

# **Pine Ridge**

# **Servant Camp**

# **2012**

Pine Ridge Retreat Center Site

**Booklet  
for  
Group  
Leaders**



Atlantic Mountain Ranch  
11760 Custer Limestone Rd.  
Custer, SD 57730

# Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota

## Dear Servant Camp Group Leader,

Pine Ridge Site 2012

Greetings. We are very glad that your group has signed up to be a part of our servant camp program in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, this coming summer. Pine Ridge is the largest town, located on the very southern edge of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

We hope that this will be a very enlightening, interesting and faith-enriching experience for you and your group. To learn from and share with the people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is, we believe, a rare privilege. It is not only an opportunity to do a service project, but also primarily an opportunity to grow in spiritual awareness and to gain the kind of understanding of ourselves and others that can come from an encounter with another culture.

As you know, your trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation involves moving into the midst of another culture. This means that there will be a need for patience, flexibility and of course, an open mind. We are convinced that, allowing for some flexibility, your servant camp week will be a memorable, growing and learning experience for your group.

This servant camp manual will help you in your preparations for camp. It includes:

- What is a Servant?
- Details for the Leader, Directions and Emergency Numbers
- Servant Camp Questions
- Cross-Cultural Learning
- The Church Camp Experience
- Tentative Servant Camp Schedule
- The Packing List – What to Bring
- Toward a Shared Experience
- Resources for Additional Preparation



As a way of preparing for your experience, you may wish to watch DVDs or read books on Native American topics. There are resources available at libraries, bookstores and DVD rental stores. The resource list in this packet offers some good sources of Indian history and issues.

Please note that your group is responsible for providing transportation to Pine Ridge and throughout the week on our journeys around the reservation. Feel free to call us at 605-673-4040, or email [mary@losd.org](mailto:mary@losd.org) if you have any questions about the Servant Camp program. We look forward to serving your group this summer!

Yours in Christ,  
Molly Sasser-Goehner, Director  
Mary Stutz, Assistant Director  
Outlaw Ranch and Atlantic Mountain Ranch

## WHAT IS A SERVANT?

There are many words for SERVANT in the Greek translation of the New Testament. Almost all of them carry meaning that cannot be given to us through the English translation. Since each of these terms has a particular meaning of its own, each also has a message for us. John Schultz once wrote a small but powerful booklet entitled *Portraits of a Servant*. A few excerpts from the book help us prepare to be servants for a week.

- "All Christians are called to servanthood, to help other people live."
- "Servanthood is an all day, anywhere and everywhere being."
- "Servants plan for service, but in the midst of their programs for action, they are often met by changing situations which demand much flexibility because the structures of servanthood are always changing."
- "Servants serve people. They serve "on the run" in a variety of free form, spontaneous responses to the needs of people."
- "In contrast to usual procedure, the servant does not demand a position of respect, status, or strength as a prerequisite for service."

One of our finest South Dakota journalists, Kevin Woster, wrote a small article entitled *Feeling The Pain, Key to Racial Accord*. "Until you and I can feel the pain of the Native Americans, we walk even on the reservation lands with a spirit that is at odds with their spirit. We must look back . . . to the broken treaties, to the dislocations of people and their marvelous culture, to the intentional attempts to destroy their communities of life, to the beautiful expressions of their spirituality. . . before we can begin to understand their reluctance to accept us. They are rightly suspicious of our motives. They tend to look with disdain at our statements about wanting to be brothers and sisters with them."

The posture of our Servant Camps, as we move onto the lands of the reservation, will be one of building relationships with the people we meet, as we become servants, learners, listeners, sharers, and friends.

### Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy;*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*



## DETAILS FOR THE LEADER OF SERVANT CAMP GROUPS

**Payment of Fees/Refund Policy:** A billing statement will be sent to your group. The balance is due two weeks in advance of your camp week. If a camper is not able to attend, the \$100 deposit is non-refundable, but is transferrable to another camper from your church group. If we are not notified of a cancellation at least 2 weeks before your camp date, there is also a \$25 service charge per person.

**Health Forms:** Be sure that all campers bring their health forms with them. All forms should be checked ahead of time for complete information. You can find a form at [www.losd.org/resources](http://www.losd.org/resources).

