

2020

Cantemawaste

Youth Camp

Workgroup

Guidelines



DIAMOND
WILLOW
MINISTRIES

Purpose



The Dakota word “cante” (pronounced “chahn-tay”) means “heart,” and the word “waste” (pronounced “wahsh-day”) means good. When these words are paired together (Cantemawaste) it means “good heart” or “something good in your heart.” We believe this goodness in our heart to be the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The purpose of Diamond Willow Ministries’ (DWM) Cantemawaste Youth Camps is to introduce and strengthen youths’ relationships with God through Jesus Christ.

Diamond Willow Ministries mission as a Christ centered organization is to empower and develop healthy Christian youth, families, and leaders by meeting current spiritual, emotional, and physical needs within the Native American community.

Our vision is to bring the freedom and peace offered only in Jesus Christ to the Native American Community, becoming a source of light and an example for other communities to follow, ultimately bringing this freedom and peace to surrounding communities and the world beyond.

Camp at a Glance

Each of our four camps are separated by age and gender. There will be approximately 35-45 youths attending each camp. Workgroups across the nation come together to facilitate the camps as a true example of the Body of Christ. Individuals will be assigned to family groups for the entire week. Family groups will work together through lessons, games, and competitions, all with the focus of communicating the Gospel. All information, teaching material, and daily scheduling will be provided in advance. All lessons will be Biblically based, culturally relevant, and suited for the age and gender of the campers.

Here are a few highlights to keep in mind...

- Workgroup members must be 15 years of age or older
- Workgroup size is limited to 20 members
- Cost per person is \$400.00
- Everyone must complete an Application and an Assumption of Risk Form
- Those under 18 must have a Parental Consent Form completed.
- Those who are 18+ years are required to complete a Background Check
- Applications should be returned to DWM by April 1st, 2020
- For those who are interested solely in cooking please contact us separately

2020 Camp Dates

Camp #1	3 rd - 5 th Grade Girls Camp	June 14 th - June 19 th (Overnight)
Camp #2	3 rd - 5 th Grade Boys Camp	June 21 st - June 26 th (Overnight)
Camp #3	K - 2 nd Grade Girls Camp	July 12 th - July 17 th
Camp #4	K - 2 nd Grade Boys Camp	July 19 th - July 24 th

Diamond Willow Information

Please feel free to correspond with Program Director,
Annie Bishop, for all things Cantemawaste Youth Camp related.
She can be reached via the following modes of communication...

annie.bishop@d-w-m.org

or

605-245-2685 ext. 2

To return applications or checks, please make payable to
Diamond Willow Ministries, earmarked "Cantemawaste Youth Camp"
to the following address...

Diamond Willow Ministries
P.O. Box 438
Fort Thompson, SD 57339

For directions, please use the following physical address...

Diamond Willow Ministries
22850 North Shore Rd
Fort Thompson, SD 57339

APPLICATION

All individuals desiring to serve as camp staff will complete an application and return it to DWM by April 1st, 2020. There may be late additions to teams if every effort is made by team leaders to get applications submitted by this date and leaders are in communication with the Program Director. The purpose of the application is to ensure that those attending are spiritually mature and committed Christians that are equipped for the challenges of teaching and interacting with at-risk youth. Please do not encourage those to apply that do not meet the age requirement or because “it would be good for them.” Every workgroup member should receive a Forms Packet with all of the necessary forms that should accompany the application in order to complete the application process. The Forms Packet will include the Application, the Assumption of Risk, Parental Consent, and the Background Check forms.

COST

Each week’s camp staff member is responsible for paying a \$400.00 camp fee to DWM. This fee will cover costs associated with the facility utilities and maintenance, supplies, curriculum materials and meals. Local children attend camp at no cost thanks to workgroup funding. For those desiring to work more than one week, please contact DWM to check availability. Subsequent weeks are prorated at a reduced, but additional, rate of \$200.00.

WORKGROUP SIZE

Each workgroup is limited to a size of 20 members or less. The goal is for each weeks staff is to be comprised of several groups working together as the true image of the Body of Christ. Individuals are also welcome and serve as camp staff without being affiliated with a group. Because of the varied make-up of teams, there will be a formal team building and orientation for all staff.

