



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
Home of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation
Cultural Immersion and Service Trip Application
June 14-22, 2026

Application Deadline: March 1, 2026

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/travel-scholarships>

****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, *servicing 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 2026.

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. 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: *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 March 1, 2026.



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Cultural Immersion and Service Trip June 14-22, 2026

GENERAL TEACHER RECOMMENDATION #1

Please return to Sra. Beck by March 1, 2026

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 2026**. 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 14-22, 2026

GENERAL TEACHER RECOMMENDATION #2

Please return to Sra. Beck by March 1, 2026

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 2026**. 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.