



AKTÁ LAKOTA

Museum & Cultural Center

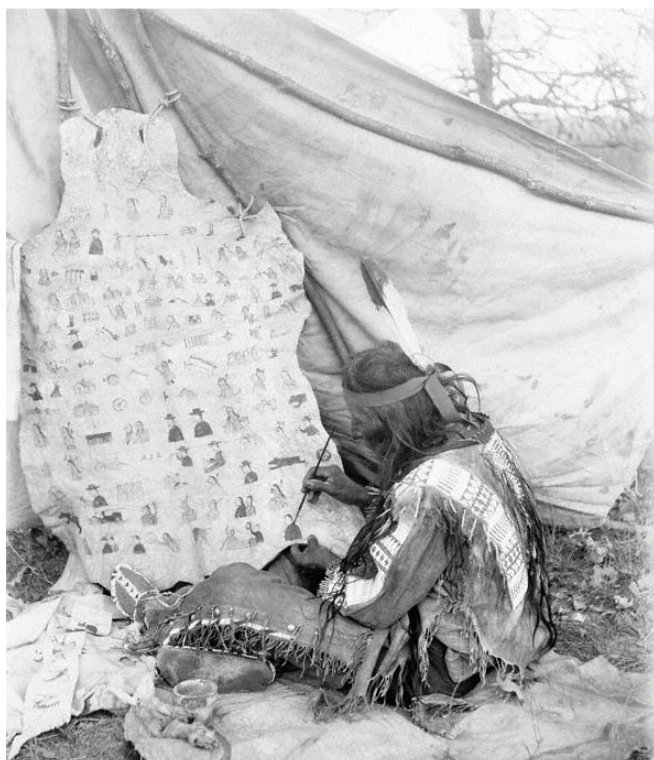
- an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School -



NATIONALLY RENOWNED CENTER OF AMERICAN INDIAN ART

TRADITIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN LIFE

WINTER COUNTS - *Waníyetu Wówapi*



Traditionally, the winter months provided the Lakota the perfect opportunity to reflect on the past year and add significant events to their buffalo robe annual calendar . . . and since this was always done during the winter, this was traditionally known as “counting by winters.”

These cold winter months were traditionally, marked with socializing and gathering with **tiyóšpayes** – *extended family and friends* creating a mix of storytelling, reflection, and craft-making, combined with music.

MUSIC - Čhánčheǵa naínš wakiyažo

Music and history are tightly woven into the Lakota way of life. A tribe's history is constantly told and re-told through music, keeping alive an oral narrative of history.

Enjoy the unmistakable sound of the hand drum through contemporary style as music fills the room of your wintertime social gatherings and encourages everyone to enjoy. Visit our [online store](#) for a full selection of drum and flute music.



STORYTELLING - Wičhóoyake Oyág

The Lakota people have a rich oral tradition; storytelling is a fundamental part of their wintertime gatherings.

During the long winter months as people gathered with friends and family, traditional stories were told about life's lessons teeming with rich history and folklore from generation to generation.

Visit our [online bookstore](#) for American Indian stories and legends that will intrigue people of all ages.



CRAFT MAKING - *Wókaga káǵe*

Winter is also the time of craft making. This is when the Lakota people would typically create gifts for spring giveaways and construct regalia for summer powwows – the intricate [beadwork](#) and detailed [quillwork](#) designs reflect each craftsman's unique design.



LAKOTA MOON CALENDAR - *Wíyawapi Wówapi Hanwí*

Waníyetu — *The Cold and Dark Moons (Winter)*

Winter signaled the beginning of a quieter time, during which a single campsite was used for the season. While women made and mended clothing, men went on raiding parties to ensure the camp's safety and strength. Winter was also a time for fun. Children gathered around the fire to listen to the words of their grandparents. Lakota elders preserved community history by telling stories and recounting past times. There also was time for games, dancing, and visiting.

Wanícokan Wi — *Moon When the Deer Sheds Their Horns*

Wiótehika Wi — *The Hard Moon*

Cannápopa Wi — *Moon When Trees Crack From The Cold*

Istáwicayazan Wi — *Moon of Sore Eyes (Snow Blindness)*

American Indians treasured nature and earth. The people's close connection to nature is seen in their calendars. Based on the moon cycles, the American Indian year was divided into 13 moons with [each moon being 28 days long](#).