EXPECTATIONS

All staff will be expected to read the full summer work packet and be familiar with DWM guidelines and abide by them. In particular, with a large and mixed staff of workers, the highest level of modesty, integrity, and conduct is expected. Please do not use this time for dating-type relationships, rather please come with the focus of sharing Christ with the children of your week of camp. Staff will also be assigned other duties, and be expected to take initiative, in areas such as assisting with meal setup and cleanup, building and grounds pickup and cleaning, etc.

Workgroup Information & Expectations Cont'd

ARRIVAL

Sunday - All camp staff will arrive between 1- 5pm, but no later than 5:00pm on the Sunday of camp week.

ORIENTATION

Sunday evening and Monday - Sunday evening will be team-building for camp staff. Monday will be training and preparation regarding curriculum and camp schedule. All those serving at camp are required to attend.

DEPARTURE

Friday - Camp staff can depart after the final session of camp on Friday. If a team needs to stay an additional overnight PLEASE ENSURE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH DWM STAFF.

CAMP

Two of our 4 camps are overnight camps. Please note whether your camp is an overnight camp. Overnight camps will host campers overnight Tuesday through Friday. The other two camps are day camps where campers will return to their homes at night. Some details of the curriculum and the schedule will be provided to camp staff prior to arrival onsite. Camp specifics will be discussed in detail at Monday's orientation meetings.

MEALS

Meals are a vital part of the camp week, both for the staff and campers. DWM will provide all the meals for the campers during the camp. Three meals a day will be provided for the camp staff on Monday through Friday. On Sunday there is an evening meal at 6pm.

KITCHEN STAFF NEEDED

In addition to the "regular" camp staff, there are opportunities to serve as kitchen staff. DWM is recruiting individuals that may be able to fill these special roles. If interested in fulfilling one of these roles for a week, multiple weeks, or for the summer, please contact DWM as soon as possible.

CAMP STAFF SPECIAL NEEDS

PLEASE INDICATE ON THE STAFF APPLICATION IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS, ALLERGIES, OR HAVE OTHER NEEDS. PLEASE INFORM DWM STAFF UPON YOUR ARRIVAL AS WELL. If we cannot accommodate your needs we will let you know in advance.

What We Believe

The Path to True Peace, Hope, & Love:

HEAR the Gospel (Good News) Message of Salvation available for all mankind as “It Is Written” in the Creator’s Book, God’s Word, the Bible. Recognize & face the fact that “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Sin is going against what the Creator wants. Sin brings separation (spiritual death) from God. Jesus brings true Life.

BELIEVE and accept that “Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.” It takes more than just belief, for the scriptures state, “that the demons believe (also), but they tremble.”

REPENT or turn from doing sinful things. Turn from evil and wrong living. Turn to Jesus and walk continuously toward Him. Surrender to Him who has all Authority and Power.

CONFESS with your mouth that “Jesus is the only Son of the Living God,” and that you want Him to be the Master (Lord) of your life. State aloud that you will not allow any other spirit or force to control your life.

BE BAPTIZED by immersion in the Watery Grave, symbolizing the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus applied to your personal life. One also dies to one’s old self, burying the sin, the wrong, the shame, and one rises to become a new creation, a new person.

PRAY without ceasing the scriptures say. Be always in a mindset of seeking God’s guidance in your life. Give Thanks for the provisions of life. Seek direction during times of choice and temptation. Intercede, that is, pray for others.

LIVE FAITHFULLY as best as you are able. Find a local body of Believers in Jesus and fellowship with them on a weekly basis, being accountable to them and keeping them accountable to God’s word.

READ THE BIBLE on a daily basis and memorize scripture for “His Word is powerful and sharper than any two edged sword,” which we need in our minds to help us combat evil. “His (God’s) Word I will hide in my heart that I might not do wrong against Him (God).”

LEAD OTHERS TO JESUS with your new lifestyle. Share with them how Jesus has changed your life. Share with others how He wants to change their lives and bring Peace, Hope, & Love into their home and to their families.

Diamond Willow Ministries is aligned with the restoration movement churches and as such teaches a person should be baptized when they accept Christ as Savior and Lord. We realize there are many coming on trips who have been taught differently and believe differently. However, we ask that you respect our viewpoint and position while you are here. If you end up in a discussion with someone and feel uncomfortable presenting this position, please refer them to a DWM staff member to follow through.

