

# RE-MEMBER

Working with the Oglala Lakota People on the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota

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## Registration and Informational Packet 2012

Greetings! I'm glad you're coming out to Re-Member. If this is your first time, I look forward to sharing with you the beauty and culture of the Oglala Lakota Nation. If you are returning, you'll be amazed at the changes that are afoot here on Pine Ridge as Re-Member grows into a new home.

Coming to Pine Ridge will be a life-changing experience. At Re-Member, we provide a "service-learning" experience that gives our volunteers not only the chance to work across Pine Ridge with our Lakota friends, but the chance to be immersed in Lakota culture. At Re-Member, we believe that forming relationships with the Lakota people and studying their history, culture, and spirituality as we grow in our understanding about their lives and their culture is as important as the work we do.

These are exciting times here at Re-Member. We bring in volunteers from all over the world, and welcomed more than 1,100 people in 2011. Re-Member will continue, in 2012, the work we began in 1998 - addressing the housing rehab and renovation needs on the Rez.

2012 will certainly be a challenging year, here at Re-Member. Throughout the past years, the Re-Member Board and staff have been identifying ways to address and accommodate Re-Member's need for a new home on the Rez. This year, you'll help us prepare for and execute our transition to a new location and new facilities that will better accommodate our volunteers, better facilitate your cultural immersion, and better accommodate Lakota guests and friends who share their knowledge, their crafts, their lives, and their friendship with us. Furthermore, we'll be located much closer to the center of the Reservation, helping us to more easily reach out to the communities with the greatest need. This is a major change for Re-Member as an organization and for our volunteers. We are increasing our outreach across the Rez and making a greater impact on the lives of the Lakota people.

Come out in 2012 and be a part of this exciting new direction. Come and experience the Lakota people, make new friends and have the time of your life. We'll be waiting to welcome you with open arms.

Sincerely yours,

Ted Skantze  
Executive Director  
and The Re-Member Board of Directors and Staff

## Overview of Re-Member's Reservation Process

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Re-Member. Email [trips@re-member.org](mailto:trips@re-member.org). Our Trip Coordinators will respond to your questions promptly.

### 1. Reserve a Spot (As Soon As Possible).

- a. Call or email our trip coordinator, Paula Sibal, to discuss and select a trip date.
- b. Identify your group leader. It is very important that we have a group leader identified with name, address, phone, fax, and email. There is a place for this information on our Reservation Agreement. This insures that if we have any questions, we can reach your leader as soon as possible.
- c. Read and sign the Trip Reservation Agreement. **A sample copy for review** is included in this packet. After you confirm your trip dates with **the trip coordinator**, she **will send a formal Trip Reservation Agreement** for your completion. This is the *only* document you/your group leader will need to sign to reserve places with us. **Please note deposit information, payment schedule, and cancellation policies.** If you will be bringing youth participants, be sure to refer to Paragraph 8 of the Reservation Agreement for minimum age and youth-to-adult required ratios.
- d. Calculate your deposit. **Deposits are equivalent to \$75\*\* per person.** See also Paragraph 2A of the Reservation Agreement. (Please note: Your deposit is a part of the total cost for your trip.)
- e. **Mail the signed Reservation Agreement along with your deposit to: Re-Member, 9440 Marsh Rd - Plainwell, MI 49080**

### 2. Make Payments and Send Contact List (Four months AND Two months prior to your trip date).

- a. Create a Contact List (**Form 1**) of your volunteers, designating gender and whether they are adult or youth. This will allow us to cross-reference the forms against the names on your list.
- b. The balance is due as follows (See also Paragraphs 2B and 2C of the Reservation Agreement):
  - i. ½ of the remaining balance (**equivalent to \$150\*\* per person**) is due four months prior to your trip date. **Send your contact list with this payment.**
  - ii. Final payment (**equivalent to \$150\*\* per person**) is due two months prior to your trip date. If any changes have been made to your group, send an updated contact list at this point. **Send your documentation with this payment (see item 3 below).**
- c. **Please make payments with one check only.** We cannot accept individual checks from large numbers of volunteers, as such payments can get misdirected. Have your group members pay your organization and send a check from your organization to Re-Member.

### 3. Send Documentation (At Least Two months prior to your trip date).

- a. The Group Leader is responsible for reviewing Volunteer forms for completeness, and ensuring that forms and monies are submitted within guidelines. We require two (2) documents for each volunteer which are included with this packet. Please make as many copies of each as you need so that *every* volunteer (regardless of age or skills) has one. They are:
  - i. **Personal, Medical, and Skills Information-Form 2a; OR Parental Permission/Youth Personal, Medical, and Skills-Form 2b** (for participants under age 18). Both forms are included in the packet.
  - ii. **Release and Waiver of Liability-Form 3.**
- b. **We must have individual forms for each volunteer.** We are unable to admit any volunteer into our facilities without the required documents on file in our office. We request that you send them to our office **no later than two months prior to your trip date**, when your final payment is due. Forms for late additions to your trip should be sent as soon as possible.
- c. Note: All our documents have a place to identify the dates of your trip *and* your group name. *Please make sure that this is filled in* so we can get your forms in the right place.

**\*\*NOTE: With the exception of schools/colleges/universities that are tax exempt, and ground transportation charges; all trip fees are assessed a tribal excise tax of 4% or \$15. This brings the total trip fee to \$390.**



**Form 1: Group Contact List**

**Re-Member requires one contact list for each group.**  
*This form is due four months prior to trip.*  
**Please Print Clearly**

Trip Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Group Leader Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (work): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (other): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Group Information (Please list ALL trip participants):**

	Name	Male	Female	Adult	Youth
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

**\*\*SAMPLE ONLY!! \*\***

**RE-MEMBER TRIP RESERVATION AGREEMENT**

1. **Dates:** X reserves X (X) place(s) on Week # X scheduled for X, 2012 through X, 2012.