Waníyetu:

The Cold and Dark Moons (Winter)

Wanícokan Wi Moon When the Deer Sheds Their Horns

Wiótehika Wi The Hard Moon

Cannápopa Wi Moon When Trees Crack From The Cold

Istáwicayazan Wi Moon of Sore Eyes (Snow Blindness)

The Lakota year is divided into 13 moons. Each moon is 28 days long, and every day represents something sacred:

Two days for the Great Spirit

Two days for the Mother Earth

Four days for the Four Winds

One day for the Spotted Eagle

One day for the Sun

One day for the Moon

One day for the Morning Star

Four days for the Four Ages

Seven days for the Seven Rites of the Sacred Pipe

One day for the Buffalo

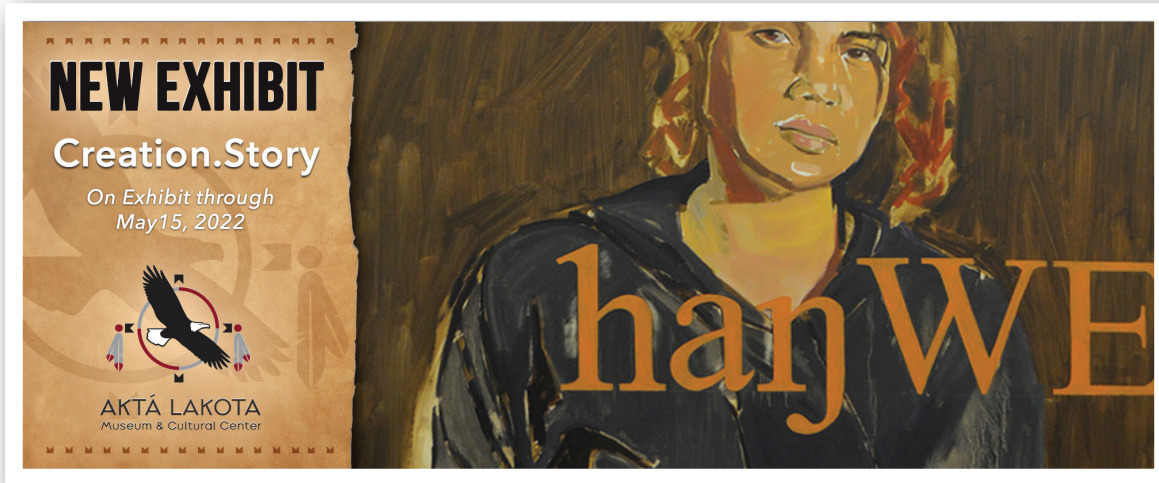
One day for the Fire

One day for the Water

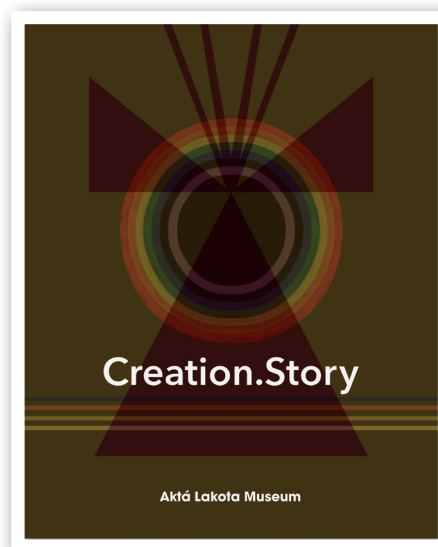
One day for the Rock

One day for the Two-legged People

NEW EXHIBIT — CREATION.STORY



The words and images we use to communicate differ between cultures and change from generation to generation. **Creation.Story** explores how a culture's most important messages find a way to endure. This show is a contemporary version of the (Lakota) creation story, a collaborative exhibit featuring the MFA thesis work of Oglala Lakota artist Keith Braveheart. The exhibit is co-curated by Keith BraveHeart and David A Meyer II – together they have expanded the exhibit to include the work of nine additional Lakota artists, Dyani White Hawk, Randi Lynn Boucher, Jhon Goes In Center, Inkpa Mani, Marlena Myles, Mikayla Patton, James Star Comes Out, Dwayne Wilcox, and Talon Ducheneaux, who created work specifically for this show. The exhibit will be on display through May 15, 2022.



LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

The Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Program, a free kids program available at the Ahtá Lakota Museum and Cultural Center, has won a first-place media award from the National Association for Interpretation (NAI).

After receiving top marks for thoughtful messaging and innovative online components, the Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Activity Journal was awarded the first-place NAI Media Award in the book category.

