



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
Home of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation
Cultural Immersion and Service Trip Application
June 10-23, 2025

Application Extended Deadline: Monday, February 3, 2025

Apply online: [brebeuf.org/pineridge](https://www.brebeuf.org/pineridge)

or

Complete this application in hard copy format.

Please refer to the accompanying trip overview for all the details, including pricing.

**** TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

Apply via this link:

<https://www.brebeuf.org/admissions/financial-aid-and-scholarships/travel-scholarships>

****COVID 19 UPDATE: VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS: ALL STUDENT PARTICIPANTS MUST BE VACCINATED AND PROOF OF VACCINATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S TRIP.**

****PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1) All students who apply to participate will be required to complete *a brief, in-person interview* for final selection.**
- 1) Students who apply to RETURN to Pine Ridge and who are accepted will agree to perform *additional duties* including, but not limited to, *servng as mentors to the first-time participants*.**

APPLICATION PART I: GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION

STUDENT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT OR ELECTRONICALLY ENTER ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY)		
Student Name	Grade	Student's e-mail
Home Address (including city and zip code)		Student's Cell Phone
Mother's Name	Mother's Home Phone	Mother's Cell Phone
Father's Name	Father's Home Phone	Father's Cell Phone
Mother's email:	Father's email:	
Physician's Name & Address		Physician's Phone
Emergency Contact	Relationship	Emergency Phone
SCHOOL INFORMATION		
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES		
COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE, OR EXPERIENCE SERVING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY POVERTY		
ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM EXPERIENCE OR CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM EXPERIENCE; OTHER TRAVEL EXPERIENCE		

APPLICATION PART II: *ESSAY - PERSONAL REFLECTIONS*

Please note: This trip is NOT a vacation, but rather an intensive cultural immersion opportunity that will push you to grow as a person and learn about the lived experiences of the Lakota people. We will have fun and make many great memories, but we will also work hard in the process. We will push ourselves beyond the comfort zones of our daily lives in order to establish relationships with the Lakota people, a proud nation with vastly different experiences than our own. We will strive to learn from our indigenous brothers and sisters and endeavor to view the world through their eyes.

You are required to compose two essays with this application. For the first essay, you will explain your reasons for applying to the Pine Ridge Reservation Cultural Immersion and Service Trip 2025.

In this essay, you must clearly address ALL the following bullet-pointed items, or your application will not be considered complete.

- Describe your personality, addressing both strengths and weaknesses.
- Is this your first trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation or are you returning?
- Briefly describe your reason for applying to this trip. What do you know about (or, in the case of returnees, what have you learned about) the Native American tribes of north America? Briefly explain why an exchange trip to a Native American reservation is of interest to you.
- You will be required to learn communal living skills, agree to be scheduled for daily chores and other individual responsibilities, learn semi-primitive camping skills and outdoor ethics and protection of the environment, and have limited showers for the first half of the trip. Do you think you will be able to function within these parameters?

- You will be required to adapt your typical practices to what is viewed as culturally appropriate in the environment and culture that you will be participating in. Different cultures have different standards of behavior and appropriateness. Do you think that you will be able to respectfully make those adaptations whenever needed.
- *What assumptions* do you have about North American indigenous cultures? How do you think this trip will alter, change, or reaffirm those assumptions?
- In what ways do you think that this experience might challenge you or change you? How do you see your participation as a benefit to this group; what do YOU bring to the table?
- How do you view your role in helping to create intercultural bridges and friendships?
- How will your participation in this immersion experience move you to be more *(a) open to growth; (b) intellectually competent; (c) religious; (d) loving; (e) committed to promoting justice?*

APPLICATION PART III: *ESSAY - RESEARCH*

For this second essay, you are required to engage in a bit of research. This is nothing extensive, but just an initiative on your part to learn more about the Lakota people, their history, and culture. You may complete this essay in a bullet-point format.