Diamond Willow Ministries Background

Diamond Willow Ministries formed in 2002 for the purpose of building and strengthening the people of our community, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. This is being accomplished by bringing people into a relationship with Creator God through Jesus Christ. Diamond Willow Ministries (DWM) meets people's spiritual and emotional needs through personal mentoring relationships and the teaching of Biblical truths and principles.

DWM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency comprised of community members brought together by a common vision. We are comprised of Dakota, Lakota, and non-Indians working and living here on the Crow Creek Reservation. We however are only one part of the DWM team. The great things happening here are the result of God working through all those who see the need, share the vision, and are contributing financially and through prayer.

God is moving and making things happen. The following are some of the ways Diamond Willow Ministries is able to serve our community:

- Tokata Youth Center - operates after school and during summers to empower youth in the community to be our future leaders while providing a safe place to be and a daily meal.
- Cantemawaste Youth Camps - Summer Camps for Christian fun and learning.
- Wednesday night family supper, fellowship and Bible study.
- Discipleship, individual Bible studies, individual counseling, and support through personal relationships.
- The Ikce Oyate Christian Center provides a place for worship, youth events, Bible studies, and a base for visiting workgroups. "Ikce Oyate" is a Dakota language phrase that means, "Common People".
- Providing food assistance to individuals in need. DWM provides over 13,000 meals to our community annually.





Chief Drifting Goose

History of the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation

The writing of history can be a sensitive matter. Particularly when writing the history of people that primarily have an oral, rather than written, record of their past. An in-depth account will not be given here. Many, but not all, of the important events and occurrences will be accounted here so there can be a better understanding of how the current situation came to be.

In 1863 the United States government established Fort Thompson eight miles upstream of the small tributary stream called Crow Creek. Fort Thompson was one of several military forts built in this region at that time. It served as the headquarters for the Crow Creek Agency. The Crow Creek Agency was created as a “repository” for American Indians in the aftermath of the Dakota-United States Conflict of 1862 in the neighboring State of Minnesota.

During the Dakota-United States Conflict of 1862, hundreds of Minnesota settlers were killed and homes destroyed during an uprising by certain bands of Dakotas. Much can be said and has been written about the circumstances and cause of the conflict that won't attempt to be addressed here. The end result however was the hanging of 38 Dakotas and the imprisonment and subsequent extradition of all American Indians within the State of Minnesota, whether they had any involvement in the uprising or not. The Santee Dakota prisoners were sent to a prison camp and eventually to forced internment at the newly created Crow Creek Agency at Fort Thompson.

A dedicated Christian missionary, Mr. John P. Williamson, accompanied the Santee Dakotas on their steamboat trip up the Missouri River to the Crow Creek Agency. Mr. Williamson gave this account of the trip, “As they look on their native hills for the last time, a dark cloud is crushing their hearts. Down they go to St. Louis thence up the Missouri to Crow Creek. But this brings little relief... The shock, the anxiety, the confinement, the pitiable diet, were naturally followed by sickness... Thirteen hundred Indians were crowded like slaves on the boiler and hurricane decks of a single boat, and fed musty hardtack and briny pork, which they had not half a chance to cook, diseases were bred which made a fearful havoc during the hot months, and the thirteen hundred souls that were landed at Crow Creek on June 1st, 1863, decreased to one thousand.”

This marked the beginning of three years of great suffering at Fort Thompson. Mr. Williamson further recorded, “For a time a teepee where no one was sick could scarcely be found, and it was a rare day when there was no funeral. So were the hills soon covered with graves. The very memory of Crow Creek became horrible to the Santee's, who still hush their voice at the mention of the name.”

John P. Williamson left a legacy of great Christian revival among the Dakotas of eastern South Dakota, and his example of dedicated service and love is still noted and honored among Dakota Christians today.

Winnebagos from Minnesota were also moved to the Crow Creek agency at this time. During these early years other bands of Dakota including Brules, Two Kettles, Yanktons, and Yanktonais joined the Santees at the Crow Creek Agency. After three horrific years of suffering the Winnebagos and most of the Santee Dakotas were relocated to reservations further downstream to what is now northeastern Nebraska. Later the Brules and some other tribes were resettled on what is now the Lower Brule Reservation. What remained on what would become the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation were several various bands of Dakotas. The last band to settle at the Crow Creek Agency was a group of Yanktonai Dakota led by their Chief, Drifting Goose. Drifting Goose and his people migrated off and on to the reservation for many years, until finally reluctantly resigning themselves to the Crow Creek Agency in 1883.

