AKTÁ LAKOTA
Museum & Cultural Center
- an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School -



NATIONALLY RENOWNED CENTER OF AMERICAN INDIAN ART

CELEBRATING CULTURE AND SERVICE

This November, we reflect on two meaningful observances: Native American Heritage Month and Veterans Day. Together, they provide an opportunity to celebrate the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of Native peoples while honoring the service and sacrifice of those who have defended our nation.

At the Aktá Lakota Museum, preserving and sharing Native history, culture, and values is at the heart of our mission year-round. During Native American Heritage Month, we especially honor the generations of Native American people who have strengthened their communities through leadership, resilience, creativity, and service.

Veterans Day on November 11 offers a special moment to recognize the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all veterans whose dedication, courage, and commitment have helped protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

Native Americans have a long and distinguished tradition of military service, consistently serving at some of the nation's highest per-capita rates. For generations, Native communities have honored their warriors through ceremonies, songs, and powwows that celebrate courage, sacrifice, healing, and community. These traditions reflect a deep respect for those who step forward to serve and protect others. As we commemorate both Native American Heritage Month and Veterans Day, we sincerely appreciate all veterans and active service members. We also recognize the Native warriors who continue to strengthen their communities and safeguard the values passed down through generations.

Wópilá Táŋka - *many thanks* - to all who have served. Their legacy of service, honor, and commitment continues to inspire us all.



GENEROSITY PRESERVES LAKOTA ART AND HISTORY



At the Aktá Lakota Museum, an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School, friends and supporters make every exhibition, educational program, and collection acquisition possible through their generosity. Your **wačháŋtognaka** (generosity) helps connect visitors of all ages with the vibrant art, history, and living culture of the Lakota and Northern Plains peoples.

Through your support, the museum continues its mission to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret both historical and contemporary Native art. Your contributions expand public access to our collections, create meaningful educational opportunities, and inspire deeper understanding and appreciation of Lakota culture and heritage.

We are especially honored to share a recent addition to the museum's permanent collection: an extraordinary quilled breastplate created by acclaimed Oglala Lakota artist Alice New Holy Blue Legs (1925-2003). This remarkable work was featured in the 1991 Northern Plains Art Show in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and stands as a powerful example of the beauty, skill, and cultural significance of Lakota quillwork.

The breastplate reflects the continuation of the ancient art of porcupine quillwork, a tradition that flourished long before European trade beads were introduced. Creating quillwork demands exceptional patience and artistry. Each quill must be carefully gathered, prepared, dyed, flattened, and meticulously applied to create intricate patterns and designs.

Throughout her life, Alice New Holy Blue Legs was dedicated not only to mastering this traditional art form but also to ensuring its survival. Through demonstrations, teaching, and sharing knowledge with family and community members, she helped pass this treasured cultural practice to future generations. Her work serves as a lasting reminder of the importance of preserving Indigenous artistic traditions and cultural knowledge.

In recognition of her significant contributions to traditional arts, the National Endowment for the Arts named Alice New Holy Blue Legs a National Heritage Fellow in 1985, one of the nation's highest honors in folk and traditional arts.

This important acquisition demonstrates the lasting impact of donor support. By helping the museum preserve works such as this quilled breastplate, you ensure that future generations can learn from and appreciate the artistic excellence, cultural knowledge, and enduring strength of the Lakota people.

Wópilá táŋka (many thanks) to everyone who supports and helps keep these stories, traditions, and artistic achievements alive, accessible, and inspiring for generations to come.

THE LAKOTA MOON CALENDAR: WÍYAWAPI WÓWAPI HAŋWÍ

PTANYÉTU - THE MOONS OF CHANGE

As summer warmth fades and autumn arrives, the Lakota season known as Ptanyétu, or "The Moons of Change," begins. This season marks a time of transition, preparation, and gratitude for the earth's gifts before winter arrives.



Fall Camp © 1987
Daniel Long Soilder

Traditionally, Lakota families spent these months preparing for the colder days ahead. Families carefully dried and preserved buffalo meat from seasonal hunts, stored food supplies in underground caches, and gathered firewood to sustain them throughout the winter. Autumn was a busy, important time that required cooperation and planning as communities prepared for the changing season.



Hunters © 1987
Robert Penn

The Lakota people, like many Native American nations, followed a lunar calendar closely connected to the natural world. Their year was divided into thirteen moons, each reflecting nature's cycles and seasonal activities. These moon names reminded people of the relationship between people, the land, and all living things.

During **Ptanyétu**, three moons mark the progression of autumn:

- **Čanwápegi Wi** - *Moon When the Leaves Turn Brown*
- **Čanwapékasna Wi** - *Moon When the Wind Shakes Off the Leaves*
- **Waníyetu Wi** - *Moon of the Rutting Deer*

These moons reflect the visible changes taking place across the landscape as trees shed their leaves, cooler winds arrive, and wildlife prepares for winter. They remind us to live in harmony with the earth's natural rhythms and recognize the lessons each season brings.

