

Dear Servant Camp Group Leader,

Manderson Site 2008

Greetings. We are very glad that your group has signed up to be a part of our servant camp program in Manderson, South Dakota, this coming summer. We hope that this will be a very enlightening, interesting and faith-enriching experience for you and your group. To share with and learn from the people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is, I believe, a rare privilege. It is not only an opportunity to do a service project, but 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. I am 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 is intended to 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 read books or watch videos on Native American topics. There are other resources available at libraries, bookstores and video 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 if you have any questions about the servant camp program. We look forward to serving your group this summer!

Yours In Christ,
Jeff Rohr, 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*. It would be well to study this book with your group as you prepare to be with us in a SERVANT CAMP. A few excerpts from the book help us begin to 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.

DETAILS FOR THE LEADER OF SERVANT CAMP GROUPS

Payment of Fees/Refund Policy: A \$75/person non-refundable deposit is due with registration. A billing statement will be sent to your group. The balance is due two weeks in advance of your camp week. Payments should be sent to:

Lutherans Outdoors in SD
2001 S. Summit Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

Health Forms: Be sure that all campers bring their health forms with them. All forms should be checked ahead of time for complete information.

Phone Contact: For questions regarding registration, call Cheryl Lundeen at 800-888-1464. For questions about program or facilities or other details prior to your arrival at the Manderson site, call: Outlaw Ranch, 605-673-4040.

In case of an emergency during the camp week, parents may contact the program site at 605-455-1095. If you cannot reach anyone at this number, call Atlantic Mountain Ranch at 605-673-3435 or Pastor Jeff Rohr at Outlaw Ranch (605-673-4040), cell phone (605-673-1014), or home (605-673-3596).

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).

Insurance: Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota carries a minimal insurance policy for accidents and illness incurred at camp. Our policy assumes the camper's insurance will be the primary coverage. If we must take someone to the doctor for treatment, the clinic will first file a claim with the camper's insurance. If there is no insurance, or if the camper's policy will not pay for this accident or illness, our insurance will cover the costs up to \$2,000 for an accident and \$200 for an illness. Personal property is not covered by camp insurance and any claims for loss, theft, etc., 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 Pinky's Store, Manderson. If your group has travel problems and will be arriving late, please call and leave a message at Pinky's Store (605-867-5184).

DEPARTURE: Friday after breakfast and worship.

Directions to MANDERSON from Interstate 90:

Exit at Kadoka (exit 150)

Go south on Highway 73 for 45 miles to Highway 18.

Go right (west) on Highway 18 for 48 miles to Big Foot Trail.

Go right (west) on Big Foot Trail for 5 miles to Wounded Knee,

At Wounded Knee go northwest for 9 miles to Manderson.



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 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 10-15 youth and adults arrive at Pinky's Store in Manderson, South Dakota, between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Sunday. The camp staff will meet you and take you to the servant camp base site. Supper will be provided by the Atlantic Mountain Ranch staff. You will get settled into your rooms, have an orientation and get-acquainted session, and end the day with worship.

Monday to Thursday we will do construction projects, interact with local youth and adults, visit significant reservation sites, listen to Lakota speakers, 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 the staff of Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota. We work together with Lakota contact people on the reservation 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 from Atlantic Mountain Ranch in Custer, South Dakota, who will be with you on-site in Manderson as programmatic guides and counselors, and to help facilitate your time there.

What about housing and meals?

Our servant camp base site consists of a house trailer and a bunkhouse. The trailer is similar to those used for housing by residents on Pine Ridge. The trailer contains bathrooms and a kitchen. 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 will help by providing a balanced meal plan for the week. 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.

What is the weather like on Pine Ridge?

Pine Ridge has variable weather. The days can be very warm or hot with cool evenings and nights. Daytime temperatures are generally in the 80s and 90s, but can vary from the 60s to over 100 degrees. Nights are generally in the 60s and 70s. Summer can also be a time of storms, with rain, hail, or strong winds. You will need to be prepared for changing weather.

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 Pinky Clifford, a community leader and our host in Manderson. Her suggestions are the result of her 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 of our work project and at a neighborhood 'Kid's Time' in the afternoon.

Generally during the morning we work on a construction project, and in the afternoon we interact with local youth and visit historical sites on the reservation. It may 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 110 years ago. In the 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 people," and other places. Usually a speaker or two comes to visit us at the servant camp base site.

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, like any good church camp experience, 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. **This is especially true of this program with all of its complexity and variables of working within a culture which makes flexibility and a more relaxed view of time a necessity.**

ADULT ADVISORS AT SERVANT CAMP

We ask adult advisors to:

1. Be a part of the Leadership Team and attend staff/adult sponsor 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 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 sponsors 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 Pinky's Store and the base site in Manderson
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
Servant Project

- Construction/Renovation
- Bible Study

Noon Lunch/KP
Afternoon Touring Reservation
Local Youth Involvement
6:00 Supper/KP
Evening Possible time with local people, or touring
Games possibly
Evening Worship
Meeting of Staff and Advisors



FRIDAY

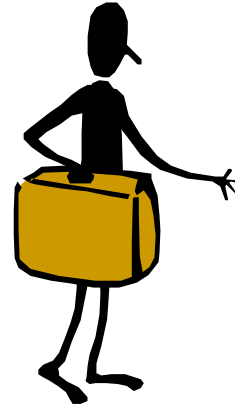
7:00 Rise and Shine
First Word
8:00 Breakfast/KP
Closing Worship, Reflections/Evaluations of experience
Pack up, move out and cleaning
9:30 – 10:00 Goodbyes, hugs and hit the road

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 Manderson.

- Sleeping Bag/pillow
- Work boots
- 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 nights
- Jacket, fleece, or sweatshirt
- Rain gear (poncho or rain coat)
- Gloves for working (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	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/film, day pack for daily trips.

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

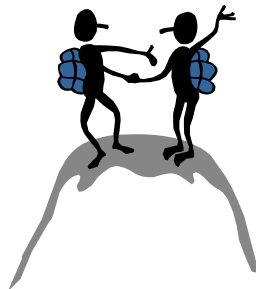
Be sure to bring your Health Form with you!

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

"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

Lakota Dakota Information Homepage.

<http://puffin.creighton.edu/lakota>

Red Cloud Heritage Center, Pine Ridge, SD:

www.redcloudschool.org/museum/museum.htm