Following the receipt of this Reservation Agreement along with the deposit as set out in paragraph 2A, we will hold your reserved spaces.

2. **Terms of Reservation:** The total cost of a week at Re-Member is **\$375\*\*** per person. **All payments must be made with one check rather than multiple checks from individuals, and should be remitted to the address as noted at the bottom of this agreement.**

**\*\*NOTE: With the exception of schools/colleges/universities that are tax exempt, and ground transportation charges; all trip fees are assessed a tribal excise tax of 4% or \$15. This brings the total trip fee to \$390.**

Payments are due as follows:

**A. Deposit Due Immediately:** Send a non-refundable deposit of **\$75\*\*+ \$3.00 tax as applicable** per person, totaling **\$X.00** along with this signed agreement. If this signed Reservation Agreement is not received within one month of your receipt of this Agreement (by X), we will release your reservation/s.

**B. First Payment Due 4 Months Prior to Trip Arrival Date:** Send a non-refundable check for 50% of the remaining balance, equivalent to **\$150\*\* + \$6.00 tax as applicable** per person, totaling **\$X.00**.

**C. Final Payment Due 2 Months Prior to Trip Arrival Date:** Send a non-refundable check for the remaining balance, equivalent to **\$150\*\* + \$6.00 tax as applicable** per person, totaling **\$X.00**. Payments not submitted within 30 days of due date will result in release of reservations.

**Note: If this Reservation Agreement is made after any of the above deadlines have passed, funds are due with this agreement.**

3. **Age Restriction:** Volunteers must be age 13 or older. Exception: Family Week Program admits children ages 6-12.

4. **Documentation:** Each volunteer must provide the following 2 documents: *Personal, Medical, and Skills Information-Form 2a (with Parental Permission form for Youth Participants-Form 2b), and Release and Waiver-Form 3*. No person (adult or youth) will be admitted to the facilities without these documents on file. **Documentation is due along with your final payment**, as outlined in paragraph 2C, above.

5. **Cancellations:**

**A. For cancellations more than 4 months prior to your trip date:** Your deposit will be reduced. Excess deposit monies received by Re-Member will be applied to the remaining trip balance. The remaining trip balance will also be reduced to reflect cancellations.

**B. For cancellations between 2 and 4 months prior to your trip date:** Re-Member will retain the \$75\*\* deposit as a cancellation fee, but will reduce your final balance due by the equivalent of \$300\*\* per cancelled space.

**C. For cancellations within 2 months of your trip date:** **Re-Member cannot refund your payments or reduce any outstanding balance due.** Refer to paragraph 6.

6. **Substitutions and Additions:** Substitution is permissible. Additions are possible, if space is available. Forms for substitutions/additions are due at once.

7. **The Experience at Re-Member:** Re-Member serves many different individuals and groups, as well as schools and universities. Re-Member's responsibility is to provide access to work experiences, exposure to Lakota culture, and most importantly, opportunities for relationship with the Lakota people.

**Re-Member insists that all groups adhere to our policy against any proselytizing whatsoever during the course of your stay.** We will lead a morning session after breakfast, where we share wisdom from elders of various indigenous groups. Each evening, your group will have the opportunity to process the events of the day, followed by a question and answer period with our staff. We also provide free time each evening, which groups may use for journaling, reflection, or further processing. Content and leadership of these components will be the responsibility of the group leaders.

8. **Group Leaders:** A specific person should be identified as the leader of each trip. **Group Leaders are responsible for all Volunteer forms to be screened for completion, cosigned, and submitted within guidelines.** Group Leaders are responsible for ensuring all in their group have insurance & emergency contact info with them at all times. Group leaders will make decisions about whether groups or individuals within the groups will participate in activities that could involve some measure of risk. **Leaders are responsible for maintaining the order and discipline of the group.** In youth groups, we require a ratio of 1 adult (21 years or older) for each 6 young people. If the group is mixed gender, there must be a minimum of one adult of each gender.

9. **Drug and Alcohol Policy:** Smoking is not allowed in Re-Member vehicles or buildings. Any use of alcohol or illegal drugs is strictly forbidden. **I have read and understand the mutual responsibilities of RE-MEMBER, our group, and our group leaders:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Individual Name or Group Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature / Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Notes about Reservations:**

1) **Do not complete a Trip Reservation Agreement that has not been prepared for you and sent to you by our Trip Coordinator! Spots are NOT guaranteed if the Trip Coordinator has not prepared the agreement.**

2) Please make reservations for the minimum number of persons with firm commitment to come, rather than the maximum number that you hope for. Volunteers can be added if space us available.

3) **The designated Group Leader must sign and send this form, as well as ALL forms & payments to:**

**Re-Member: 9440 Marsh Rd, Plainwell, MI 49080 or email to [trips@re-member](mailto:trips@re-member)**

**\*\*SAMPLE ONLY!!\*\***



**Form 2a: Adult Info & Skills**

**Re-Member requires one completed form for each adult volunteer.**  
*Group Leaders: Make as many copies of this form as you need.*  
*Forms are due two months prior to trip. Please Print Clearly!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F Trip Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal email: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone – Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been to Re-Member before? If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**ALLERGIES: Do you have any which staff should be aware of? If so, please describe:**

**Are your vaccinations up to date (tetanus, TB and hepatitis? If not, please make certain they are updated prior to trip date!!**

**MEDICAL CONDITIONS: Do you have any that could be affected by extreme weather conditions - hot or cold – which staff should be aware of? If so, please describe:**

**FOOD RESTRICTIONS: Do you have any that we need to accommodate? If so, please list: \*\***

**\*\*Please note that, for a number of reasons, we are limited in the types of dietary accommodations we can make. If you have severe or extensive restrictions, please plan to provide your own supplemental food as needed. Contact the Trip Coordinator if you have any questions.**

*I give the leaders of my group or staff of RE-MEMBER permission to authorize emergency medical procedures should that become necessary, and to authorize treatment by a licensed physician.*

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNED IN AGREEMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Volunteer) (Trip Leader)

**VOLUNTEER SKILLS ASSESSMENT**

The skills portion of the form may help us to use you more effectively on work days.