Over the coming decades many hardships confronted those on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation. Broken treaties, diminished reservation borders, encroachment by non-Indian homesteaders, introduction of alcohol, and general loss of an entire way of life, are a few of the tragic events. Eventually the federal government would construct a series of large hydropower and flood control dams on the Missouri River, including Big Bend Dam at Fort Thompson. The result of the dam construction was the flooding and loss of the only well wooded areas on the reservation, the lush Missouri River shoreline. Even the community of Fort Thompson was moved from its original location to higher plains north of the old town site.

Much rich history is associated with this area and the people who live here. What is written here only “scratches the surface”. “History” though is not just a classroom subject taught in school. Here it is a very important part of the daily culture of the people.

GENERAL RESERVATION INFORMATION

The Crow Creek Sioux Reservation itself covers approximately 400 square miles.

Fort Thompson is the primary community on the reservation. Big Bend and Crow Creek are the other two small communities on the reservation. The federal government offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian Health Services (IHS), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) are located in Fort Thompson. IHS operates a small medical clinic in the community and the Corps manages and operates the Big Bend Dam located on the Missouri River just outside of town. The tribal offices are also located in Fort Thompson. These offices and establishments provide most of the employment opportunities on the reservation. The unemployment rate fluctuates between 70-80%.



Cultural Differences



While working cross-culturally with any people group, it is wise to keep in mind cultural differences. Although living in the United States, knowing and allowing for very real differences has proven beneficial in planning and presenting ministry opportunities. We hope these will be of help to anyone of a different culture working with Native Americans. Please also note that the following are generalizations. As in all cultures, assimilation and adaptation allow for varying degrees of differences.

Members of the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation speak English as the main language. There are some elders who still speak the native Dakota language fluently. Much of the ability to speak the Dakota language was lost during the early to mid 1900s when youth were sent to boarding schools. At these schools, students were ruthlessly disciplined when caught speaking their native Dakota language. Singing hymns in Dakota is an important part of preserving the language and is an important part of our worship.

Some of the children we work with during camp may seem overly shy. By the end of camp plan to have kids coming up for hugs, teasing and climbing on you as you allow! Please also realize the importance of spending intentional time with the children. They get little individual attention on the whole. Most are shy, but warm up in a small group. Trust is always an issue, but God's love is sovereign. Small groups allow more freedom in talking. Make every effort to place this as a priority. The children are our future.

Housing here on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation is in great demand. There is a great housing shortage. Many of the homes are in need of repair due to the poverty level. The Crow Creek Sioux Reservation has very high unemployment and most live below the poverty level.

Statistically, alcoholism, drugs and suicide are severe problems among Native American cultures. Many families have experienced tragedies as a result. The impact is evident while driving through the community. Be aware that most of the children you will be working with will likely have one or more individuals in their family who are alcoholics, on drugs, or have committed suicide.

Evidences of the spirit world are visible on the reservations. A common phrase is, "We are not physical beings on a spiritual journey, but spiritual beings on a physical journey." Most people are very aware that the spirit world is real and active. Realization of the spiritual aspect of life is much more evident than for most Americans. The key is building upon this with Biblical teaching and the message of the Gospel.

(Cultural Differences cont'd)

Please be sensitive and respectful of beliefs. As a representative of a short-term work group, we ask that you trust the full-time staff of DWM to deal in appropriate manners concerning these beliefs. The medicine men, and other religious leaders are respected by many on the reservation. By also showing respect for these individuals and their beliefs, the door remains open for Christian influence in God's timing, and in God's way.

Elders and armed service veterans are held in high esteem. Please show them due respect. Always allow elders and veterans to go first in line at meal times.

In group activities including worship, please be patient. It is a local custom to let anyone get up and speak. Some speeches are good, others not so good. The belief is however, that even the "poorer" points of view should be heard, and listened to with respect. One never knows when light may come from darkness, such as sparks at night coming from a chimney.

