



AKTÁ LAKOTA

Museum & Cultural Center

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



NATIONALLY RENOWNED CENTER OF AMERICAN INDIAN ART

HONORING HERITAGE AND SERVICE

November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of Native peoples across the nation. At the Aktá Lakota Museum, we honor Native culture and heritage every day through our exhibits, programs, and outreach. Yet this month holds a special place in our hearts as we also pause to recognize the courage and sacrifice of Native Veterans.

Veterans Day, observed on November 11, reminds us to give thanks to all who have served in defense of our nation. We extend our deepest gratitude to these brave men and women for their selfless service, strength, and commitment to protecting the freedoms we cherish. It is through their sacrifice that we can enjoy our rights, raise our voices, and live in a nation built on liberty and choice.

Native Americans have a proud and distinguished history of military service, with some of the highest per-capita enlistment rates of any group in the United States. Across generations, Native communities have honored their warriors through ceremonies, songs, and Powwows—sacred gatherings that celebrate courage, healing, and community.

As we reflect on both Heritage Month and Veterans Day, we say **Wópilá táŋka**—*many thanks*—to all who have served and to the Native warriors who continue to protect and uplift their people and this land.



LAKOTA MOON CALENDAR - *WÍYAWAPI WÓWAPI HANWÍ*

Ptanyétu — The Moons of Change (Autumn)

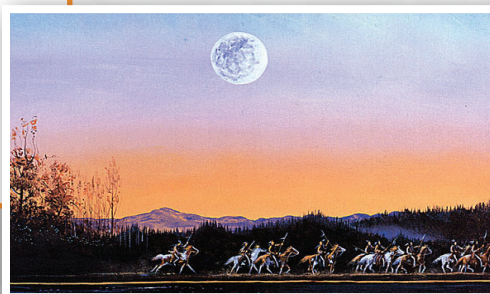
As summer gives way to fall, **Ptanyétu**, or “the Moons of Change,” marks a time of preparation for the coming winter. Traditionally, the Lakota people used this season to gather and preserve food to sustain their families through the cold months ahead. Women prepared and dried meat from the buffalo hunts, underground caches were filled with stored provisions, and firewood was stacked high in readiness for the long winter.

Each moon reflected the natural changes of the season and the activities of daily life:

- **Čanwapégi Wi** — *Moon When the Leaves Turn Brown*
- **Čanwapékasna Wi** — *Moon When the Wind Shakes Off Leaves*
- **Waniyetu Wi** — *Moon of the Rutting Deer*

The Lakota, like many Native peoples, followed a lunar calendar tied to the rhythms of nature. Their year was divided into thirteen moons, each approximately twenty-eight days long, honoring the balance and harmony between the earth, the seasons, and all living things.

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



WÓPILÁ TÁŃKA — MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Museum Curator Casey Walsh and Gwen (Miliken) McDonald examine a Lakota dress, ca. 1900s, gifted to the Aktá Lakota Museum by the Miliken Family of South Dakota.

Your valued support of the Aktá Lakota Museum helps connect people to the vibrant art, history, and living culture of the Northern Plains people. Your *wačhántognaka* — generosity — and passion make possible the collecting, preservation, exhibition, and interpretation of both historical and contemporary works.

Because of you, we are able to provide meaningful access to our collections, offer educational opportunities, and inspire a deeper appreciation for the rich heritage of the Lakota people.

Wópilá táŋka — *many thanks* — for your continued support and commitment!

SHOP LOCAL. SHARE CULTURE. GIVE MEANINGFULLY.



Guests browse the Aktá Lakota Museum Gift Shop, featuring authentic Native-made art, jewelry, and gifts.

The Aktá Lakota Museum Gift Shop proudly supports local and regional American Indian artists, offering a beautiful selection of authentic, handcrafted items. From intricate beadwork and jewelry to vibrant pottery, star quilts, books on Native history, greeting cards, and creatively designed t-shirts—each purchase helps sustain Native artistry and tradition.

Whether you're shopping for loved ones or treating yourself, you'll find meaningful gifts that celebrate culture and creativity. It's the perfect destination for all your holiday gift giving!