- (1) I make, or have made, my living performing this trade.
- (2) This is an avocation of mine. I am familiar with all of the tools of this trade and am skilled in their use.
- (3) This is an avocation of mine. I am familiar with *most* of the tools of this trade and have *some* skills.
- (4) I am a home handy person and am capable of performing this trade well enough to fool my spouse/partner/parent.
- (5) I know some basic stuff, but really don't have skills in this area. (Don't worry. Most of our volunteers fall into this category.)

**Please circle your level of ability, based on the above guidelines.**

Carpentry	1	2	3	4	5
Electrical	1	2	3	4	5
Plumbing	1	2	3	4	5
Auto repair	1	2	3	4	5

Do you have any additional comments about the above? (For example: You may do this for a living and really not want to do it out here.) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a CDL? ( )Yes ( )No (If you don't know what it is, you don't have one.) Are you a licensed medical professional (doctor, nurse, PA-C, EMT)? If so, please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_



**Form 2b: Parental consent/Youth Info & Skills**

**Re-Member requires one completed form for each youth volunteer, signed by parent/guardian and group leader.**  
*Group Leaders: Make as many copies of this form as you need.*  
*Forms are due two months prior to trip.*  
**Please Print Clearly!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F Trip Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal email: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone – Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby give consent for my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to attend the RE-MEMBER Trip to Pine Ridge, SD on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ with the following group: \_\_\_\_\_.

In the event of accident or injury, I agree that RE-MEMBER is not liable beyond the limits of their liability coverage. With regard to minors traveling without parents, I grant the leaders of the Trip permission to authorize any emergency medical procedures should that become necessary, and to authorize treatment by a licensed physician.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNED IN AGREEMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Legal Guardian) (Trip Group Leader)

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**ALLERGIES: Does the child have any that staff should be aware of? What type of reaction and treatment is required?**

**Are the child's vaccinations up to date (tetanus, TB and hepatitis)? If not, please make certain they are updated prior to trip date!!**

**MEDICAL CONDITIONS: Does the child have any that could be affected by extreme weather conditions - hot or cold – which staff should be aware of? If so, please describe:**

**FOOD RESTRICTIONS: Does the child have any that we need to accommodate? If so, please list: \*\***

**\*\*Please note that, for a number of reasons, we are limited in the types of dietary accommodations we can make. If you have severe or extensive restrictions, please plan to provide your own supplemental food as needed. Contact the Trip Coordinator if you have any questions.**

**VOLUNTEER SKILLS ASSESSMENT**

Does the child have any skills in the areas of carpentry, plumbing, electrical or automotive repair? If so, please list:

**RE-**  
  
**MEMBER**  
**Form 3: Release and Waiver of Liability**

**Re-Member requires one completed form signed by each volunteer (signed by parent/guardian for each youth).**  
*Group Leaders: Make as many copies of this form as you need.*  
*Forms are due two months prior to trip.*  
**Please Print Clearly**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY! THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT THAT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS!**

This Release and Waiver of Liability (the "Release") is executed on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_ (Volunteer) in favor of Re-Member, a non-profit corporation, organized under the laws of the States of Michigan and South Dakota, its directors, officers, employees, and agents (collectively "Re-Member").

The Volunteer desires to work as a volunteer for Re-Member and engage in the activities related to being a volunteer (the "Activities"). The Volunteer understands that the activities may include constructing and renovating residential buildings, working in the Re-Member offices, and living in housing provided for volunteers of Re-Member.

The Volunteer hereby freely, voluntarily, and without duress executes this Release under the following terms:

**Release and Waiver.** Volunteer does hereby release and forever discharge and hold harmless Re-Member, its successors, and assigns from any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity, which arise or may hereafter arise from Volunteer's Activities with Re-Member.

Volunteer understands that this Release discharges Re-Member from any liability or claim that the Volunteer may have against Re-Member with respect to any bodily injury, personal injury, illness, death, or property damage that may result from Volunteer's activities with Re-Member, whether caused by the negligence of Re-Member or its officers, directors, employees, or agents or otherwise. Volunteer also understands that Re-Member does not assume any responsibility for or obligation to provide financial assistance or other assistance, including but not limited to medical, health, or disability insurance in the event of injury or illness.

**Medical Treatment.** Volunteer does hereby release and forever discharge Re-Member from any claim whatsoever which arises or may hereafter arise on account of any first aid, treatment, or service rendered in connection with the Volunteer's Activities with Re-Member.

**Assumption of the Risk.** The Volunteer understands that the Activities may include work that may be hazardous to the Volunteer, including, but not limited to, construction, loading or unloading, and transportation to and from the work sites. Volunteer hereby expressly and specifically assumes the risk of injury or harm in the Activities and releases Re-Member from all liability for injury, illness, death, or property damage resulting from the Activities.

**Insurance.** The Volunteer understands that, except as otherwise agreed to by Re-Member in writing, Re-Member does not carry or maintain health, medical, or disability coverage for any Volunteer. **Each Volunteer is expected and encouraged to obtain his or her own medical or health insurance coverage.**

**Photographic Release.** Volunteer does hereby grant or convey unto Re-Member all right, title, and interest in any and all photographic images and video or audio recordings which may be obtained by Re-Member during the Volunteer's Activities with Re-Member, including, but not limited to, any royalties, proceeds, or other benefits derived from such photographs or recordings.

**Other.** Volunteer expressly agrees that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the States of South Dakota and Michigan, and that this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of said States. Volunteer agrees that in the event that any clause or provision of this Release shall be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of this Release which shall continue to be enforceable.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Volunteer has executed this Release as of the day and year first above written.