- The Oglala Lakota are one of the subgroups of the Lakota. The Oglala people inhabit the Pine Ridge Reservation. Which are the other subgroups, and which subgroup of Lakota live on the Rosebud reservation adjacent to the Pine Ridge Reservation?
- When was the Pine Ridge Reservation established?
- Read about why the Lakota call themselves the **Buffalo People**. What is **one** thing that you found interesting after reading this account?
- Read about the importance of the horse to the Lakota. Name three things you learned. What other indigenous tribes are considered horsemen of the Great Western Plains?
- Our first week will be spent camping in the Black Hills. Read about why the Black Hills are considered sacred territory to the Lakota, and why do the Lakota want the land returned to them?
- Read about some of the major effects of extreme poverty on the health and living conditions of the Lakota people living on the reservation. Please briefly explain **two** of these cause-and-effect relationships.
- What is Red Cloud School and what is its connection to Brebeuf?
- Volumes have been written about the following three Lakota! Choose one of them, read something interesting about this person and share what stood out to you about this person?
 - Crazy Horse
 - Sitting Bull
 - Red Cloud

- Read about **one** of the following cultural ceremonies and share **two** things you found interesting.
 - Sweat Lodge (Inipi)
 - Sun Dance (Wiwáŋyaŋg Wačípi)
 - Pow Wow (Wačípi)
- Many herbs are extremely important to the Lakota for health and ceremonial reasons. Why is sage considered so sacred, and how is it used?
- What is the importance of the circle to the Lakota? Why is everything done in a circular fashion?
- Why are the numbers 4 and 7 so culturally and spiritually relevant to the Lakota?
- What does the Lakota expression ***Mitakuye oyasin*** mean and how do you interpret its meaning?

FINALLY, CHOOSE ONE OF THE NEXT TWO ITEMS TO COMPLETE YOUR ESSAY:

- *Read about the Battle of Little Bighorn (The Lakota refer to it as the Battle of the Greasy Grass). What was the final outcome? Who were the great Lakota warriors that survived, and what major U.S. Army General lost his life in this battle? **Name two things that stood out to you about this battle.***
- OR**
- *Read about the Massacre of Wounded Knee. **How did this event change the tide of the future of the Lakota people?***

APPLICATION PART III: *PARENT RECOMMENDATION*

Parent(s)/guardian(s): Please write a short essay including the following information. Please attach a separate document.

Parent/Guardian

Signature: _____

Student name:

In your essay, please comment on the following:

- Why have you agreed to allow your son/daughter to apply to participate in this cultural immersion and service program?
- What do you hope s/he will learn from this experience?
- What strengths will s/he add to the group?
- Are there any concerns of which you feel the chaperones should be aware?

APPLICATION PART IV: *TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS*

On the final pages of this application, you will find two TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORMS. Please ask two BJPS teachers to complete the attached recommendation forms on your behalf. Ask them to use the printed recommendation form. Please ask these teachers to return the recommendations to Sra. Beck in the World Languages Department by Monday, February 3, 2025.



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Cultural Immersion and Service Trip June 10-23, 2025

GENERAL TEACHER RECOMMENDATION #1

Please return to Sra. Beck by Monday, February 3, 2025

Student name: _____

Teacher/Department: _____

Length of time you have known this student: _____

Thank you in advance for your willingness to write a letter of recommendation for the above-named student. This student is applying to participate in the **Pine Ridge Reservation Cultural Immersion Trip 2025**. Your opinion will serve as a critical component in our evaluation process. It is important that we take students who are open to growth and willing to respect the customs and traditions of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) community.

On the checklists below, please evaluate the applicant according to the listed criteria, using the student's peer group as a reference point.

	EXEMPLARY	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	NO BASIS FOR JUDGMENT
Achievement: achieves ambitious, measurable results	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perseverance: persists when times are stressful and remains positive in the face of obstacles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adaptability: adjusts to new task demands without becoming overly frustrated and/or shutting down	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrity/Maturity: honest and ethical in behavior; assumes responsibility for mistakes; behaves in a respectful manner; complies with requests, directives, and guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe this student's strengths and weaknesses based on the information described above. Please indicate whether you would feel confident and willing to supervise this student.



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Cultural Immersion and Service Trip June 10-23, 2025

GENERAL TEACHER RECOMMENDATION #2

Please return to Sra. Beck by Monday, February 3, 2025

Student name: _____

Teacher/Department: _____

Length of time you have known this student: _____

Thank you in advance for your willingness to write a letter of recommendation for the above-named student. This student is applying to participate in the **Pine Ridge Reservation Cultural Immersion Trip 2025**. Your opinion will serve as a critical component in our evaluation process. It is important that we take students who are open to growth and willing to respect the customs and traditions of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) community.

On the checklists below, please evaluate the applicant according to the listed criteria, using the student's peer group as a reference point.

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Adaptability: adjusts to new task demands without becoming overly frustrated and/or shutting down	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrity/Maturity: honest and ethical in behavior; assumes responsibility for mistakes; behaves in a respectful manner; complies with requests, directives, and guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe this student's strengths and weaknesses based on the information described above. Please indicate whether you would feel confident and willing to supervise this student.