Greetings! I’m glad you’re coming out to Re-Member. If this is your first time, I look forward to sharing the beauty and culture of the Oglala Lakota Nation with you. 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, which 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 as well. 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 2017. Re-Member will continue, in 2018, the work we began in 1998 - addressing the housing rehab and renovation needs on the Rez.

2018 will certainly be a challenging year, here at Re-Member. We will continue along our path to build relationships with the people on Pine Ridge, which will better accommodate you, the 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. We are increasing our outreach on the reservation year by year.

Come out in 2018 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

PO Box 5054, Pine Ridge, SD 57770 605.867.2282 phone 605-867-2285 fax www.re-member.org
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. Our Trip Coordinator will respond to your questions promptly.

1. Reserve a Spot. Booking for the coming season opens on August 1st of the current season.
   a. Call or email our trip coordinator, Paula Sibal, to discuss and select a trip date, or go to our website at www.re-member.org/register to request a trip. Trips need to be booked for an accurate number of volunteers. We understand that situations can occur to alter the number by one or two; however, being a non-profit, our budget, staffing, and project projection for the season is dependent upon trips being booked accurately.
   b. For trips with 2 or more volunteers, please choose a group leader. It is very important that we have a group leader specified with name, address, phone, and email. This insures that if we have any questions, we can reach your leader as soon as possible.
   c. After you confirm your trip dates with the Trip Coordinator, she will send you our Terms & Conditions for you to complete, sign, and return. Once this is received, she will complete your booking and send you a confirmation via email. This confirmation will include the Trip ID, trip dates, deposit and payment information, and a link to our website for online completion of required forms by each volunteer coming to Re-Member - whether as an individual or a group. Upon submission of the volunteer registration form online, the volunteer will be directed to a link to download the Volunteer Preparation Packet, which will provide all the information necessary for them to prepare for their trip.

2. Make Payments and Send Contact List (based on the dates shown on the Trip Reservation Agreement).
   a. Payments are due as follows:
      • Deposit within 30 days of trip confirmation (depending upon date of booking & confirmation).
      • First payment approximately 4 months prior to trip date (depending upon date of booking & confirmation).
      • Final payment approximately 2 months prior to trip date (depending upon date of booking & confirmation).
   b. Please make payments with one check / money order / credit card only. We cannot accept individual checks from large numbers of volunteers, as such payments can get misdirected. Have your group members pay your organization or trip leader and send payment from your organization or trip leader to Re-Member.
   c. Create a Group List of your volunteers, designating gender and whether they are adult or youth. This will allow us to cross-reference the online registrations against the names on your list and connect the volunteers with the appropriate trip. This list is due to the Trip Coordinator no later than 1 month prior to trip date.

3. Ensure that all volunteers have completed their online registration, and downloaded and read the Volunteer Preparation Packet. We are unable to admit any volunteer into our facilities or vehicles without the required volunteer information on file in our office.

**NOTE: With the exception of schools/colleges/universities that are tax exempt, all trip fees are assessed a tribal excise tax of 4.5%. All other organizations, regardless of having tax exempt status in their home states, are NOT tax exempt on the reservation.**
Re-Member requires one contact list for each group.
This form is due no later than 1 month prior to trip.
Please print clearly and spell names correctly.

Trip Date: ____________________  
Trip Name (as provided in trip confirmation email): ________________________

Group Leader Information:
Name: __________________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________
Phone (home): ______________  Phone (work): ______________  Phone (other): ______________
Fax: ______________  Email: __________________________________________________________________

Group Information (Please list ALL trip participants):

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VOLUNTEER TRIP TERMS & CONDITIONS

Payments are due on date specified on invoice.

Age Restriction: Volunteers must be age 12 or older. Exception: Family Week Program admits children ages 8-11.

Documentation: Each volunteer must provide the following 2 on-line documents: Info and Skills - Form 2a for adults and Form 2b for children under age 18; 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 no later than 1 month prior to trip date.

Cancellations:
A. For cancellations prior to 1st payment due date: The deposit is forfeit and the remaining balance will be recalculated to reflect the reduction in numbers.
B. For cancellations after the 1st payment due date: The deposit and the first payment are forfeit and the remaining balance will be recalculated to reflect the reduction in numbers.
C. For cancellations after the 2nd payment due date: There will be no refund or reduction in outstanding balance due.

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

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.

Group Leaders: A specific person should be identified as the leader of each trip. Group Leaders are responsible for all Volunteer forms to be submitted within guidelines. Group Leaders are responsible for ensuring all in their group have insurance and 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.