\*\*Parent/Guardian must also sign below if volunteer under the age of 18

Volunteer (Please print name): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Trip Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent/guardian signature** (if volunteer is under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Information

### **How to Find Us:**

In this packet of information, you will find a map of where Pine Ridge Reservation and Re-Member are located. **DO NOT RELY on MapQuest, Google, AAA, OnStar, or other online or satellite mapping programs.** There is no “grid” here on Pine Ridge, and we hate to say it, but we can pretty much guarantee that **you will get lost.** These mapping programs also tend to direct people to interstate highways which could add up to three hours to your trip. Please contact Re-Member if you have any questions regarding directions and we will gladly help you find the most direct route. **If you are flying, Rapid City, SD (RAP) is the closest airport.** If possible, Re-Member will pick up groups at Rapid City Airport for an additional charge. Please contact our trip coordinator make arrangements.

### **Arrival and Departure Times:**

It is *very* important that you arrive on time. Please make travel arrangements to arrive at Re-Member **between 12:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. Mountain Standard Time** on your arrival date. **Please note that if you arrive prior to 12:00 P.M. we may not have staff on site, as our “weekend” is a 24 hour period ending on Saturday at 2:00 P.M.**

Dinner is at 5:00 P.M. on the evening of your arrival. If you are unable to be here by that time, you will have to make arrangements for you/your group to eat on the road. If you absolutely cannot arrive by **6:00 P.M.** please let us know prior to the day of your arrival so we can adjust our schedule accordingly.

Plan to leave Re-Member on Friday morning at 9:00 A.M. If you must leave earlier on Friday morning, please let us know ahead of time.

NOTE: If you cannot arrange your trip to fit within these time frames, we suggest you reschedule for a time when you can. Every moment of your week with us is an important part of the experience and we don't want you to miss anything!

### **Donations:**

You are certainly welcome to bring donations with you. Please call or email to see what our current needs are. We always have a need for twin-sized blankets or quilts and personal care items, as well as work gloves, safety goggles, dust masks, and earplugs. If you would like to contribute equipment, construction materials or lumber, please contact us. You may always contribute financially to our programs.

### **\*\*\*PLEASE Prepare Your Group for Their Trip Before You Depart!\*\*\***

Our experience has been that groups benefit greatly from advance preparation by their group leaders. You may utilize the materials sent in this packet and meet as often as you deem necessary in order to prepare your volunteers. Be sure to include EVERYONE (adults, youth, and chaperones) in these preparations. We have found that these advance meetings help to introduce group leaders and also to smooth over group dynamics. It also helps for groups to have some idea of what to expect once they are here.

Once you arrive, there will be some time during the evenings for group activities and reflection. This is also a good time for journaling. If you wish to take advantage of these times, it will be your responsibility to lead such sessions with your group. You are welcome to bring whatever materials you wish. Please note that we do not have access to TVs, projectors, or PowerPoint software.

### **Please share the information on the next few pages with your group:**

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency Medical Information

Some Notes about our Schedule

Basic Safety Guidelines

Packing Suggestions

Sample Itinerary

Cultural Information

## **Emergency Information**

### **Important Phone Numbers:**

Please provide this information to parents/contacts back home.

In case of emergency:

Office: (605) 867-2282 Fax: (605) 867-2285 Ted Skantze, Director: (605) 454-5130

We request that these numbers be used only for EMERGENCY calls. To dial out from these numbers, you will need a calling card.

**Emergency Medical Information:** In case of medical emergencies or illness during your stay, we utilize the clinic and hospital at Gordon, Nebraska, which is 22 miles from our site. We are unable to utilize Pine Ridge Hospital, which is run by Indian Health Service, unless it is an extreme emergency.

*Medications for youth should be handled by group leaders, or the youth's parent(s), whichever is appropriate.*

**Any emergency resuscitation medications, such as an EpiPen, or nitroglycerin, AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION MUST be brought by the volunteer and carried with them at all times!**

## **Some Notes about our Schedule**

We have a busy week planned for you! **A sample itinerary** is included in this packet. Before you arrive, we want you to know that EVERYTHING on the schedule is of equal importance! If it is part of our schedule, it is there for a reason. *Wisdom of the Elders* (morning) and *Roses and Thorns* (evening) are a crucial part of your experience with us, as they provide insight as well as an opportunity to process. The days here at Re-Member are exhausting, and it is imperative that you have a chance to talk through what you see and hear. It is also important for you, your fellow group members, and our staff to have the opportunity to draw strength or knowledge from the experiences and insights of others. Therefore we ask you to be present and engaged at both *Wisdom of the Elders* and *Roses and Thorns*. Similarly, when we are on Tour, we request that you participate fully in all of the activities planned for the day. We specifically select our tour locations and expect you to completely submerge yourself into the culture that you will also be working in. During every moment of every day, we expect you to be willing to learn about life on the Rez both in the past and in the present.

## **Basic Safety Guidelines**

Of utmost importance to a successful and productive service-learning trip is the safety of all volunteers. The nature of volunteer activities, i.e. construction work, entails manual labor with ever-present risk of injury. Most volunteers perform some activities that are unfamiliar to them, and many experience more physical exertion than that to which they are accustomed, and this tends to increase the risks.

Re-Member coordinates the workweek activities of many volunteers each year, and has done so for over a decade. During this time, very few serious injuries have occurred, although minor scrapes, cuts, sunburn, etc. happen occasionally. This good safety record is due, in part, to the experience that the Re-Member staff brings to the task. We attempt to match work assignments to the skills of the volunteers, but we are also mindful of the fact that many of our volunteers are unskilled in many construction related tasks. During the work day, volunteers are encouraged to take breaks and to **consume adequate liquids. Due to conditions on the Rez, the risk of dehydration is very high, and we encourage our volunteers to have a water bottle with them at all times.** Our staff will provide direct hands-on guidance and instruction in construction techniques as often as possible. However, **volunteers and group leaders are ultimately responsible for their own safety.** Re-Member cannot know all of the volunteers' skills and limitations well enough to prevent all risks to health or safety, and is only able to provide enough advice and supervision at the job sites to supplement that provided by the volunteer's own leadership. **Please be prepared for: Physical Exertion, Weather-Related Risks (Hot and Dry Weather, Cold Weather, Windy Conditions), Chemical Exposure (Cleaning Products, Paint), and Construction Projects (Lifting, Power Tools, Safety Equipment including Gloves, Goggles, and Masks).** Given the wide range of volunteer skill levels, Re-Member endeavors to involve all volunteers in its projects.