Please be sensitive to adults and children. Do not ask individuals what they do for a living. Most are unemployed. Do not ask children about their parents/family. Many children live in broken homes where an aunt, uncle or grandparents are their guardians. Children may not have a relationship with their parents.

You may see desperate needs in our community while you are here. **Please do not give anyone money to meet their need.** If anyone has a need, please direct them to a DWM team member.

Lice are a continual problem on the reservation. Children are checked weekly during the school year. During the summer lice are rampant. Please keep this in mind. It would be wise not to share hats, caps, scrunchies, etc. with the children while you are visiting. (See under "What To Bring" for further information.)

When entering the reservation, you will be entering a sovereign Nation, complete with its own laws and law enforcement. Please make every effort to obey the laws.

However, contrary to television and popular myth...

Things here are a lot like your home, we wear blue jeans, t-shirts, play X-Box, and drive four wheels, not a horse. Traditional clothing is only for traditional ceremonies, parades, etc. You won't see people wearing feathers while here.

Being Native American doesn't entitle one to a special check each month from the U.S. Government. **MANY** here are below the poverty level and receive assistance as any other person in need of public assistance.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION...TRUST IS IMPARTITIVE...PLEASE RESPECT IT

Of utmost importance more than anything is for you to be sensitive to the past experience of the people of our community. The "white man" and strangers in the past and present, over and over again, continue to break agreements and not keep his word. There is much bitterness as a result. Please, please do not make any statements or promise anything whatsoever that you cannot be certain that you will do. It has taken us a lot of time to build trust within our community. It is of utmost importance for us to continue to guard this trust. As ambassadors of Christ and an outreach of DWM, we ask you also to guard this trust. It is a precious gift our community has given us; please do everything in your power to protect this gift. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

General Rules to Remember

Always travel and work in pairs. Your leader should know where you are at all times.

Under no circumstances are youth to be unsupervised at any time.

Do not put yourself in any situation where you are alone with one of your youth or a youth from the Reservation. Your heart may be pure, but Satan will use any opportunity to present the image of evil, real or imagined. ALWAYS have another adult or child with you.

Please remember that you are representing not only your church or group, but also this ministry and most importantly, our Lord. Please conduct yourself in a Christ-like manner in your speech and actions. Your actions will be speaking everywhere you go.

Team members must participate in daily devotionals after breakfast each morning.

DWM is a drug-free ministry. No tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs will be permitted.

Do not curse, swear or use crude language and do not tease youth in a negative manner.

Please bring only youth and adults who are spiritually mature, this is not a place for people to “grow spiritually”. Please do not bring people who are not spiritually mature in their actions and speech.

Keep Diamond Willow Ministries’ keys and codes secure at all times.

Drive SLOWLY coming and going from the property. Also, please use great caution in backing-up.

No riding motocross, motorcycles, or 4 wheelers on the property.

There will be a sign-up sheet for daily clean-up duties. However, if you see a “mess”, a full garbage can, burnt out light bulb, doors open, no toilet paper, running water, light left on; please take initiative to take care of the situation. If you don’t know how, just ask. It is a group effort.

Please be respectful of the building and grounds in general. No running or rough-housing indoors.

Please don’t allow anyone on the second-level porch deck.

If people from the community ask for benevolence assistance (food, gas, money) or food pantry, refer them to a DWM Staff person.

All non-camp youth from the community should be gone from the property and home by 9:00pm every night.

If a local youth is misbehaving, remind them that being here is a privilege. If they continue to be disrespectful or disruptive, they will be taken home immediately. Please try to keep in mind that DWM Staff work with these kids all the time and the decisions of staff should be trusted.

Do your best to stay with the youth and engage them in activities, conversation, games, etc. Give continued positive attention throughout the time they are here.

Bunkhouse and Cabins

No mixed-gender sleeping - guys and girls are not to stay in the same bunkhouse or cabin.

Please keep doors locked at all times.

Please do not let anyone outside of your group know what the pass-code is for gaining access to the bunkhouse.

Please turn the A/C and lights off anytime you are the last one to exit a room.

Leave outside lights off when not needed (the lights will attract flying insects).

Overnight campers can write short, positive, encouraging messages in the bunkhouse.

Do not write on or in cabins and other buildings on the property.

