



AKTÁ LAKOTA

Museum & Cultural Center

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

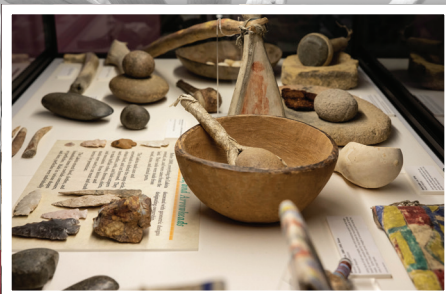


NATIONALLY RENOWNED CENTER OF AMERICAN INDIAN ART

DISCOVER THE CULTURE OF THE LAKOTA PEOPLE

Aktá Lakota translates to "to honor the people." That is the exact mission of the Aktá Lakota Museum. Our museum goes beyond the conventional definition, offering visitors an experience, a living lesson on the past and present of the American Indian way of life.

Our unique octagon-shaped building offers 14,000 square feet of exhibition space that features rare art, artifacts, and educational displays. Our museum's style gives attention to detail that has attracted and amazed visitors worldwide, earning the Aktá Lakota the prestigious TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice Award for four consecutive years. A single visit will reveal why our museum stands out. Plan your visit today at: <https://aktalakota.stjo.org/>



LAKOTA MOON CALENDAR - *WÍYAWAPI WÓWAPI HANWÍ*



Wetú:

The Moons of Renewal and Growth (Spring)

Majáksicaagli Wí Moon When Ducks Come Back

Wibákata Cépapi Wí Moon of Making Fat

Wójupi Wí When the Leaves are Green

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



Grass Mountain II Robert Penn (c) 1997

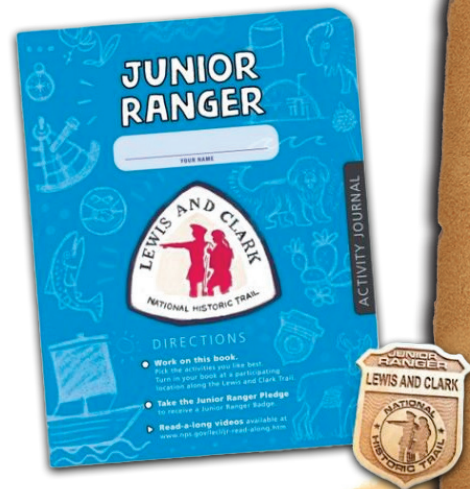
Wetú: Moons of Renewal and Growth (Spring)

Each spring, the camp circle moved to higher ground. Men fixed and created weapons and resumed hunting. Women gathered early berries and roots and repaired the tipis. Children enjoyed the warm weather after the confines of winter.

[Learn More!](#)

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!



MUST-SEE EXHIBITS

WÓYAKE: LANGUAGE IN LAKOTA ART



ON EXHIBIT NOW

Wóyake: Language in Lakota Art

"Wóyake," a Lakota verb, represents the act of storytelling, relating, speaking, or expressing through words. The artworks showcased in this exhibit are selected from the Aktá Lakota Museum's permanent collections and emphasize the connection of visual imagery and written expression in Lakota art.

Alfreda Beartrack Algeo	Oscar Howe
Arthur Amiotte	Donald F. Montileaux
Cecil Apple Sr.	Nathaniel Ruleaux
Angela Babby	Marty Two Bulls Jr.
Amos Bad Heart Bull	Dyani White Hawk
Keith BraveHeart	Dwayne Wilcox
Roger Broer	Jim Yellowhawk
Dakota Hoska	



Wóyake: Language in Lakota Art A Celebration of Culture, Identity, and Language Exhibit

Step into a visually stunning exhibition that delves into the many dimensions of language in the context of Lakota art. Each artwork in this exhibit offers a unique perspective on how language is used and interpreted.

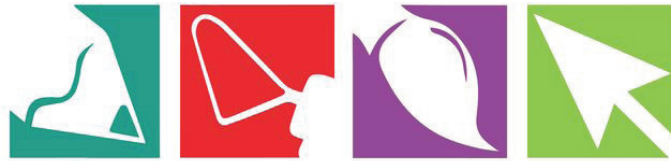
At the heart of this exhibit are the winter count pictographs, which are a traditional form of historical record-keeping. These pictographs depict stories and events without the use of spoken or written words, serving as a silent narrative. In contrast, other art pieces in the exhibit incorporate written words and explicitly reference speech, showcasing the versatility of the Lakota language.

One of the most significant aspects of "Wóyake: Language in Lakota Art" is its use of both English and Lakota text. This dual-language approach highlights the resilience of the Lakota culture and its language, especially in light of historical challenges.