**Phone Contact:** If you have further questions regarding registration, call Cheryl Lundeen at 800-888-1464. For questions about program or facilities or other details, call Mary at Outlaw Ranch at 605-673-4040 through May, or at 605-673-1029 or 673-3435 in the summer.

In case of an emergency during the camp week, parents may contact: 605-867-5262  
Pine Ridge Retreat Center  
Box 862, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

**Cell Phones:** We ask campers not to have cell phones during the week of camp because this detracts from focusing on daily activities and building relationships with the group (and frankly, we don't get good reception on the reservation). For the week of camp, adults are asked to collect cell phones from the youth.

**Offering:** Each week we take an offering at camp. Financial gifts will go to the **Lutherans Outdoors Campership Fund**. We will also be collecting canned goods for the Custer Food Pantry, especially canned beans, tuna fish, peanut butter, and tomatoes.

**Insurance:** Lutherans Outdoors does not carry any health insurance for campers. If we must take someone to the doctor for treatment, the camper is responsible for all costs. Personal property is not covered by camp insurance and any claims for loss or theft will need to be submitted to your personal homeowner's/renter's insurance company.

**Transportation:** Your group is responsible for ALL transportation (including the transportation of our staff members) to your various work and touring sites. There MUST be a seat belt for all of the occupants. Please carry proof of insurance for all vehicles and drivers.

**ARRIVAL:** Sunday 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) at Pine Ridge Retreat Center. If your group has travel problems and will be arriving late, please call us at the center at 605-867-5262.

**DEPARTURE:** Friday after breakfast and worship.



### Directions to Pine Ridge:

From westbound Interstate 90 (104 miles)

Exit on Hwy. 73 at Kadoka, SD (Exit 150), and go south 46 miles to Hwy. 18.

Go west on Hwy. 18, for 57 miles to the town of Pine Ridge.

Three blocks beyond the first stoplight in town look for the Retreat Center on your right (across the street from Taco John's), next to the Presbyterian church.

From eastbound Interstate 90 (112 miles)

Exit at Rapid City and go south on Hwy. 79 for 70 miles to Oelrichs, SD.

Go east on Hwy. 18 to Pine Ridge (42 miles).

At the light go left one block.

The Retreat Center is on your left (across from Taco John's), next to the Presbyterian church.

## SERVANT CAMP QUESTIONS

### Why Servant Camp?

Servant events are designed to provide meaningful times of action and reflection on our faith. During servant camp, campers actively participate in learning from others, sharing their faith with others, and working together with others to make this world a better place in which to live.

### What are the goals?

- To proclaim the Gospel and to hear the Gospel proclaimed in word and deed.
- To learn from another culture:
  - In order to better understand ourselves and others.
  - In order to enrich our lives, especially our lives of faith through learning from and experiencing another culture.
- To wrestle with and reflect on the issues of poverty, oppression, and social injustice in light of their complexity, their human face, and in the context of faith.
- To experience a degree of connectedness to the suffering and the joys of others whom we may usually think of as much different from ourselves.
- To provide campers with the opportunity to express their faith, stretch and grow as people, and feel a sense of accomplishment and adventure, all of which strengthen faith and self-esteem.

### What is the structure of Servant Camp?

Groups of 10-12 youth and adults arrive at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Supper will be provided by Atlantic Mountain Ranch. You will get settled into your rooms at the retreat center, meet the staff, have an orientation to the reservation and what to expect for the week, and end the day with worship.

Monday to Thursday we will interact with local youth and adults, visit significant reservation sites, listen to Lakota speakers, do construction projects, have recreation time, and engage in worship, Bible study, and sharing related to the group's experience.

Groups leave Friday after breakfast, clean up, and worship.

### Who organizes each group's stay on the Pine Ridge Reservation?

Each group's stay is planned, staffed and coordinated by a partnership effort of Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota and the Lutheran-Lakota Shared Ministry, a year round ministry of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. We work together to line up specific service projects for each group as well as speakers to share with each group about Native American/Lakota culture and life on the reservation. We provide two to three staff members on-site at Pine Ridge to be with you as programmatic guides and counselors and to help facilitate your time there.

