



AKTÁ LAKOTA

Museum & Cultural Center

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



NATIONALLY RENOWNED CENTER OF AMERICAN INDIAN ART

EXPERIENCE LAKOTA CULTURE

The [Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center](#), an educational outreach of St. Joseph's Indian sits on the banks of the Missouri River in the heart of Chamberlain, South Dakota, a small town known for rolling hills, walleye fishing, and Native roots.

A stroll through the museum is a walk through the Lakota tribe's timeline, from their original setting on the Great Plains to their forced relocation to reservation camps.



Consisting of much more than displays and informational plaques, the exhibits feature video kiosks with short presentations on the lifestyle, and rituals of Plains Indians.

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.

LAKOTA MOON CALENDAR - WÍYAWAPI WÓWAPI HANJWÍ

Blokétu : *The Warm Moons (Summer)*

Throughout the summer, the camp moved often to follow the migrating buffalo. Packing, transporting, and unpacking the family's belongings were the responsibility of the women. They were also busy preparing food, making, and setting up the tipis. The girls received instruction in quillwork and helped prepare food by gathering firewood and water. Boys began honing their hunting skills while hunting small game. The men spent their time making weapons, hunting for wild game, and defending the camp. The summer months were also the time for ceremonies and celebrations.

Wípazuka Wasté Win — Moon of the Juneberries

Canpásapa Wi — Moon When the Chokecherries Are Ripe

Wasúton Wi — Moon of the Harvest



Blokétu:

The Warm Moons (Summer)

Wípazuka Wasté Win Moon of the June Berries

Canpásapa Wi Moon When the Chokecherries Are Ripe

Wasúton Wi Moon of the Harvest

The Lakóta 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

AMERICAN INDIAN DAY WACÍPI — SEPTEMBER 16 & 17

Join us as we celebrate our 46th annual powwow - [Gathering of the Wakányeja](#) - children. This is an enjoyable and anticipated event on our campus. It is a day set aside to honor and appreciate the rich and beautiful heritage of all American Indian people, but especially the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota tribes of the Great Plains.

Events begin on Thursday with a welcome from St. Joseph's Indian School President in the Rec Center; followed by registration on Friday with cultural activities taking place at the Museum, the dedication of the Equine Therapy Barn, and tours of the school and health care center, the day will end with a relaxing reception and Tiyóšpaye (extended family) dinner at Arrowwood Resort.

On Saturday, join our staff and students for tours of

Continued on next page...



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AMERICAN INDIAN DAY WACÍPI *continued...*

St. Joseph's campus, chapel and homes; the blessing of the powwow grounds will be held at 11:45 a.m. with the dance contests beginning at noon. We will wrap-up our weekend of celebration Saturday evening, with mass at our Lady of the Sioux Chapel followed by the awarding of prizes and an evening meal.

Contestants are divided into three age groups: Tiny Tots, Juniors and Teens. Both the boys and girls compete in Traditional and Fancy dance. The girls also take part in the Jingle Dress dance, while the boys are judged in the Grass dance.

A number of drum groups from throughout the Dakotas also play and compete. All contestants - drums and dancers - are eligible for cash prizes.

All powwow activities will be held at St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, South Dakota. Visitors are encouraged to come early to tour the school and campus and to visit the Aktá Lakota Museum and Cultural Center.

A complete schedule of events is available [online](#) or call 800-798-3452.



MUST SEE EXHIBITS

THE QUILT — OWIŃŽA

The Quilt - Owíŋža

opened on June 13 at the Aktá Lakota Museum.

The new exhibit features quilts from 1893 to contemporary that are in the museum's private collection.

These quilts are a testament to the powerful tradition, aesthetic, artisanship, and resiliency of the Lakota culture.

When the buffalo was at the center of Lakota life, beautifully decorated hides, often with striking circular patterns, were common. As colonialism brought about the near-extinction of the buffalo, the Lakota turned to quilt making to replace many of the functions — both utilitarian and ceremonial — that hides performed.

The star quilt held special appeal because of its circular pattern and rhythmic repetition. "Everything the power of the world does is done in a circle," said Lakota spiritual leader Black Elk, expressing the centrality of the circle to Lakota thought. Today the star quilt is often the centerpiece in Lakota celebrations and ceremonies. The exhibit will be on display through October 31, 2022.



MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

INTRODUCING WANDERING WANDA

Wandering Wanda is a fun interactive program that takes you on an adventure around St. Joseph's Indian School Campus, introducing you to some of the dynamic programs and services available to the children and families served by St. Joseph's Indian School.