At the Aktá Lakota Museum, we are honored to share the traditions and knowledge preserved within the Lakota Moon Calendar. Through these teachings, we gain a deeper appreciation for the enduring connection between the Lakota people, the environment, and the changing seasons that continue to guide us today.

BRAVEHEART JOINS COLLECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



The Aktá Lakota Museum is pleased to announce Keith BraveHeart's appointment to the Museum's Collections Advisory Committee.

Keith brings a strong commitment to Lakota culture and community, and to preserving American Indian art and history. His knowledge, insight, and dedication to cultural stewardship will be valuable as the committee continues supporting the care, interpretation, and growth of the museum's collections.

The Collections Advisory Committee plays an important role in advancing the museum's mission by guiding collection management, cultural protocols, acquisitions, and the preservation of objects and stories that reflect the rich heritage of the Lakota people. Through their expertise, committee members help ensure that the museum's collections remain meaningful, relevant, and accessible for future generations.

"We are honored to welcome Keith to the committee," said Dixie Thompson, Museum Director. "His experience and perspective will strengthen our efforts to preserve and share Lakota history and culture responsibly. We look forward to the knowledge and guidance he will bring to this important work."

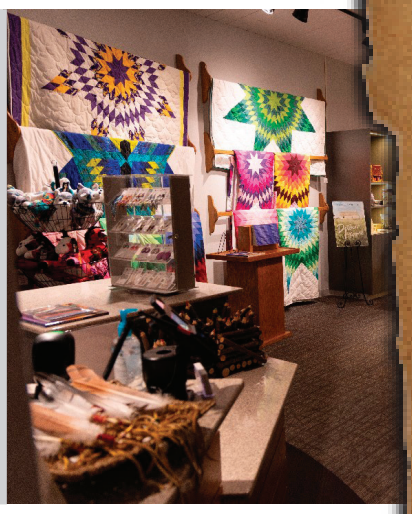
Keith joins a dedicated team of advisors committed to maintaining the highest standards of cultural stewardship while fostering education, understanding, and community engagement.

We welcome Keith BraveHeart to the Collections Advisory Committee. We look forward to his contributions as we continue to preserve, celebrate, and share the stories, traditions, and artistic achievements of the Lakota people.

SHOP LOCAL. SHARE CULTURE. GIVE MEANINGFULLY.







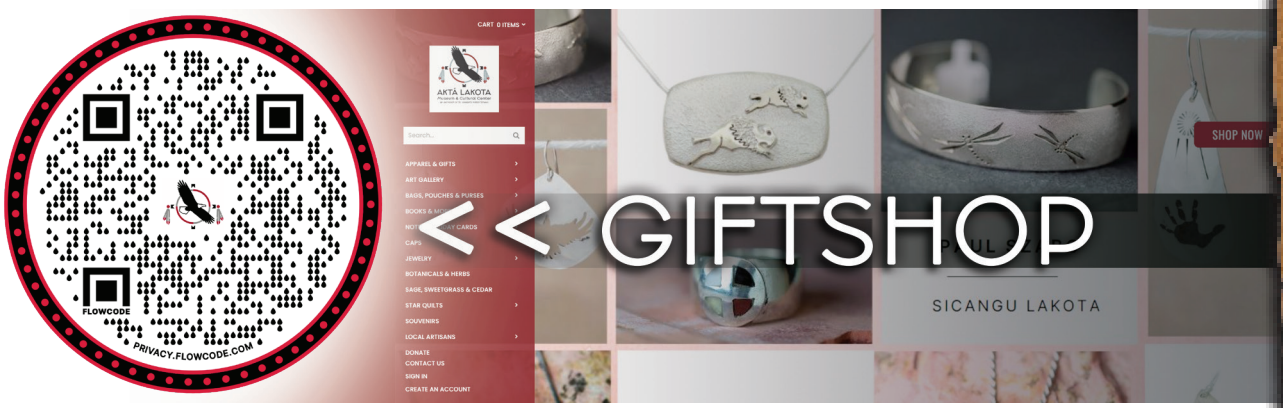
Looking for meaningful holiday gifts? The Aktá Lakota Museum Gift Shop offers a unique selection of authentic, handcrafted items created by local and regional American Indian artists.

From beadwork and jewelry to pottery, star quilts, books on Native history and culture, greeting cards, and creatively designed apparel, each item reflects Native artisans' talent, creativity, and traditions. Every purchase not only provides a one-of-a-kind gift but also supports Native artists and helps continue their cultural traditions.

Whether you're shopping for family, friends, or a special keepsake for yourself, the Museum Gift Shop offers gifts that celebrate the rich heritage and artistry of Indigenous communities.

This holiday season, give a gift with meaning, and make the Aktá Lakota Museum Gift Shop your destination for thoughtful, distinctive treasures.

Shop online or visit us in person to explore our collection and support Native art and culture.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Join us on Saturday, November 28, 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 CHANGES OF HOURS - HOLIDAY CLOSINGS







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/

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

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

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