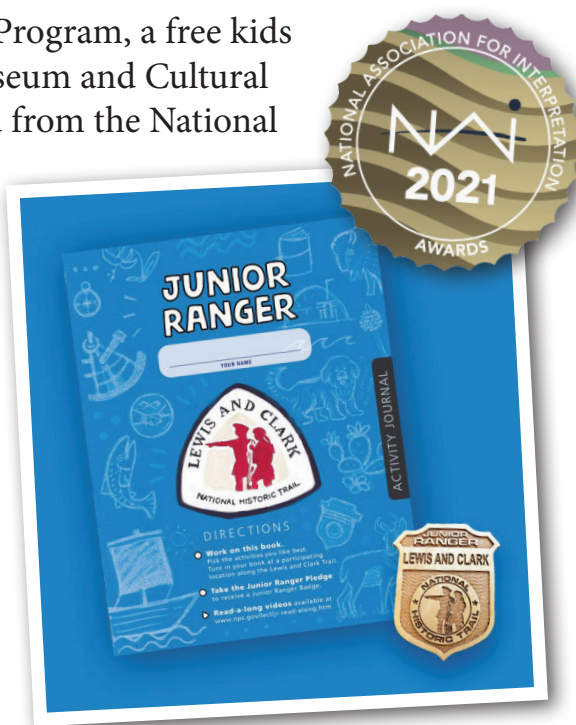
The Ahtá Lakota Museum, an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School, is one of 30 locations in 13 States along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to host the Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Program. Part of the National Park Service's popular Junior Ranger Program, the Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Activity Journal is free to the public. Participants pick up a booklet and work on educational activities to earn a Junior Ranger badge.

"This program tells an inclusive history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, beginning with tribal homelands and highlighting the diverse backgrounds and skills of the expedition members," said Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Superintendent Mark Weekley. "We've developed innovative, multimedia elements to make the program more engaging and accessible for all."

Read-along videos are available online so participants can hear the activities narrated and audio-described. This feature is beneficial for participants or guardians who are blind or partially blind. Families can also access the Native Names of the Trail webpage to hear plant and animal names in indigenous languages.

Three-dimensional topographic maps are available at the Ahtá Lakota Museum and other sites hosting the Junior Ranger program. These maps have been designed to help blind or partially blind visitors perceive the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Find more information on the Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Program on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail's official website, www.nps.gov/lecl.



MUSEUM RECEIVES SOUTH DAKOTA GREAT PLACE CERTIFICATION

[The South Dakota Department of Tourism](#) has once again recognized the [Aktá Lakota Museum](#) and Cultural Center as a recipient of the South Dakota 2021 Great Place Award.



The Great Place Award is presented to organizations that exemplify excellent service. The program is designed to identify and recognize businesses developing and completing hospitality training programs for their staff. Organizations must also recognize and reward employees for offering excellent service and find unique ways to show customer appreciation.

BUNKER RECEIVES 2021 RUTH ZIOLKOWSKI AWARD

Wanda Bunker was presented the 2021 Ruth Ziolkowski Outstanding Hospitality & Customer Service Award at the South Dakota 2021 Tourism Conference.

The Ruth Ziolkowski Outstanding Hospitality & Customer Service Award recognizes members of the South Dakota tourism industry who, like Ruth Ziolkowski, have demonstrated remarkable service to every visitor they encounter, and whose work demonstrates an outstanding spirit of hospitality, warmth, and genuine kindness.



An individual from each of the four tourism regions is honored annually. The recipients are selected by each region's board of directors. Wanda Bunker is from the Missouri River Tourism Region, she serves as the Historical Coordinator at St. Joseph's Indian School.

Whether she is greeting guests at the front desk or giving tours to school groups, she always exemplifies the spirit of hospitality.



CAMPUS TOURS

The Aktá Lakota Museum welcomes visitors and group tours. Our fall hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST Monday through Friday, closed weekends and National holidays. Admission is free!

Would you like a tour of St. Joseph's campus or the Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center?

Campus tours are available in a variety of ways:

- **Self-guided audio tours:** Drive or walk; for those who like to explore on their own, an audio tour is available anytime by dialing 1-877-342-0829. Campus maps are available at the front entrance of the museum.
- **Private tours:** Year round, by appointment only.

To schedule an appointment for a guided tour or request transportation for a tour, e-mail aktalakota@stjo.org or call 1-800-798-3452. [Need More Information?](#)

Visits are free — with donations encouraged — and the lessons last forever. Learn more about Lakota traditions and more things to do at the museum at aktalakota.org.



GENERAL MUSEUM INFORMATION

Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center

St. Joseph's Indian School

1301 North Main Street

Chamberlain, SD 57325

Phone: 1-605-234-3452

Toll Free: 1-800-798-3452

E-Mail: aktalakota@stjo.org

Online: www.aktalakota.org

Memberships and Affiliations

ABA – American Bus Association

NTA – National Tour Association

ASDM – Association of South Dakota Museums

SDSHS – South Dakota State Historical Society

AAM – American Association of Museums

IACA – Indian Arts & Crafts Association

MPMA – Mountain Plains Museum Association

AASLH – American Assoc. for State &
Local History

Summer Hours

May – October

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Monday - Saturday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday

Winter Hours

November – April

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Monday - Friday

Closed weekends and National Holidays

- **Interactive Displays**
- **Medicine Wheel Garden**
- **After Hours Tours by Appointment**
- **Bus/RV Parking**
- **Handicap-Accessible**
- **Guided Tours Available Upon Request**

FREE ADMISSION

Donations Welcome



AKTÁ LAKOTA MUSEUM • 800-798-3452 • AKTALAKOTA.ORG