Smoking, 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:

_____________________________________________                                        ________________________________________
Signature and date                                                   Printed name

______________________________                                                            __________
Trip name
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 OnStar, or other 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. Re-Member is now listed on Google Maps, however, and the routing is accurate if you would like to print off a map to follow. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding directions and we will gladly help you find the most direct route. **If you are flying or taking the bus, Rapid City, SD (RAP) is the closest airport and bus depot.** We do provide a shuttle service from Rapid City for an additional charge. Please contact our trip coordinator to 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 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. **Mountain Standard Time** on Saturday. **Please note that if you arrive prior to 2:00 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 by 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 bedding, 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!*** This packet of information was put together to provide volunteers with everything needed to prepare for a trip to Re-Member. Please make certain all volunteers download and read through this info. ***

Our experience has been that groups benefit greatly from advance preparation by their group leaders. Please 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 “free” time during the evenings for individual group activities and personal 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.

### Emergency Information

**Important Phone Numbers:** Please provide this information to parents/contacts back home.

In case of emergency:
Office: (605) 867-2282  Ted Skantze, Director: (605) 454-5130  Paula Sibal, Trip Coordinator: (308) 638-4500

**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. This means we want our volunteers to “de-tech” and put aside social media for the week. 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 immerse 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 many years. 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 3 work days, 2 tour days, 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! We also recommend bringing slippers or foot covering to wear inside the bunkhouse. If we have “mud” you will be asked to leave your shoes at the door.
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 during the day but drop to the 50’s-60’s F at night. We 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, 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. Please also bring slippers or footwear for inside the facilities in case we have “mud”.

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.

Meals: We provide 3 meals daily, and do our best to provide nutritious meals; however, other than lactose intolerance or a basic, lacto-ovo vegetarian diet, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE SPECIALIZED OR RESTRICTIVE DIETS. VOLUNTEERS WITH SPECIFIC DIETARY NEEDS WILL NEED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN SUPPLEMENTAL/ALTERNATIVE FOODS. We will provide refrigerator and pantry space as needed, as well as kitchen access for meal preparation.

**Sample Weekly Dinner Menu (Salad & toppings available every night)**

- Saturday: Buffalo Stew (veggie stew)
- Sunday: Spaghetti (w/ & w/o meat)
- Monday: Hamburgers (veggie burgers)
- Tuesday: Baked potato bar
- Wednesday: Pulled pork BBQ
- Thursday: Taco salad

Breakfast consists of cereals, eggs, toast, fruit. Lunch consists of sandwiches, fruit, finger veggies, and snack foods.

Sleeping and Personal Care: We have 2 bunkhouses. In our large bunkhouse, all female volunteers are in one room and all male volunteers are in another. The bunk rooms are on opposing sides of a great room, where we gather for morning wisdom and evening speakers. There are separate shower and toilet facilities for men and women. Our smaller bunkhouse is divided into 4 rooms with 8 bunks per room. There is a common area for seating, and separate shower and toilet facilities for men and women.

While we do provide a clean fitted sheet so you are making your bed on a clean bunk, we do not provide bedding. Please pack:

- Sleeping bag OR sheets and blanket, and pillow. 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, with stakes to hold it down.
- Towel and washcloth, and bungie cords or rope to hang wet towels on.
- Toiletries and 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, or process credit/debit cards.

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 from our office.

**What NOT to bring:**

Clothing or items with “Indian” logos of any kind, or “Indian-type” apparel. These may viewed as offensive by the residents of Pine Ridge. Similarly, we ask that clothing with wording / pictures which could be construed as overt proselytizing be avoided too. 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. In general, the rule of thumb is modesty and respect. Thank you.

Cell Phones unless used as a camera. Do not bring iPods / MP3 players / CD players; video games; laptops or tablets (Volunteers will not have internet access); or any other valuable items that cannot be carried with you.
### 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
- **12:00 P.M.** Lunch
- **1:45 P.M.** Site Work at Re-Member
- **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

**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 & Sundae’s
- **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 Wednesday evenings from approximately Memorial Day through Labor Day.

**** Our Tour Day may include: museums, cemeteries, the local tribal college, and area craft outlets. Returning volunteers may be provided an alternative to touring, if available & if requested at orientation.

Our work projects consist of bunk beds, outhouses, trailer skirting, ramps and entry steps, structural repairs, and hauling/splitting/delivering firewood.