Beyond the art, this exhibition represents a deep reclamation of language and identity. It emphasizes the importance of preserving and embracing the Lakota language, contributing to the ongoing revitalization of Lakota culture. "Wóyake: Language in Lakota Art" stands as a powerful testament to the enduring spirit of a people determined to ensure their language and heritage are celebrated for generations to come.

Learn More: <https://aktalakota.stjo.org/event/woyake-language-in-lakota-art/>

MUSEUM SUPPORTS YOUTH ART MONTH



YOUTH ART MONTH®
COUNCIL FOR ART EDUCATION®

Lakota students at St. Joseph's Indian School decided to put their creative talents to use in hopes of earning a little bit of extra cash during Youth Art Month. All students had the opportunity to paint any picture in art class using an oil pastel, or watercolor technique.

Hannah, St. Joseph's Indian School art teacher, explained she chose this technique and project so students could be more independent while working on their paintings.

“I was trying to find something that was simple enough where they could be more creative and I wouldn't have to guide them through every step — so it would show more of who they are,” said Hannah.

The students' paintings were put on display at the [Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center](#) during the month of March. Visitors, staff and community members had the opportunity to view the student art gallery and purchase a student painting. [St. Joseph's Indian School](#) students were extra excited about this event because if their art piece sells, 100% of the sale goes directly to the artist!

Wanda, Aktá Lakota Museum Historical Coordinator, said the event created excitement and a love for art in the community and on campus. Giving an excellent incentive for kids to get creative and learn new skills, this [Youth Art Month](#) event is



MUSEUM SUPPORTS YOUTH ART MONTH *continued...*

something the students have enjoyed and put extra effort into.

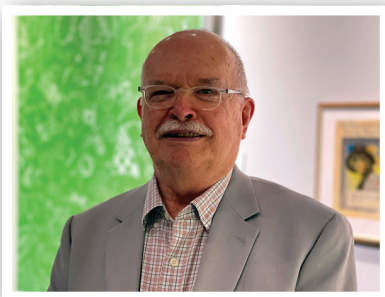
“A lot of kids would run to the museum after school to check and see if their art had sold,” said Wanda.

Flooding her heart and soul with happiness, Persais, a sixth grader at St. Joseph’s, had a huge smile on her face after discovering her art piece had sold at the museum for \$6. Frequently staying after school to work on art, Persais loves the craft dearly. She usually creates pictures for her friends, but this was the first time her art was publicly for sale.

“This was the best thing that ever happened to me because I had never sold my art before!” said Persais.

As this is the first year for this type of event, Hannah already thinks it would be a great thing to do again next year for students. As a newer teacher at St. Joseph’s, she explained her hopes to build more trust with her students, which will allow them to have more freedom with art mediums and styles.

JOHN RYCHTARIK JOINS MUSEUM COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE



The Aktá Lakota Museum announces the addition of John Rychtarik to our Collections Advisory Committee. John brings a profound love for the arts and its importance within our communities. Growing up surrounded by the arts, he developed a strong connection to artistic expression.

A native of South Dakota, Rychtarik obtained his bachelor’s degree in art education from Northern State University in 1969. With a career spanning from 1978 to 2013 in the museum sector, he retired as the Curator of Exhibits at the South Dakota Art Museum. His expertise includes gallery operations, curation, and installation. He remains actively involved in community arts through his work with the South Dakota Art Museum Guild.

John's dedication to educational excellence and extensive academic background make him a valuable asset to our committee.

“We are delighted to have John on our committee. His experience and education in the art and museum industry will be a great asset in ensuring and strengthening the collection of the Aktá Lakota Museum.” Dixie Thompson, Museum Director. [Read more!](#)

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EXPLORE OUR GIFT SHOP FOR UNIQUE, LOCALLY MADE ITEMS

The Museum's Gift Shop supports local and regional American Indian artists by offering a diverse range of original artwork. From handcrafted jewelry to vibrant pottery and more, visitors can explore an array of unique items. Star quilts, American Indian history books, creatively designed t-shirts, and other products make this store a great shopping destination.

[Visit our online Gift Shop!](#)



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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! <https://aktalakota.stjo.org/visit/>



STORY TIME WITH UNČÍ & LALÁ RETURNS IN JUNE!

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 bookstore from 10:30-11:30 AM with stories and activities every week.



[Make Plans to Attend!](#)



CAMPUS TOURS

STOP BY AND SEE US!

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

- **Guided walking tours:** Approximately a mile walk, transportation is available. Please email or call ahead to reserve.
- **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.



SUMMER HOURS *start* **MAY 1ST**
MONDAY - SATURDAY, 8:00AM - 6:00 PM
SUNDAY, 9:00AM - 5:00PM

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



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