



AKTÁ LAKOTA

Museum & Cultural Center

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



NATIONALLY RENOWNED CENTER OF AMERICAN INDIAN ART

EXPERIENCE LAKOTA CULTURE

Mní Wičoní – *Water is Life*

Our Medicine Wheel Garden is one of the newest exhibits at the Aktá Lakota Museum. Located just to the west of the museum the space provides students, alumni, and visitors a peaceful and inspirational break from the day. The Medicine Wheel is a sacred symbol to the Plains tribes. It represents all the knowledge of the universe. Each color and line signifies an important element in the circle of life. Visitors may sit in quiet meditation among the native plants listening to the sound of the **Mni Wicóni** (*Water is Life*) fountain or stroll around the perimeter and enjoy the Lakota directional prayers displayed on interpretive panels resembling buffalo hides.

[Plan your visit!](#)



LAKOTA MOON CALENDAR - *WÍYAWAPI WÓWAPI HANYÍ*

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. [Learn More!](#)

- **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

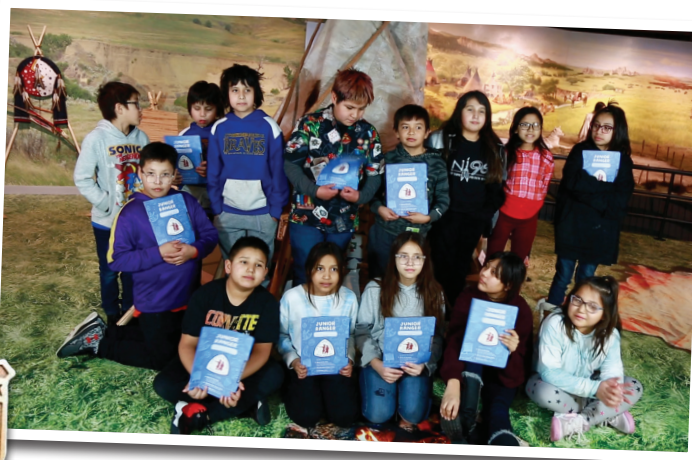
Wasúton Wi Moon of the Harvest

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

JOIN THE JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM!

The National Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Program is a free kids program available at the Aktá Lakota Museum. The museum is one of 30 locations in 13 States along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to host the Lewis & 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 available at the museum and free to the public. Visit [Where to Become a Junior Ranger](#) to learn more!



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AMERICAN INDIAN DAY WACÍPI — SEPTEMBER 15 & 16

Join us as we celebrate our 47th 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, 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, an open house of our new Equine Therapy Complex, and tours of the school and health care center, the day will end with a relaxing reception and Tiyošpaye (extended family) dinner at Arrowwood Resort.

On Saturday, join our staff and students for tours of St. Joseph's campus, chapel, and homes; the blessing of the powwow grounds will be held at 11:30 a.m. with Grand Entry 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 are 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.

THE AKTA LAKOTA WELCOMES SUMMER INTERN

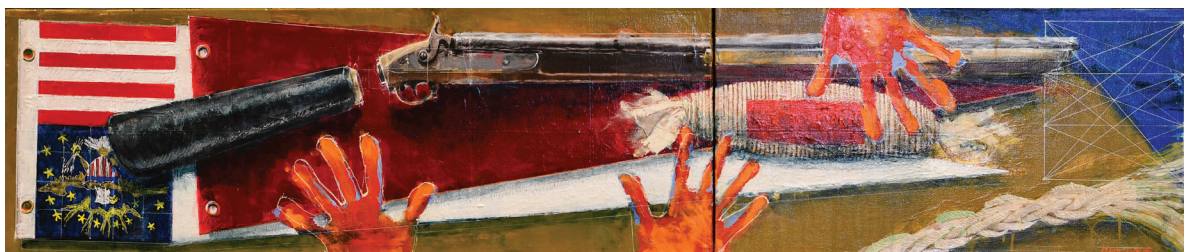
The Aktá Lakota Museum welcomes Elijah Walls, as our summer intern. Elijah hails from the Ardmore Oklahoma area. He is a recent graduate of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where he received his Master of Divinity.