Sometimes, volunteers with little experience are “shut out” of work by more experienced volunteers who may feel that they should take over. Group leaders are encouraged to discuss this with their volunteers and help prevent this from happening. Re-Member encourages all of its more experienced or skilled volunteers to show others how things are done, and help our staff bring all volunteers into the work day. This will enhance the experience for all our volunteers, whatever level of skill they possess.

## **Packing**

### **What TO bring:**

**How Much to Pack:** You will be with us for 6 nights. Be prepared for 4 work days, 1 tour day, and at least 2 days of travel depending on where you are traveling from. Please pack light- bring enough clothes for the week and no more- as storage space in our bunk rooms is limited.

**Packing for the Weather:** The climate in South Dakota VARIES extensively.

*Spring or Fall Volunteers:* It may be cold and snowy, or it may be hot. Bring layers!

*Summer Volunteers:* If you are coming in the summer, chances are it will be hot. It is not uncommon for temperatures to reach upward of 100 degrees. However, we still recommend packing one set of long pants along with a light jacket or sweatshirt.

No matter what time of year, be sure to bring a **hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a water bottle**. Our area averages 300 days of sun a year and you can easily get sunburned no matter what the season.

**Packing for Work:** Keep in mind that you may be painting, roofing, sanding, staining, or doing any other number of work projects. Do not pack your favorite t-shirt! Bring clothes that can get dirty or even ruined!

**Shoes:** We *insist* that all volunteers have shoes (sneakers are fine) for our work projects and workshop. Sandals are fine at other times.

**Tools and Safety Equipment:** You do *not* need to bring tools, as we have a very good assortment of all the tools you will need. It is recommended that you bring your own work gloves. We have safety goggles, ear plugs, and dust masks.

**Sleeping and Personal Care:** We do not provide bedding. Please pack:

Sleeping bag OR sheets and blanket. Some of our volunteers like to sleep outside, under the stars. If you choose to try this, it's also suggested that you bring a tarp, or other form of ground cover.

Pillow

Towel and washcloth, and bungee cords or rope to hang wet towels on.

Toiletries

Sunscreen

**Money:** While all meals, accommodations, and transportation during your stay are included in your trip cost, there are opportunities to purchase crafts from local crafters and artists. This is entirely optional. For many residents on Pine Ridge, the sale of crafts is their sole source of income. If you think you may be interested in purchasing crafts, please bring some cash with you as we do not have easy access to banks or ATMs and artists are unable to cash non-local checks.

**Other:** Camera; reading/writing material; calling card - Do not rely on your cell phone to let folks know that you made it. Cell phone service is often unavailable. A calling card is required for long distance calls; snack food.

**What NOT to bring:** Clothing/Items with “Indian” logos of any kind, or “Indian-type” apparel. These may be viewed as offensive by the residents of Pine Ridge. Also, in keeping with cultural beliefs, we respectfully ask that you do not wear clothing of a revealing nature (i.e. spaghetti strap or low-cut tops, crop-tops, short-shorts, etc.) while out on a work crew. This, too, may be viewed as disrespectful and offensive by some of the residents. Thank you.

Cell Phones (If you bring yours for travel purposes, we ask that you shut it off during your week with us.); iPods / MP3 players / CD players; video games; laptops (Volunteers **will not** have internet access.); any other valuable items.

## \*\*\*Sample Itinerary\*\*\*

This Itinerary most accurately reflects our summer months. **Please note that this is a sample only and is subject to change. However, it will give your group a good idea of what to expect.**

**Note: Pine Ridge, SD is in the Mountain Time Zone.**

### Saturday

Arrive at Re-Member between 2:00 and 4:00 P.M.

4:30 P.M. Orientation  
5:00 P.M. Supper  
6:30 P.M. History I  
7:00 P.M. Travel to Powwow **(If Available)\***  
9:30 P.M. Quiet Time, Reading, Bathroom/Showers  
10:30 P.M. Lights Out

### Sunday

7:00 A.M. Wake Up, Bathroom/Showers  
7:45 A.M. Breakfast  
9:00 A.M. Wisdom of the Elders, Begin Story of Wounded Knee – History II  
9:45 A.M. Wounded Knee Cemetery – History III and Reflection  
12:00 P.M. Lunch  
1:45 P.M. Site Work at Re-Member  
5:00 P.M. Dinner  
6:30 P.M. Cultural Program\*\*  
8:00 P.M. Roses & Thorns (Reflection of the Day)  
9:00 P.M. Free Time, Reading, Bathroom/Showers  
9:30 P.M. Quiet Time  
10:30 P.M. Lights Out

### Monday

6:00 A.M. Wake Up, Bathroom/Showers  
6:45 A.M. Breakfast at Shelem  
8:00 A.M. Wisdom of the Elders  
8:30 A.M. Work Day  
12:00 P.M. Lunch either at Re-Member or on the job  
1:00 P.M. Work Day, cont'd  
5:00 P.M. Supper  
6:30 P.M. Cultural Program\*\*  
8:00 P.M. Roses & Thorns  
9:00 P.M. Free Time, Reading, Bathroom/Showers  
9:30 P.M. Quiet Time  
10:30 P.M. Lights Out