Wandering Wanda airs every Wednesday June-August at 10:00 AM on our [YouTube Channel](#). In addition to fun-filled, informative tours of our campus, we also encourage visitors to download and take Wandering Wanda with them on their own adventures and share your travels with us at: Instagram: use hashtag #aktalakotamuseum and tag us @akta_lakota or email us at aktalakota@stjo.org

Download your [Wandering Wanda Activity page](#) now and start your new adventure!



STORY TIME WITH UNČÍ & LALÁ

Story Time with Unčí and Lalá is a free public program that brings American Indian history to life through Native American literature. The program is primarily for children, but all are welcome.

Readings are held every week in June and July on Tuesdays in the museum from 10:30-11:30 AM with stories and activities every week. [Learn More!](#)

STORY TIME
WITH UNČÍ + LALÁ

TUESDAYS 10:30 - 11:30 AM

July 5 - THE RACCOON AND THE BEE TREE
by Charles A. Eastman

July 12 - THE STAR PEOPLE
by S.D. Nelson

July 19 - THE ROUGH FACE GIRL
by Rafe Martin


July 26 - THE BUFFALO JUMP
by Peter Roop

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FREE
EVERYONE
IS
WELCOME

AKTALAKOTA.ORG

MUSEUM MONDAY STARTS IN JULY

A poster for Museum Monday. At the top, it says "FREE" in small letters above "MUSEUM MONDAY" in large, bold, blue-outlined black letters. Below this, it says "CULTURAL PRESENTATION at 2:00PM". To the right is a logo featuring a white eagle with red and black feathers, perched on a circular base. Below the logo, the text reads "AKTÁ LAKOTA Museum & Cultural Center - an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School". A list of events follows: "July 11, 2022 - Vera K. Boyd Journey Into the Past", "July 18, 2022 - Dr. Brad Tennant The Lewis & Clark Expedition", and "July 25, 2022 - Alfreda Beartrack-Algeo Lakota Arthur, Storyteller & Artist". At the bottom, it says "* Sponsored in part by the South Dakota Humanities Council" and "WWW.AKTALAKOTA.ORG • 800-798-3452".

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Beginning in July the museum will offer [Museum Monday](#), a free program that provides educational presentations in history, literature, philosophy, anthropology, and other humanities disciplines. The programs are geared toward teen and adult audiences but people of all ages are welcome to attend.

Programming for Museum Monday is sponsored in part by the South Dakota Humanities Council.

MUSEUM LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The Aktá Lakota Museum recently launched a new website to showcase the museum and entice travelers of all types to visit and learn.

“As the official destination site for American Indian interests, we are thrilled to announce an all-new website,” states Dixie Thompson, Museum Director. “Our website is a multiplier for every other marketing effort, both online and offline and the first impression we have to make on attracting visitors and educators to the museum.”

“The new site architecture is smarter, ensuring a smooth user experience and will enhance our visitor’s experience. It’s imperative that we stay up-to-date and continue evolving to consumer expectations,” states Thompson. Our [new site](#) provides updates on happenings at the museum including museum hours, new exhibits, artist updates, and other museum activities. aktalakota.stjo.org

(800) 798-3452 aktalakota@stjo.org

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Aktá Lakota
meaning: *to honor the people.*

The Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center opened in 1991 on St. Joseph's Indian School campus. The name of our Native

THE MUSEUM SAYS GOODBYE

We said goodbye to our Museum Gift Shop Manager, Kyndra Hosek.

Kyndra has been able to combine her love of event management and retail, into a gratifying career at the Aktá Lakota Museum for the past four years.

Hosek says the Aktá Lakota Museum will still be part of her heart but it's time to move on and discover the next phase of her career. During her time at the museum Hosek has been recognized as one of South Dakota Great Faces by the Department of Tourism and Volunteer of the Year by the Chamberlain-Oacoma Chamber of Commerce.

“We will miss her but she has left the museum store on a progressive arc and with a promising future,” said Museum Director, Dixie Thompson.

An announcement on Kyndra's replacement will be made in due course.



FUN FIELD TRIPS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Aktá Lakota Museum promotes learning for children of all ages and abilities through interactive, informal, hands-on exhibits and programming. The museum is a welcoming, fun, and enjoyable environment that honors the rich, beautiful history of the Lakota people. Exhibits, both inside and outside, are designed to include subjects in art, literature, culture, and history. The Aktá Lakota Museum is a place that provides children and adults a living lesson on the American Indian way of life — both past and present. Admission is Free! [Plan your visit today!](#)



CAMPUS TOURS

The St. Joseph's Indian School welcomes visitors and group tours. Campus tours are available in a variety of ways:

- **Self-guided audio tour (drive or walk):**
For those who like to explore on their own, audio tours are available anytime by dialing 1-877-342-0829. Campus maps are available at the front entrance of the museum.
- **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.

To schedule an appointment for a guided tour or request transportation for a tour email aktalakota@stjo.org or call 800-798-3452.



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

