Meet & Greet” reception at St. Joseph’s Rec Center.

1-800-584-9200.

All powwow activities will be held at St. Joseph's Traditional and Fancy dances. The girls also take part in the Grass Dance. In the Jingle Dress Dance, while the boys are judged on their culture. Their story is told through interactive displays, English-Lakota descriptions and stayed all morning to view all of the exhibits and read the accompanying information.

— William, Wisconsin

This is, quite simply, a great museum. It is beautifully done and very well organized, with compelling exhibits and great artifacts. We learned a great deal in a short time, and left enriched.

— Mary, Illinois

Nationalally Renowned Center of the American Indian Culture

The Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center is the only American Indian center of its kind. The facility is more than a traditional museum; because it tells the significant story of the lives of the Northern Plains Indian people, their cultures, traditions, values and history.

The cultural center opened in 1991 on the campus of St. Joseph’s Indian School. The words Aktá Lakota mean “to honor the people” and were chosen because the museum is truly intended to honor and preserve the rich Lakota culture for the students at St. Joseph’s and for the thousands of visitors who year after year.

The museum’s collection features contemporary art, historical artifacts and educational displays depicting the proud heritage of the Lakota people. Their story is told through interactive displays, English-Lakota descriptions and continues in the Gift Shop which provides local artists a venue to market their work.

Much of the museum’s original collection came from gifts given to St. Joseph’s Indian School by alumni and friends since the school opened in 1927. Many new pieces were acquired after the museum opened in May 1991. Each year we continue to add relevant pieces to the collection. In addition, the outside walls showcase historical drawings of 10 influential Lakota and Dakota chiefs.

The Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center welcomes gifts of Northern Plains Indian artifacts and art as well as a variety of other historic materials pertaining to Native Americans. Contributions to the Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center, an outreach program of St. Joseph’s Indian School — a 501(c)(3) organization — are tax-deductible under IRS guidelines. Staff members are prohibited from providing appraisals. Researching financial value or obtaining an official appraisal is the responsibility of the donor.

Memberships and Affiliations

NTA — National Tour Association
ABA — American Bus Association
IACA — Indian Arts & Crafts Association
AAM — American Association of Museums
SDHS — South Dakota State Historical Society
ASM — Association of South Dakota Museums
MPMA — Mountain Plains Museum Association
AASLH — American Assoc. for State & Local History

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**XVII**

“different bands of the Sioux Nation of Indians” and the United States.

The 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty was negotiated between two nations, not with cultural, racial, ethnic or minority groups or states such as South Dakota. However, sixteen federally recognized tribes in the United States and nine first nations in Canada are descendant political entities of the seven traditional council fires — of the original “Seven Council Fires” Confederacy. Sixteen federally recognized tribes in the United States and nine first nations in Canada are the descendant political entities of the seven traditional council fires — of the original “Seven Council Fires” Confederacy. Representatives of each of the Council Fires signed the treaty. The United States signs treaties with nations, not with cultural, racial, ethnic or minority groups or states such as South Dakota.

The exhibit opens at the Aki’ Lakota Museum & Cultural Center in May 2019 and runs through November 2019. An opening reception and exhibit presentation is scheduled for June 8, 2019.

This year’s educational art exhibit features Articles of a Treaty. Developed by The Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies (CAIRNS*), it focuses on the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty between the “different bands of the Sioux Nation of Indians” and the United States.

**Campus Tours**

Would you like a tour of St. Joseph’s campus or the Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center? All tour options are free and available to everyone in a variety of ways:

- **Self-guided audio tour (drive or walk):** For those who like to explore on their own, an audio tour is available anytime by dialing 1-877-342-0829.
- **Guided walking tours:** Approximately a mile walk, transportation is available. Please email or call ahead to reserve. Available May–October at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Monday–Saturday.
- **Private tours:** Year round, by appointment only.

The exhibit centers on the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty and its 17 articles. Each article is interpreted by an artwork, a poem and a song. These original works by Oceti Šakówiŋ poets and musicians are presented alongside the complete text of each article.

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*CAIRNS is an Indian-controlled nonprofit research and education center that is committed to advancing quality educational resources and innovative projects that acknowledge and incorporate tribal perspectives, and by serving as a meeting ground for peoples and ideas that support these perspectives.*

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The Perfect Team

Joseph Marshall Educates Students and Staff on Lakota Archery

You might not expect a room filled with young children to have a traditional Lakota archery workshop for students on Native American culture so it remains strong and thrives. If that important

Putting Knowledge into Action

Nestled in the middle of the Aḵtá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center, Marshall educated St. Joseph’s staff members about the importance of Native American culture so it remains strong and thrives. If that important

History of the Bow and Arrow

The bow was a gift to the Lakota (Sioux) people from the moon. Long ago, the new moon showed her curved shape to the Lakota and inspired an idea. Like the thinnest sliver of a new moon, the bow is widest in the middle, and is the area the archer holds. Traditional Lakota bows are crafted from hardwood, such as ash or oak, yet remain flexible enough to withstand the stress of the archer pulling back on the string.

The arrow was also a gift to the Lakota people. Not to be outdone by its nighttime counterpart, the sun gave the Lakota a gift in the form of the arrow. Arrows are straight and quick, like the rays of sunlight that warm the earth. It was crafted with the same materials as the bow, but rather than include a graceful curve, the arrow is as straight as can be. Together, the bow and arrow create the perfect team.

Every Lakota boy was taught how to craft bows and arrows. After all, it was expected he would become a hunter, leader, family and warrior for his people. It was a skill refined and polished for years. Women were also taught the skill of archery — however, less directly. They learned so they could protect their homes and families if the men were out hunting or at war.

This was just part of the lesson Marshall, a famous Lakota author, shared during his visit to St. Joseph’s Indian School. Pulling from his work *The Lakota Way of Strength and Courage*, Marshall educated St. Joseph’s staff members about the importance of Native American culture so it remains strong and thrives. If that important

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**Putting Knowledge into Action**

After the lesson was over, the Lakota children were asked if they wanted to try shooting a bow and arrow in the traditional Lakota style — it was a first for many.

“I’m not sure I can do it,” said Latishe, a sixth grade student. But, after some guidance from the adults, she anchored her arrow, pulled back the string and let it fly. After a few rounds, she and others were hitting the targets one arrow after another. There were even several bullseyes!

“I really like archery,” said Landon, another sixth grade student. “This is a lot of fun!”

Fun, yes, but also very important. Teaching young Lakota children how to shoot a bow and arrow is just one step toward continuing the knowledge of their culture so it remains strong and thrives. If that important lesson is disguised as a fun activity … well, that is an added bonus.