

YMCA Alumni

NATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT 2024

At the YMCA of the Seven Council Fires on the Cheyenne River Reservation in Dupree, South Dakota

OVERVIEW

Thank you for joining us in building a stronger community for the Lakota Tribe. This experience is similar to a *Habitat for Humanity* program. Volunteers will improve and transform the neighborhood by constructing a new cluster of tiny homes. There is significant housing insecurity on the Reservation and these tiny homes will offer comfort, safety and security to Native American families.

Immerse yourself in a Lakota Tribe cultural experience. The group size is about 20 volunteers per trip (or wave). All service trips include a mix of work, rest, and free time. Volunteering on this project is fun, fast-paced and fulfilling. The YMCA tiny home project not only utilizes your skills and labor to build safe, affordable homes that are desperately needed on the Reservation, but also offers an opportunity to become educated in Native American culture. A sight-seeing trip is included to visit some of the following: Badlands National Park, Custer State Park, Black Hills, Crazy Horse Monument and more!

We welcome everyone who wants to contribute to this important National Service Project. Previous construction experience is not required, however **manual labor is a part of the trip, so all participants should be in good health.** YMCA Alumni can bring family and friends, or come as an individual. You may sign up for multiple week-long trips if you would like. The minimum age is 16, however minors must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

The volunteer leaders of the National Service Project team work to ensure that trips are well-planned and coordinated, safe, and rewarding.

COST AND LODGING

\$575/week - This fee includes meals in the dining hall, lodging in the volunteer center bunk house, cultural activities and tours, training, final banquet, transportation, and airport shuttles from Rapid City, SD. Lodging for this option is a lower bunk (upper bunk not used) with shared bathrooms in modern and clean facilities. Clean sheets, blankets, pillows, and towels are provided.

The cost does not include your airfare to Rapid City, South Dakota.

OR

\$375/week - If you arrange for your own lodging. This fee includes meals in the dining hall, cultural activities and tours, training, final banquet, transportation, and airport shuttles from Rapid City, SD. Reserve a room at the Prairie Vista Inn (605-967-2343) in nearby Faith, SD (about \$90/night), or bring your RV, travel trailer, or tent and participate in the program at this reduced rate. A daily shuttle is provided between the Prairie Vista Inn and the construction project site.

CATCH A WAVE

National Service Project waves are one-week long and begin and end on Tuesdays (generally, the least expensive and easiest day of the week to travel). **If you are flying to Rapid City, please arrive and depart on Tuesday between noon and 2 p.m..** Our van shuttles will depart the airport for Dupree around 2 p.m. on the opening Tuesday and return volunteers to the airport around 11 a.m. on the closing Tuesday.

Wave 1 May 7 - 14
Wave 2 May 14 - 21

Wave 3 Sept 10 - 17
Wave 4 Sept 17 - 24
Wave 5 Sept 24 - Oct 1

DAILY SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Afternoon

Arrive in Dupree at the
YMCA Volunteer Center
Drive directly or
fly to Rapid City, SD

Shuttle, airport to
motel & YMCA
Settle In

5:00 p.m.
5:30
6:30

Shuttle, motel to dinner
Dinner at Volunteer Center
Welcome

Volunteer orientation/training

7:45 p.m.

Shuttle to motel

WEDNESDAY

7:00 a.m.

Shuttle, motel to breakfast
Breakfast Buffet

7:30

Work Session

9:00 - 11:30

Lunch

12:30 p.m.

Work Session

1:30 - 4:00

Walking Tour
of Dupree, SD community

4:15 - 5:15

Dinner at Volunteer Center

5:30

Cultural presentation

6:30 - 7:30

Shuttle to motel

7:45 p.m.

THURSDAY

7:00 a.m.

Shuttle, motel to breakfast
Breakfast

7:30 a.m.

Work Session

9:00 - 11:30

Lunch

12:30 p.m.

Work Session

1:30 - 4:00

Free in Dupree

4:30 - 5:30

Dinner at Volunteer Center

5:30

Cultural presentation

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Shuttle to motel

7:45 p.m.