### What is the weather like on Pine Ridge?

In June, Pine Ridge has variable weather. Daytime temperatures are generally in the 70s and 80s, but can vary from the upper 50s to almost 100 degrees. Nights are generally in the 40s and 50s. June can also be a time of cool days with storms, rain, hail, or strong winds. You will need to **be prepared for changing weather.**

### **What about housing and meals?**

The Retreat Center has bunkrooms with comfortable beds and modern, public bathrooms. It has a dining area and a modern kitchen where the group can prepare meals. We will provide groceries for Sunday supper and Monday breakfast (your group can help in preparation). Buying the groceries and preparation for all the other meals (Monday lunch through Friday breakfast) will be the responsibility of your group. We encourage you to purchase your food and groceries at the local business on the reservation. You can do your first shopping on Monday morning. There is also the option of buying your groups' lunch out once or twice at locally-owned eateries.

### **How much money do we need for food?**

Groups feeding around 15-16 people spend about \$400-600 on groceries, plus the cost of eating out one or two times, which is a good cultural activity. Cash is fine, but most stores on the reservation also take a Mastercard or Visa. One restaurant requires cash. Please plan on feeding three camp staff in addition to your group.

### **What can we bring to share with the people of Pine Ridge?**

Some groups ask what items they can bring from their congregation to leave with the people on Pine Ridge. Following are some items that are much appreciated by the youth and families on the reservation: blankets/quilts, basic toiletries, kid's shampoo, combs and brushes, hair ties and barrettes, books for all ages, balls, toys, games, cleaning supplies, basic first aid supplies, fly swatters, fly strips, light bulbs, washcloths and towels, umbrellas, laundry soap, kid's flip flops, caps & hats & visors, sunglasses, individual juice containers, healthy snacks, pickles, jam, arts & craft supplies, paper. If you have further questions, please contact Mary Stutz at 605-673-4040 or [mary@losd.org](mailto:mary@losd.org).

### **What kind of service projects will we be doing?**

#### **1. CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, REPAIR PROJECTS:**

Physical work projects include construction, renovation, painting, and repairs. The specific projects are determined in consultation with Pastor Karen Rupp, a Lutheran pastor who works with the Lutheran-Lakota Shared Ministry on Pine Ridge. Her suggestions are the result of consultations and arrangements with Lakota people on the reservation.

#### **2. LOCAL YOUTH INVOLVEMENTS**

We will make every opportunity to interact with and get to know local youth in the area and at the Retreat Center during 'Kid's Time' each afternoon.

Generally during the morning we work on the construction project and in the afternoon we interact with local youth and visit historical sites on the reservation. It can vary from day to day. **Flexibility is the key to working within another culture.**



## CROSS-CULTURAL LEARNING

We will be finding our way into the Native American community on the Pine Ridge Reservation as their guests. This is a sensitive posture for us as predominately White visitors. We ask that your group come to this experience in a spirit of patience, flexibility, acceptance of differences and with open minds. We need your help as we prepare ourselves for this journey into servanthood and cross-cultural learning.

### 1. SEEING SIGNIFICANT SITES

Groups should expect to do a lot of driving in order to learn and observe. It's a big reservation. Some of the reservation sites we usually visit include:

- **Red Cloud School, Cemetery and Heritage Center Museum**  
This one stop is an occasion to learn about Red Cloud and history surrounding this great Lakota leader. The school opens itself to examining the history of education on the reservation (from enculturation to current education that incorporates Lakota culture). Their museum includes prime examples of both traditional artifacts and contemporary Native art.
- **Sue Ann Big Crow Center**  
Sue Ann was a teen-age basketball star who spoke out against drugs and alcohol and for positive youth roles on the reservation. One of her dreams was the establishment of a recreation center for teens and others. After a tragic fatal automobile accident, in her memory, this dream became a reality. This is a chance to learn about youth life on the reservation and have a burger and a malt (or Indian Taco) at the soda shop.
- **Wounded Knee**  
A very significant historical and symbolic location. A massacre of men, women and children happened here over 120 years ago. In 1973, this was the location of a well-published occupation by the American Indian Movement (AIM). It is symbolic of a time of violence on Pine Ridge and other Indian lands and an element in the resurgence of cultural pride among Native peoples all over North America. This occupation was featured in a 1994 TV movie "Lakota Woman." This time period on Pine Ridge is also dealt with in the movies "Thunderheart" and "Incident at Oglala." While Pine Ridge is not now experiencing the violent conflict it did in the 1970's, this period of history has had a lasting impact.