****
social media guidelines – ‘protecting the re-member experience’

purpose: all re-member volunteers should, first and foremost, participate in our program for the personal experience of immersing oneself in ogala lakota culture, and for the sake of contributing volunteer labor. re-member welcomes, and encourages our volunteers to share your personal story, but respects a careful boundary between empowering and subverting the purpose of our program.

photography:

• personal photography will not be limited at any time, except when it is culturally insensitive to make photographs. this includes sundance grounds, ceremonies in process, grand entry at pow-wow, or pictures of individuals without asking their permission first. re-member encourages all volunteers to carry and utilize personal cameras.

• professional photographers / photojournalists must submit an outline of their proposed project through the volunteer trip coordinator, to be reviewed by the executive director or his designee. professional photographers are still expected to participate in core elements of the re-member volunteer program, and will be assigned to a work crew. exemptions will be considered on a case by case basis, depending on the scope of work.

• professional photographers / photojournalists will be expected to work in conjunction with re-member staff to identify appropriate instances to make images. re-member reserves the right to suspend photography at culturally sensitive moments or locations.

• photographers will be asked to provide a means of obtaining written permission to use images made of any fellow volunteers and re-member staff. re-member recommends the photographer extend this professional courtesy to all individuals, and personal property photographed off the re-member facility while on the reservation.

• re-member strongly requests, but does not require a review of all professionally made images by the executive director, or his designee prior to uploading, disseminating or otherwise transferring images from the re-member facility.

• re-member strongly requests, but does not require a caption or cutline accompany each photo disseminated from re-member to make mention of our program by name: “re-member.”

• photographers should not expect high bandwidth upload capacity at re-member, or from any publically accessible facility on pine ridge reservation. re-member will provide wireless access to a private wireless network on a case by case basis only for photojournalists on deadline assignments.

social media:

• re-member encourages all volunteers to “unplug and de-tech” during your week with us, immersing yourself in the ogala lakota culture. excessive users of personal electronics will be encouraged to limit, or cease usage, particularly during scheduled programming.

• we respectfully ask that posts to facebook, twitter and similar social media be made on arrival day in order to notify family and friends of safe arrival at re-member, but otherwise should be avoided until the end of the trip week, so as not to interfere with the volunteer’s personal experience, or the experience of fellow volunteers. re-member reserves the right to request a cessation of posting at culturally sensitive moments or locations, with the expectation that the request be honored.

• no accommodations will be made for those utilizing social media to access the re-member wireless system, unless done in conjunction with other approved work (photojournalism, blogging, etc.)

blogging:

• personal blogging will not be accommodated during the re-member volunteer week. volunteers are welcome to blog about their experience before or after their stay with re-member.

• those blogging on behalf of an institution, enterprise or for purposes of journalism must submit an outline of their proposed project through the trip coordinator prior to trip date, to be reviewed by the executive director or his designee. bloggers are still expected to participate in core elements of the re-member volunteer program, and will be assigned to a work crew. exemptions will be considered on a case by case basis, depending on the scope of work.
• Re-Member requires a review of all proposed blog posts by the Executive Director, or his designee prior to uploading from the Re-Member facility. Re-Member reserves the right to request revisions to all posts.

• Bloggers should not expect high bandwidth upload/download capacity at Re-Member, or from any publically accessible facility on Pine Ridge Reservation. Re-Member will provide wireless access to a private wireless network on a case by case basis only for bloggers on aforementioned assignments.

**GENERAL:**

• Re-Member reserves the right to suspend the privileges of any individual, whether previously approved or not, should the volunteer experience be negatively impacted.

• Re-Member makes no guarantee on the access to, quality of, or security of our wireless internet access.

**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 smart phones. 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

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, The Wolf at Twilight and The Girl Who Sang To The Buffalo by Kent Nerburn: Well-written books about the author’s encounters with Lakota people; provides insight into present day thoughts on Pine Ridge. (Re-Member favorites)


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 Matthiessen: 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 with his wife, Tilda Long Soldier. The 1st is about Lakota women, spirituality and healing. The 2nd discusses an exceptional Lakota woman; and the 3rd tells the story of two South Dakota soldiers during the Vietnam War; one Lakota, one white.


Not For Sale by Kevin Hancock. A journal about a personal journey of discovery in the land of the Lakota.
Children’s Books:

Otokahekagapi: 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.
Dreamkeeper: A 2003 film about a Lakota Elder and Storyteller and conflicts with his grandson about traditional vs. contemporary ways and life on the Rez.

****NOTE: Some of these movies may contain violence and content which, although culturally relevant, could be difficult or inappropriate for young viewers. We suggest that Group Leaders pre-screen movies before showing them to the entire group.

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.
Re-Member is located on US Hwy 18, one mile west of the "T" intersection of Hwy 18 and Hwy "BIA 27." Mile marker 112 is at Re-Member's drive.