### Tuesday

6:00 A.M. Wake Up, Bathroom/Showers  
6:45 A.M. Breakfast at Shelem  
8:00 A.M. Wisdom of the Elders  
8:30 A.M. Work Day  
12:00 P.M. Lunch either at Re-Member or on the job  
1:00 P.M. Work Day, cont'd  
5:00 P.M. Supper  
5:45-6:00 Midweek Cleanup  
6:30 P.M. Cultural Program\*\*

8:00 P.M. Roses & Thorns  
9:00 P.M. Free Time, Reading, Bathroom/Showers  
9:30 P.M. Quiet Time  
10:30 P.M. Lights Out

### Wednesday

6:00 A.M. Wake Up, Bathroom/Showers  
6:45 A.M. Breakfast at Shelem  
8:00 A.M. Wisdom of the Elders  
8:30 A.M. Work Day/Tour Day\*\*\*\*  
12:00 P.M. Lunch either at Re-Member/job/tour  
1:00 P.M. Work Day/Tour Day, cont'd  
5:00 P.M. Supper  
6:30 P.M. Cultural Program\*\*  
8:00 P.M. Roses & Thorns  
9:00 P.M. Free Time, Reading, Bathroom/Showers  
9:30 P.M. Quiet Time  
10:30 P.M. Lights Out

### Thursday

6:00 A.M. Wake Up, Bathroom/Showers  
6:45 A.M. Breakfast at Shelem  
8:00 A.M. Wisdom of the Elders  
8:30 A.M. Work Day/Tour Day\*\*\*\*  
12:00 P.M. Lunch either at Re-Member/job/tour  
1:00 P.M. Work Day/Tour Day, cont'd  
4:30 P.M. Final Cleanup  
5:30 P.M. Pizza Supper  
6:30 P.M. Finish Cleanup/Packing  
7:00 P.M. Final Sharing /Sunset & Sundaes  
9:00 P.M. Free Time, Reading, Bathroom/Showers  
9:30 P.M. Quiet Time  
10:30 P.M. Lights Out

### Friday

6:00 A.M. Wake Up, Bathroom/Showers  
6:45 A.M. Breakfast  
8:00 A.M. Final Wisdom of the Elders  
8:30 A.M. Packing/Final Sweep/Mop  
9:00 A.M. Departure

\* We will travel to a powwow if there is one happening locally. This is much more common in the summer months.

\*\* Cultural programs may include: speakers, Lakota singing and dancing, and making Lakota crafts.

\*\*\* The Community Dinner occurs on Sunday evenings from approximately Labor Day through Memorial Day.

\*\*\*\* Our Tour Day may include: museums, cemeteries, the local tribal college, and area craft outlets. Returning volunteers may be provided an alternative tour, if available.

\*\*\*Sample Itinerary\*\*\*

## Cultural Information

### **Four Basic Tenets of Native American Spirituality:**

- Recognition of the interconnectedness of creation and the responsibility of humans.
- Belief that all life is equal and contains the spiritual.
- Primary concern with the long-term welfare of life - all life.
- Spirituality is undergirded by thankfulness.

Mitakuye oyasin (we are all related)

### **Cultural Differences:**

While there are cultural differences between Lakota culture and that of our prevailing western culture, do not be overly concerned about it. Being *too* cautious can sometimes make relationships more uncomfortable than evolving naturally. Although the Rez is remote, there *is* satellite TV, and the folks here are bombarded with pop culture just like we are. Talk of differences typically leads to generalizations, so it varies with the individual. However, there *are* differences and it can be helpful to be aware of them.

The people on Pine Ridge Reservation are *Lakota*, and, for the most part belong to a subset of that Nation called the *Oglala*. It is no more politically correct or incorrect to refer to them as *Indians* or *Native Americans*. Those are, after all, terms that we have applied to them. On Pine Ridge, people will refer to themselves as Lakota, or Indian. The name Sioux, which is the official name (Oglala Sioux) of the tribe, was also one that was given to them by the French who shortened an Ojibwa epithet (*nadouessioux*, meaning “little snakes) for their traditional enemies, the Lakota. To be correct, just refer to them as Lakota.

When meeting them you may notice that many do not readily meet your eyes at first; some for a long time after you’ve known them. Like many other cultures throughout the world, their eye contact is less direct. Their handshake is gentle and brief. This is a way of being respectful.

Their understanding of time is different than ours. Our approach to time is quite regimented. Time exists to solve problems, to accomplish goals, and we surround ourselves with clocks, watches, calendars, date books, day planners, PDA’s and Blackberrys. We eat and sleep when the clock tells us it’s time. The Lakota understanding of time is that it exists at the pleasure of the individual and the community. It is more important to stay with an important human interaction than to hurry to an appointment. The focus is on the quality, rather than the quantity of time. Sleep is for when you’re tired; food for when you’re hungry.

Our culture values accomplishing goals, where the Lakota culture values relationships. For us, relationships are often based on what that relationship will help us accomplish and our definitions of success tend to be based on objective, measurable standards. The Lakota relationship exists *for* the relationship, rather than what can be accomplished with it, and success is subjective and consequently, less important.

“Western” culture values reasoning and the ability to present a cogent (and winning) argument, while traditional Lakota decisions were reached more intuitively and through consensus. With them, the emphasis is on maintaining a relationship over accomplishing a goal. They have a high tolerance for ambiguity, where we prefer things to be clear cut, yes or no, problem solved and goal achieved.

There is a strong emphasis in the dominant U.S. culture on honesty and clear and direct communication. We value following the rules and living up to expectations. In the Lakota culture the worst thing you can do is cause shame or dishonor to your family, your people, to another person. They prefer to approach conflict indirectly and confronting someone is considered rude and disrespectful.

Having read all this, it is important to once again stress that these are traditional and generalized traits and values and are not indicative of each one of the Lakota, or each one of us.