Visit our online store [here](https://aktalakota.org)!

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MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW CURRATOR OF COLLECTIONS

After an extensive search, the Aktá Lakota Museum is pleased to welcome Casey Walsh as the new Curator of Collections and Exhibitions.

“We’re excited to name Casey as our next Curator of Collections,” said Dixie Thompson, Museum Director. “Her impressive academic background and passion for cultural preservation make her an ideal addition to our team.”

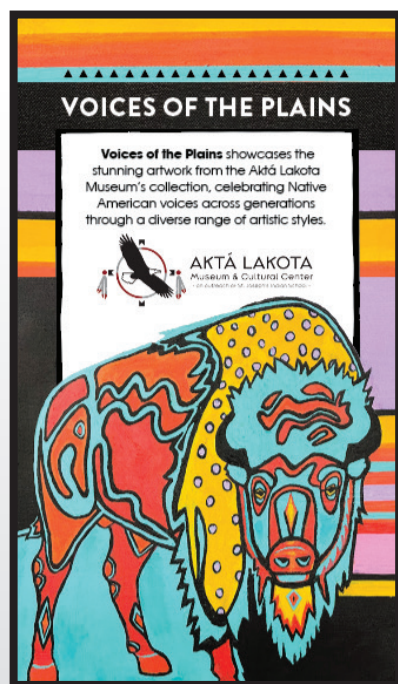
A native of Ohio and a former U.S. Marine, Casey earned her Master of Museum Studies from George Washington University and a Bachelor’s in History from American University in Washington, D.C.

“I am thrilled to join the Aktá Lakota Museum at this pivotal moment in my career and look forward to contributing to its enduring legacy,” said Walsh. “I have immense reverence for Native history and culture and am dedicated to preserving and uplifting these stories. Joining the Aktá Lakota Museum offers me the opportunity to use my skills as a museum professional to honor and share the important history and culture of the Plains peoples.”

The museum looks forward to the expertise, dedication, and fresh perspective Casey brings to the team—and to the meaningful contributions she will make in preserving and sharing the stories of the Northern Plains people.



NOW ON EXHIBIT: VOICES OF THE PLAINS



Voices of the Plains showcases artwork from the Aktá Lakota Museum’s permanent collection, celebrating the creativity, resilience, and enduring spirit of artists connected to the Northern Plains.

Spanning generations, styles, and media, this exhibition offers a dynamic look at the depth and diversity of Native expression. Each piece tells a story — reflecting identity, culture, and the ever-evolving dialogue between tradition and innovation.

Voices of the Plains also reaffirms the museum’s ongoing commitment to honoring Native American voices and expanding its growing collection that preserves and shares the art and history of the Northern Plains peoples.

Curated by David A. Meyer II



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

30% OFF
Storewide!

OPEN HOUSE
NOVEMBER 29, 2025 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

DOOR PRIZES • FREE GIFTS • REFRESHMENTS

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Join us on Saturday, November 29, for the Aktá Lakota Museum's [Annual Holiday Open House](#)! Celebrate Small Business Saturday by supporting local and regional Native artists while enjoying a fun, festive shopping experience.

Event Highlights:

- 30% storewide discount – one day only!
- FREE Gift Bags
- Refreshments
- Door prize drawings – no purchase necessary!

MUSEUM CHANGE OF HOURS

WINTER HOURS
NOVEMBER thru APRIL
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Closed weekends & national holidays.
After hours by appointment.

AKTÁ LAKOTA
Museum & Cultural Center
Located on the campus of St. Joseph's Indian School
1301 N. Main St. Chamberlain, SD
aktalakota.org • 800-798-3452

WISHING EVERYONE A BLESSED
AND
Happy Thanksgiving

We will be closed
NOVEMBER 27TH & 28TH, 2025
so our staff can spend time with their
friends and families.

AKTÁ LAKOTA
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Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday
1301 N. Main St. Chamberlain
AKTALAKOTA.ORG | (605) 234-3452

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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: <http://www.aktalakota.stjo.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