Walls has had the opportunity to learn and serve in a Native ministry context for various tribes, including his own tribe the Chickasaw Nation. He also has a deep interest and passion for tribal histories, culture, stories, and people. While working for his tribe's culture and humanities department, he wrote and spoke on the connection between cultural identity and spiritual identity.



Elijah's responsibilities while at the museum will be working in collections and assisting our curatorial staff. In addition to his internship at the museum, Elijah is also aiding in ministry on the Lower Brule Reservation.

NEW EXHIBIT EXPLORES THE NARRATIVES OF LEWIS & CLARK



The newest exhibition developed by the [Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies](https://www.carins.org/) (CARINS), "Navigating Narratives – The Corps of Discovery in the Teton Territory" opened at the Aktá Lakota Museum in June with a [reception](#) and gallery talk.

The exhibit explores the daily journals of Corps members William Clark, Patrick Gass, John Ordway, and Joseph Whitehouse. Their first-person accounts from September 23 to September 30, 1804, are the only known records of the events that took place when The Corps of Discovery, commonly called the Lewis and Clark Expedition, unwittingly entered the territory of the Tetonwanian nation as they navigated the swirling waters and shifting sandbars of the Missouri river.

Sixty artists, poets, and musicians read the journal entries and created works to interpret their findings in painting, poetry, and song. Come and ponder their perspectives about what must have been a problematic exploration. The exhibit will be on display through October 31, 2023. [Learn More!](#)

WANDERING WANDA RETURNS FOR A SECOND SEASON

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.

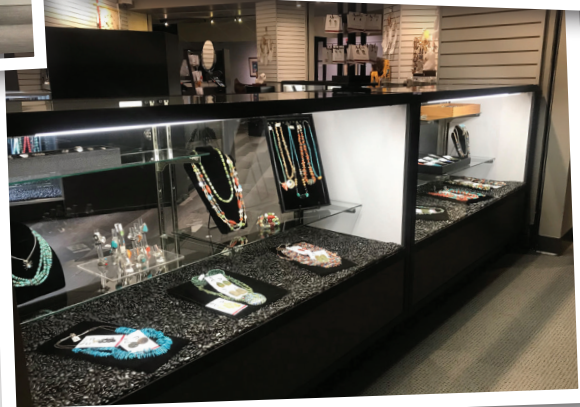
Wandering Wanda airs every Wednesday June-August at 10:00 AM on our [YouTube Channel](#). In addition to fun-filled, informative tours of our campus, we also encourage visitors to download and take Wandering Wanda with them on their own adventures and share your travels with us at: **Instagram:** use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



GIFT SHOP REMODEL COMPLETE

The museum has been very busy preparing for summer, and we are excited to share that our gift shop has a whole new look. Our new space offers a variety of dynamic, beautiful crafts by contemporary Lakota and Dakota artists. You will find an impressive collection of silver jewelry, and beadwork items to star quilts and original art in store and online. Stop by to check it out and or visit us online at aktalakota.org/shopping!



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Pardon our Mess! This spring the expansion and renovation project of our Recreational Center began. The first phase of construction displaces our shared parking lot. RVs, campers, and trailered vehicles are encouraged to park on the west side of the museum near the river. We have installed an access ramp for the entrance to the building from the west side. The individual motorist can park in our fleet parking area in front of the Vehicle Maintenance Shop on St. Joseph's Drive and enter the museum through the main entrance door. In addition, there will be parking around the Wisdom Circle area also located right off St. Joseph's Drive with access to the museum through our main entrance door. Directional signs will direct you to areas of parking.



We intend to remain open throughout construction and are committed to keeping visitors informed about road closures and other impacts on visitation. Please stay tuned to our [website](#) when planning your visit. Thank you for your patience and support!

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

FIELD TRIPS WELCOME!

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. Guided campus tours are available upon request at the receptionist's desk. For more information, call 800.798.3452 or email us at aktalakota@stjo.org.

To schedule an appointment for a guided tour or request transportation for a tour email aktalakota@stjo.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



CONNECT WITH US!