### **The Culture of Poverty:**

Be mindful of the fact that Pine Ridge is the poorest area of the United States, and living in desperate poverty creates its own culture. Acting and living according to Lakota culture and living in a culture of poverty are often two different things, and at times are inconsistent with each other. As you travel around the Rez and interact with the residents here, be mindful of the fact that both cultures exist here and it is very difficult to distinguish between the two. It is difficult for those of us who live and work here as well. We will try to figure it out together throughout your stay.

## Other Useful Materials

### Books:

**On the Rez** by Ian Frazier: A contemporary book about life on Pine Ridge from a white man's perspective. You will enjoy reading about and then encountering many locations.

**Neither Wolf nor Dog** by Kent Nerburn: A well-written book about the author's encounters with Lakota people; provides insight into present day thoughts on Pine Ridge. One of Re-Member's favorites.

**The Earth Shall Weep** by James Wilson: A history of North American Indigenous peoples, written from *their* perspective. Provides great insight into the effect of the European invasion of the Americas.

**Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee** by Dee Brown: For decades, this has been the definitive book about the Western Indian tribes generally and the Lakota particularly, and covers their history from the mid-1850's to the massacre at Wounded Knee in 1890.

**The Moon of Popping Trees** by Rex Allen Smith: This is another account of the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre, and provides a slightly different take on the event, with references to many articles and documents of the day.

**In the Spirit of Crazy Horse** by Peter Matthiesson: The story of the 1975 shooting of two FBI agents on Pine Ridge and the subsequent trial of AIM activist Leonard Peltier.

**Crazy Horse and Custer** by Stephen E. Ambrose: Written by the noted historian, tells the story of both men and the events that drew them together.

**God is Red: A Native View of Religion** by Vine Deloria, Jr. – A comparison between Native religion and both Judaism and Christianity, although he paints both with broad strokes, it presents a powerful challenge to some Christian doctrine.

**Custer Died for Your Sins: an Indian Manifesto** by Vine Deloria, Jr.: Covers both Native spirituality and the anger that permeates the lives of many Native Americans today.

**Gift of Power: the Life and Teachings of a Lakota Holy Man** by Chief Archie Fire Lame Deer: A story of transformation from anger and survival to redemption as a holy man.

**Black Elk Speaks**, transcribed by John C. Neihardt: This is a very famous text by the most famous Lakota Holy Man, as transcribed by John Neihardt. Re-Member's volunteer groups eat at the restaurant owned by Black Elk's great granddaughter, near the location where this text was dictated.

**Wounded Knee II** by Rolland Dewing: A thorough history of the events of 1973 when the American Indian Movement (AIM) occupied the village of Wounded Knee. The effects of this period are still evident on the reservation today.

**Travels In A Stone Canoe: The Return to the Wisdom Keepers** by Harvey Arden and Steve Wall; **Wisdom Keepers: Meeting with Native American Spiritual Elders** by Steve Wall; **Wisdom's Daughters: Conversations with Women Elders of Native America** by Steve Wall; **Noble Red Man: Lakota Wisdom Keeper Matthew King** by Harvey Arden: The authors write extensively about their encounter with contemporary Native American spiritual elders.

**Meditations with the Lakota** by Paul Steinmetz: Prayers, songs and stories of healing and harmony.

**The Sacred Pipe: Black Elk's Account of the Seven Rites of the Oglala Lakota**, by Joseph Epes Brown: An explanation of the sacred rights of the Lakota religion.

**Walking in the Sacred Manner; Madonna Swan; Of Uncommon Birth** by Mark St. Pierre: The first, written with his wife, Tilda Long Soldier, is about Lakota women, relating to spirituality and healing. The second discusses an exceptional Lakota woman, and the third tells the story of two South Dakota soldiers during the Vietnam War; one Lakota, one white. Mark and Tilda continue to reside on Pine Ridge Reservation.

**The Lakota Way** by Joseph M. Marshall III. Stories and lessons for living.

### Children's Books:

*Otokahehagapi: The Lakota Creation Story* by Thomas E. Simms, Tipi Press

*Baby Rattlesnake* by Te Ata and Lynn Moroney, Children's Book Press

*The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses* by Paul Goble, Aladdin Paperbacks

*Dancing Teepees* by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, Holiday House

*Ten Little Rabbits* by Virginia Grossman and Sylvia Long, Chronicle Books

*Buffalo Dreams* by Kim Doner, West Winds Press  
*Sitting Bull* by Susan Bivin Aller, Barnes & Noble Books, grades 4-6

*Stories of the Sioux* by Luther Standing Bear, grades 5-7  
*A Boy Called Slow* by Joseph Bruchac, a story about Sitting Bull

*Remaking the Earth* by Paul Goble, grades 2-4

*Brother Eagle, Sister Sky* by Susan Jeffers, Dial Books, about Chief Seattle

## Movies:

***Smoke Signals***: Gives you a sense of life on a reservation.

***Skins***: By the same director as *Smoke Signals*, it is about Pine Ridge and was primarily filmed there.

***Incident at Oglala***: Produced by Robert Redford, this is an outstanding documentary about Leonard Peltier and events during and immediately following the occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973 by the American Indian Movement.

***Thunderheart***: This is loosely based upon the events detailed in *Incident at Oglala* and was filmed here on Pine Ridge. Jerome High Horse, our Construction Manager, was an extra in this film.

***Dances with Wolves***: This is a beautifully filmed movie and very well done. Some of the residents on Pine Ridge say that they got the dialect wrong in the movie. This is also typical of Hollywood, in that the focus of the movie is on the love affair between two Euro-Americans who ride off together, leaving the Native people to their fate.

***American Indian Homelands: Matters of Truth, Honor and Dignity-Immemorial***: Narrated by Sam Donaldson, an excellent documentary about land issues on Indian Reservations. Can be hard to find.

***The West, 500 Nations***, and ***Into the West***: These three series, by Ken Burns, Kevin Costner and Steven Spielberg respectively provide multiple historical perspectives, each for different reasons.

***Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee***: Produced by HBO in May 2007, this film focuses on Henry Dawes, the allotment of land for farming by Indians, and the Massacre at Wounded Knee.

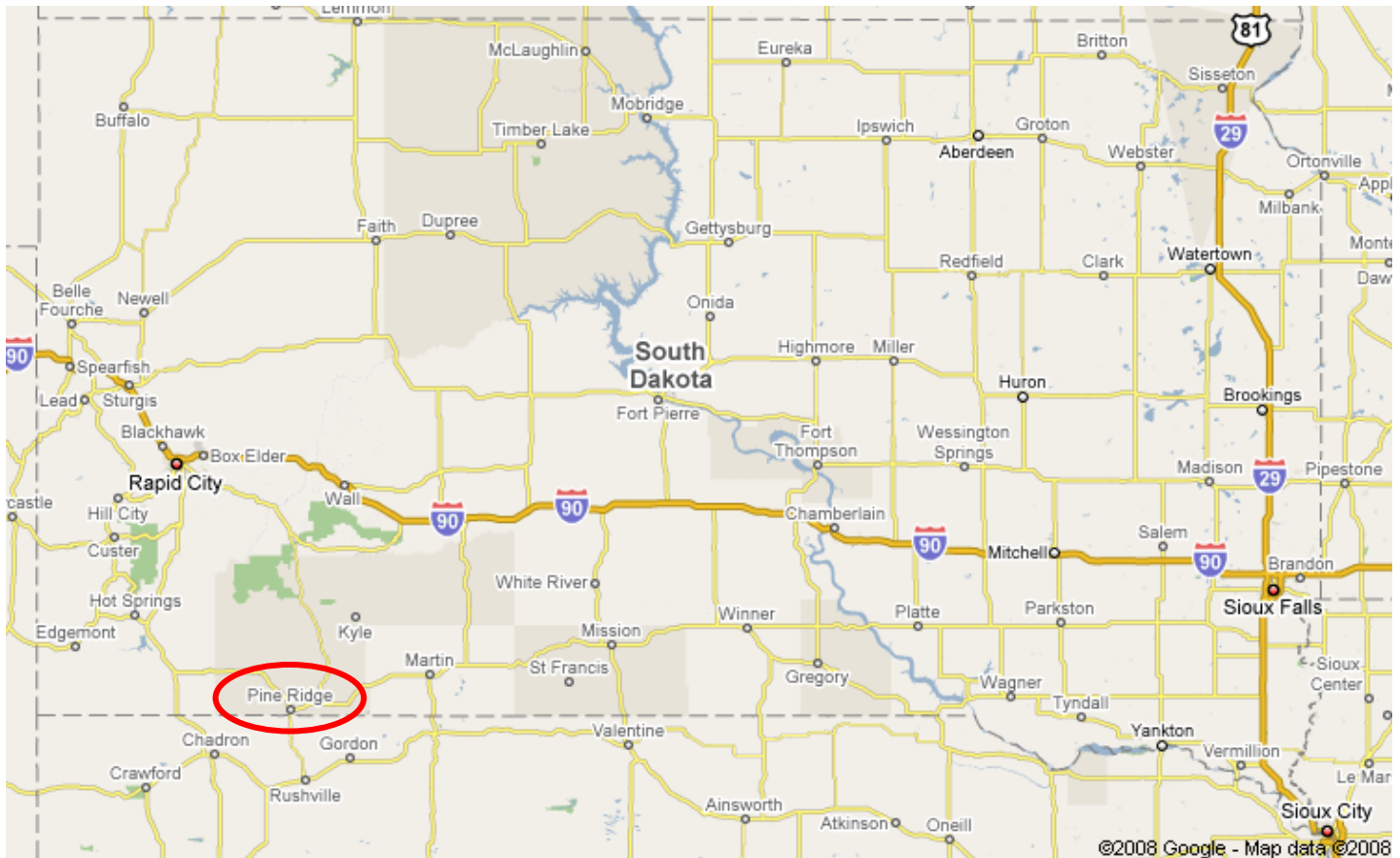
## Pine Ridge Statistics

From 1980 to 2000, the counties that make up Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota (home to the Oglala Lakota Nation) comprised the poorest of our nation's 3,141 counties. The 2000 census found them the third poorest, not because things got better on Pine Ridge, but because things got worse on two other South Dakota Indian Reservations.

The poverty on Pine Ridge can be described in no other terms than "third world." It is common to find homes terribly overcrowded, as those with homes take in anyone in need of a roof over their head. Many homes are without electricity, running water, or sewer.

- Unemployment rate of 80-90%
- Per capita income of \$4,000
- 8 Times the United States rate of diabetes
- 5 Times the U.S. rate of cervical cancer
- Twice the U.S. rate of heart disease
- 8 Times the U.S. rate of Tuberculosis
- Alcoholism rate estimated as high as 80%
- 1 in 4 infants born with fetal alcohol syndrome or effects
- Suicide rate more than twice the national rate
- Teen suicide rate 4 times the national rate
- Infant mortality 3 times the national rate
- Life expectancy on Pine Ridge is the lowest in the United States and the second lowest in the Western Hemisphere. Only Haiti has a lower rate.

Wowienke he iyotam wowa sake (Truth is power). – *Lakota adage*



Re-Member is located on U.S. Highway 18, 9 miles east of the Village of Pine Ridge. If you are driving from the East or Southeast of South Dakota, and obtain directions from MapQuest, you will be directed up to I-90, and this will *add* time to your trip. We have found that the quicker route is to exit I-29 at Vermilion, follow Highway 50 to Yankton, continuing on Hwy. 50 to Hwy 46 and then U.S. Hwy 18. Follow U.S. Hwy. 18 across southern South Dakota. Re-Member is located on U.S. Hwy 18 at mile marker 112, exactly one mile west of the intersection of Hwy 18 and BIA 27.

