

Standing Rock Reservation

July 29-Aug 3, 2012



The Standing Rock Indian Reservation crosses the state lines of central South and North Dakota. Bordered by the Missouri River on the east, much of this reservation is rolling grasslands occasionally interrupted by dramatic bluffs. Today, Standing Rock is a community deeply affected by poverty. Although federal funding is available, the tribe does not accept its full share of funding as a matter of principle. Despite these challenges, the Lakota have a gentle and reserved humor. By ministering through home improvements and children's programs, teens will learn about serving Jesus as they serve in this amazing community.

Demographics

Standing Rock Reservation covers approximately one million acres across the North/South Dakota border. It is the sixth largest reservation in the United States. This reservation was initially established through the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, though later reduced in size. This reservation is home to the Yanktonai, Hunkpapa and Blackfoot Lakota & Dakota people (Sioux). The land was originally part of the Great Sioux Nation Reservation, which was to cover all of South Dakota west of the Missouri River, including the Black Hills. When gold was discovered in the Black Hills, the U.S. government took back much of the reservation land and divided it into five smaller reservations, one of which is Standing Rock. The main industries on the reservation are cattle ranching, farming and gaming (casinos). Today, Standing Rock is a community deeply affected by poverty. The unemployment rate is near 70% and the per capita income is only \$3,241 (71% below the SD state average). Over half of the residents on the reservation receive some forms of public assistance. Nearly 50% of children on the reservation live in single-parent homes. Other challenges faced on the reservation include alcoholism, domestic violence and health issues. Despite so many challenges, the Lakota live out the meaning of their name – 'friend or ally' – and strive towards self-sufficiency for its people and its land.

About the Ministry

Participants serve in a variety of ways during a YouthWorks mission trip. Students may spend all week at one service site or switch between sites during the week. Examples of service sites that your students may participate at are Kids Club and Work Projects. Kids Club is a hands-on program led by your youth offering high-energy games, crafts, skits, songs and interactive lessons all designed to help kids learn about Jesus. Work projects may include painting houses, performing minor home repair, cleaning up debris, volunteering in community gardens or other projects in the community. They are all blessings to the community and people in need. We cannot confirm until all groups arrive exactly what service opportunities your students will be a part of during the week. We ask that you come with a willing and flexible spirit!

Activities

Evening activities during a YouthWorks week are designed to give participants an insight into the lives of local residents and the culture of the area. A list of evening/cultural activities we have done in the past include: attend a cultural/educational activity; listen to a cultural speaker; visit the Sitting Bull Memorial; and attend a community cookout. These are examples of what your group might partake in during your mission week. These examples are subject to change due to weather or availability. In case of change, suitable substitutes will be provided. We try to arrange for free evening activities, but from time to time, an additional cost may be required for an activity. Please plan to bring an additional \$10 per person to cover any extra costs. We will confirm the details closer to your trip.