FRIDAY

7:00 a.m.

Breakfast

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Sight-seeing trip to
Badlands National Park,
Needles Highway in
Custer State Park,
Crazy Horse Monument

lunch and dinner while
cruising in van

Optional Work Sessions

for those who do not go on
the excursion

SATURDAY

7:00 a.m.

Shuttle, motel to breakfast

7:30

Breakfast buffet

9:00 - 11:30

Work Session

12:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 - 4:00

Work Session, group photo

4:30 - 5:30

Cultural presentation

5:30

Dinner at Volunteer Center

6:30 - 7:30

Free in Dupree

7:45 p.m.

Shuttle to motel

SUNDAY

7:00 a.m.

Shuttle, motel to breakfast

7:30

Breakfast buffet

9:00 - 11:30

Work Session

12:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 - 4:00

Work Session

4:30 - 5:30

Free Time

5:30

Dinner at Volunteer Center

6:30

Cultural presentation

7:45

Shuttle to motel

MONDAY

7:00 a.m.

Shuttle, motel to breakfast

7:30

Breakfast buffet

9:00 - 11:30

Work Session

12:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 - 5:00

Sight-seeing trip to
YMCA Camp Marrowbone
on Lake Oahe and a
Visit at Lakota Cultural
Center in Eagle Butte, SD

Optional Work Sessions
for those who do not go on
the excursion

5:30

Dinner Final Banquet

7:45 p.m.

Shuttle to motel

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m.

Breakfast buffet

8:30

Departure,

Shuttle to airport

Key Points

Schedule is subject to change

Your total work is about nine 2.5 hour sessions

Lakota Cultural education programs

Van transportation

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is the construction site and what about wifi and cell coverage?

The tiny homes are being constructed just a few hundred feet from our lodging and dining area at the YMCA Volunteer Center in Dupree, SD. Yes, there is wifi and very good cell phone coverage.

Who will organize and assign all the work?

The National Service Project will have a volunteer project manager. You will be assigned to teams with a team foreman leading the way.

What do I bring and do I need my own tools?

You do not need to bring tools. All equipment, supplies, building materials, and tools are provided. Volunteers only need to bring a great attitude and a willingness to be flexible. A complete *what to bring* list will be provided. We stress dressing for the weather, including wearing layers, work gloves, and a hat. Avoid loose-fitting jewelry and clothing and items that could contribute to an accident. Safety is always the first priority. Wear comfortable clothes that can get dirty; and sturdy, close-toed shoes or boots. If you have tools in good shape that you would like to bring to donate to the tool library we are establishing at the YMCA, we would welcome these donations.

What skills or experience do I need?

We welcome everyone! No special skills or experience is required. Instruction and orientation is provided, and volunteers are never required to do any work they're uncomfortable with.

Can I come as an individual or do I need to be part of a group?

We offer volunteer opportunities for both individuals and groups. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. You can sign up for multiple trips. You do not need to be a YMCA Alumni member to help with this project.

What about medical services and medical insurance?

The YMCA staff and many volunteers are trained in first aid. There are ambulance services, a medical clinic, and a hospital in Eagle Butte, the next closest town about 20 miles away. **Participants are responsible to cover the expense of any medical need and must supply their own medical insurance.**

Can the National Service Project accommodate my special diet?

Yes! We are able to accommodate typical dietary restrictions. If you have significant dietary concerns, contact the YMCA (605-365-5232) to request additional information about meals and what can be accommodated.

Will we complete the tiny home we're building during my trip?

No. Building a tiny home is no simple task. There are about 60 construction activities or steps to complete a home and they vary in time and complexity. Construction will continue even after you return home as we work toward improved housing and YMCA programs on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

Is my trip cost tax deductible?

The YMCA of the Seven Council Fires is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. For many, the trip cost is tax-deductible. Since the tax laws and the interpretation of those laws are ever changing, we do not provide deductibility instructions; please consult a tax professional for current rules and interpretations.

Thank you for your interest. For other questions or if you need more information contact construction manager George Painter at geopainter2448@gmail.com