graduation Pow Wow (Wacipi)
- ❖ Observation of, with special permission and accompaniment by our Lakota guide, a portion of a Sun Dance ritual, the most sacred religious ceremony to various nations of the Plains Indians.
- ❖ Participation in a Lakota language learning session.
- ❖ Participation in a Lakota beading class or other Lakota/Native American arts and craft class.
- ❖ Visit to and guided tour of Red Cloud Indian School (Jesuit) in the town of Pine Ridge. Guided 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.
- ❖ Other cultural immersion activities as appropriate and/or available.



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
Home of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation
Cultural Immersion and Mission Trip Application

June 11 – July 1, 2020

APPLICATION DEADLINE DECEMBER 9, 2019

Apply online: brebeuf.org/pineridge

or

***Complete this application in hard copy format
Please refer to the accompanying trip
overview for all the details, including pricing.***

**** TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

Apply via this link

<https://brebeuf.org/2018-2019-travel-scholarship-application/>

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 and cumulative GPA:

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE, OR EXPERIENCE SERVING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY POVERTY

ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM EXPERIENCE OR CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

DESCRIBE YOUR PERSONALITY, ADDRESSING BOTH STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.

APPLICATION PART II: *ESSAY*

This essay should be typed and attached to the application.

Write an essay (minimum 500 words) that explains your reasons for applying to the **Pine Ridge Reservation Cultural Immersion and Mission Trip 2020**. In this essay, you must clearly address the following:

- Is this your first trip to the Pine Ridge reservation or are you returning?
- Briefly describe your reason for applying to this trip. What do you know about (or, in the case of returnees, what have you learned about) the Native American tribes of North America?
- Briefly explain why an exchange trip to a Native American reservation is of interest to you.
- In what ways do you think that this experience might challenge you or change you?
- How do you view your role in helping to create intercultural bridges and friendships?
- How will your participation in this immersion experience move you to be more **(a) open to growth; (b) intellectually competent; (c) religious; (d) loving; (e) committed to promoting justice?**

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.

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION #1

STUDENT NAME_____

TEACHER_____



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Cultural Immersion and Mission Trip June 11– July 1, 2020

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 2020**. 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.

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.

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION #2

STUDENT NAME _____

TEACHER _____



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Cultural Immersion and Mission Trip June 11 – July 1, 2020

GENERAL TEACHER RECOMMENDATION II

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 2020**. 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.