### 2. LEARNING FROM PEOPLE ON THE RESERVATION

In addition to doing what we can to promote interaction with local people, we arrange speakers for servant camp groups. We are sometimes able to get speakers in connection with the above sites. We may also go to Oglala Lakota College where we learn about the college success story as well as about Lakota history, culture and contemporary issues. Sometimes we visit KILI radio, "The voice of the Lakota Nation," and other places. Usually a speaker or two comes to visit us at the Retreat Center.

## THE CHURCH CAMP EXPERIENCE

In addition to the kind of learning and personal growth that comes from a significant cross-cultural experience and the satisfaction that comes from heeding the call to servanthood, Servant Campers experience the kind of community and individual growth that tends to be characteristic of all adventurous church camp experiences.

Essential to this church camping experience will be daily times of worship and Bible study. Some of the worship, in addition to reflecting a familiar camp style, may also incorporate a little of the flavor of the culture your group will be experiencing. Bible study will use the Bible as the essential resource while also asking campers to reflect on the experience they are having.

Finally, the camp staff and group advisors will play key roles. The camp staff will provide primary leadership for the week and serve as coordinators and resource people. They are also eager to develop significant positive relationships with the campers and to do all they can to make the whole experience as safe, fun, and meaningful as possible. Advisors who bring the servant camp groups are seen as key resource people and leaders along with the camp staff. A spirit of cooperation and partnership under the leadership of the camp staff will be one key to a great camp week.

Like most adventure camp experiences, both **organization** and **flexibility** will be keys to a positive experience for your group. Flexibility and a more relaxed view of time are important for our program as we work and live within the Native American culture.

## ADULT ADVISORS AT SERVANT CAMP

We ask adult advisors to:

1. Be a part of the Leadership Team and attend staff/adult advisor meetings.
2. Support counselors by helping enforce camp policies and safety procedures; visit with staff for clarification.
3. Participate in worship and all group events.
4. Participate (based on your group's needs) in daily Bible studies as led by counselors.
5. Give the camp staff feedback and suggestions about your group during the week, so that staff may better meet the needs of your group.
6. Understand that we have developed a framework that gives campers, adult advisors and staff the structure needed to have a solid, unified, community-building experience.

## TENTATIVE SERVANT CAMP SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY

4:30-5:00 p.m. Arrival at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center  
Settle in rooms  
Group helps with supper preparation  
Supper/KP

Evening Orientation  
Overview of week, planning, sharing hopes and expectations  
Evening Worship  
Staff/Advisors meeting

### MONDAY to THURSDAY

7:00 Rise and Shine  
First Word

7:30 Breakfast/KP

8:00 Servant Projects

- Construction/Renovation
- Bible Study

Noon Lunch/KP

Afternoon Touring Reservation  
Local Youth Involvement – “Kid’s Time”

6:00 Supper/KP

Evening Possible time with local people, or touring  
Games possibly  
Evening Worship  
Meeting of Staff and Advisors



### FRIDAY

7:00 Rise and Shine  
First Word

8:00 Breakfast/KP  
Closing Worship, Reflections/Evaluations of experience  
Pack up, move out and cleaning

9:30-10:00 Goodbyes, hugs and hit the road

**PLEASE NOTE:** The above is very tentative. Scheduling needs to be flexible. Every day we will eat, work, learn, participate in Bible study, and worship.

## THE PACKING LIST – WHAT TO BRING

The following is a list of personal gear that you should bring to Pine Ridge.

- ❑ Sleeping bag, pillow
- ❑ Work boots/sturdy shoes
- ❑ Athletic shoes/sneakers
- ❑ 2 pair shorts
- ❑ 1-2 pair work pants or jeans
- ❑ 4 T-shirts (no tank tops – strong chance of sunburn)
- ❑ Cotton socks
- ❑ Underwear
- ❑ Flannel shirt or warm shirt for evenings
- ❑ Jacket, fleece, or sweatshirt
- ❑ Rain gear (poncho or rain coat)
- ❑ Work gloves (leather/tough)
- ❑ Cap/hat (to keep sun off face and ears)
- ❑ Pen/pencil and paper
- ❑ Flashlight
- ❑ Bible
- ❑ Water bottle
- ❑ Spending money for camp T-shirt, events, powwows, native crafts (\$20-40+)
- ❑ **Health form**
- ❑ Also bring clothes for your group's van/car trip.



### Toiletries:

Sunscreen	Washcloth/towel
Toothbrush/paste/ soap/shampoo	Deodorant
Insect repellent	Lotion
Lip balm	Feminine hygiene supplies
Medicines (Please bring prescriptions in the original bottle with the doctor's directions on the label.)	

### Extras: (optional)

Hacksack, frisbee, deck of cards, book, camera, day pack for daily trips.

**PLEASE do not plan to bring:** cell phones, electronic devices (i.e., MP3 players, iPods), lots of toiletries, clothing with inappropriate slogans or logos, pets, knives, fireworks, weapons, illegal substances (alcohol, drugs, tobacco products), or other unnecessary or dangerous items.

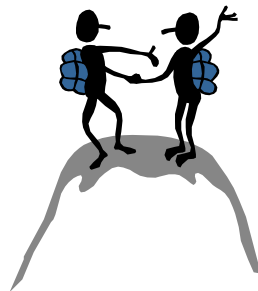
**Be sure to bring your Health Form with you!**

## TOWARD A SHARED EXPERIENCE

Whether a worker at the servant event site or a member of the community back home, everyone can participate in this summer's experience. The servant event process of action/reflection has the capacity to make a difference not only to people encountered on the journey but also to those encountered daily. A shared servant event can transform the congregation's life and ministry.

As you plan and prepare for your Servant Camp event consider the following:

- Keep the congregation informed of the planning process through church newsletters.
- Invite the congregation to attend a servanthood Bible study or discussion with your group.
- Lead an education forum for others about servant events and Christ-like servanthood.
- Solicit support through congregational gifts of dollars, leadership, and servant camp participation.
- Hold a commissioning service acknowledging the inter-dependence of the church body. Discuss the likelihood that brothers and sisters in Christ will return a changed people. Covenant to support one another.
- Pray for one another while the servant event is underway.
- Send postcards from the congregation to Pine Ridge or from Pine Ridge to the congregation members (allow plenty of time).
- When you return, share servant camp stories with the congregation in worship, Sunday School, and special events such as a dinner/program.
- Initiate a plan on your journey home to continue to make service a part of the congregation's ongoing ministry.



## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL PREPARATION

### **Books**

Bordewich, Fergus M. *Killing the White Man's Indian*. Anchor, 1996. An overview of some of the current political issues facing the nation's Indian people.

Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. Pocket, 1981. History of the 19th century U.S. - Indian Conflicts.

Lame Deer (Fire) John, and Richard Erdoes. *Lame Deer, Seeker of Visions*. Simon and Schuster, 1972. Narratives of John Lame Deer's life and experience as a Lakota spiritual leader.

Lazarus, Edward. *Black Hills, White Justice, The Sioux Nation Versus The United States, 1775 to The Present*. Harper Collins, 1991. Political and legal history of the Lakota Black Hills land claim.

Powers, Marla. *Oglala Women: Myth, Ritual and Reality*. University of Chicago Press, 1986. In-depth study of the experiences of the women of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Smith, Rex Alan. *Moon of Popping Trees. The Tragedy at Wounded Knee and the End of the Indian Wars*. University of Nebraska Press, 1981.

### **Film and Video**

"Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee." 2007.

"Incident at Oglala, the Leonard Peltier Story." Carolco, 1991.

"Thunderheart." TriStar Pictures, 1992.

"Lakota Woman." 1994.

### **Web Sites**

Native American Art Exhibition: on-line gallery of national Indian artists.  
**[www.artnatam.com](http://www.artnatam.com)**

Lakota Dakota Information homepage. **<http://puffin.creighton.edu/lakota>**

Red Cloud Heritage Center, Pine Ridge, SD:  
**[www.redcloudschool.org/museum/museum.htm](http://www.redcloudschool.org/museum/museum.htm)**