Bunkhouses, cabins and Mato Family Center should be cleaned prior to departure. All trash removed and swept out.

Please check to see that no items have slipped between mattresses and sides of bunks.

What to Bring

- Bible and Journal
Sleeping bag and pillow (A twin fitted sheet is optional, it may keep your sleeping bag from slipping off of the mattresses.)
- Towels, washcloth, etc.
- Shampoo, soap and all personal care items
- Sun block, chap stick, and hat
- Insect Repellent with Deet
- Lice can also be a problem at camp. Preventative shampoos such as Vamousse Daily Defense Shampoo (Walmart) or Fairy Tales Rosemary Repel Shampoo (Target) have been known to be effective. Ladies are encouraged to wear their hair in braids or buns.
- Seasonally appropriate, modest clothing: Shirts must be worn at all times. (Please see our section on Dress Code.)
- An attitude of service and flexibility - be ready to work for the Lord!

Please leave gaming devices and other unnecessary technology at home. They are not allowed. Use of these items distracts from the ministry efforts and creates an appearance of “isolating” from others around.

*Cell Phones should only be used before or after daily activities. We request that cell phones and laptops be kept in the bunkhouse or cabins during the work portion of the day and locked up at all times. Again the use of cell phones for phone calls and texting is very “isolating” and distracts from the ministry efforts.



Please strictly adhere to our dress code. This is written in order to keep our brothers and sisters in Christ from stumbling, as well as those in our community.

No tank tops, spaghetti straps, low cut tops or bare mid-drifts.

No tight shirts, sweaters, pants, skirts or shorts.

Please note: Because of some extensive controversy and extremely varying contexts of use, we have been forced to institute the following outlines under this rule:

- No running shorts
- No leggings

No short skirts or short shorts. Skirt and short length must be no shorter than at least even with fingertips when arms are down at your sides.

*A great suggestion for camp is to wear mesh basketball shorts. Girls and guys alike wear them here. Basketball shorts and a t-shirt are always a good choice.

Ladies, please wear one-piece swimsuits. Many youth on the reservation wear shorts and a t-shirt when swimming; you may find that more comfortable to blend in with the culture. (Be sure to wear appropriate undergarments if you choose to wear shorts and t-shirts.)

Guys, please wear a t-shirt at all times, even while swimming.

It is customary for men to wear shirts while working in the area.

Modesty is the key here. Our society as a whole has lost touch with modest dress. Because of the inordinately high rate of sexual abuse here on the reservation, and because both youth and adults are very much effected by visual stimulus we ask that you pay special attention to these guidelines.

We hope to show Christ in all that we do and all that we are. If something you wear causes you to question whether it's appropriate, it might be best to leave it behind this time. After all, is your focus on your appearance, your comfort, or your God? Thanks for taking the time to ensure that we can focus on the kids that come to camp and not your wardrobe.

DRESS CODE

A primary focus at Diamond Willow Ministries is to be the family of God to those here, particularly the youth. In this light, we focus on spending time with the youth doing what a family would do together. This includes swimming, sports, visiting, games, “hanging-out”, and eating.

The first step in showing God’s love is through one’s actions. Treat everyone as family; with love, care, respect, and patience. See a need and meet it. However, the goal is not just to make people feel like part of a family, but ultimately to make them part of God’s family. Bringing others into a knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord should be every Christian’s ultimate focus in fulfilling the great commission.

We need to take advantage of these times to verbally explain the hope we have and to explain why we do what we do. Do not hesitate to read and study the Bible with youth.

During the Cantemawaste Youth Camps, the lessons will be provided. Have all members know the lesson of the day and be able to communicate it and carry it out in small group and one on one settings. Remember, it will not be effective for just the group leaders to know the plan and for the group members to be helpers, everyone in your group needs to be prepared to teach and share the lesson.

Following is a list of ideas and methods that we have found that work in sharing the Gospel message here on the Reservation in a “family setting”. Prayerfully consider them.

1. The youth particularly, but all ages as well, have much despair, experience negativity from those around them, and don’t really know of any hope. Take advantage of the countless little opportunities to say one or two sentence blessings such as:

- God has a special plan for your life.
- Jesus Christ loves you and died for you.
- You have a heavenly father that loves you.
- You are never alone, God is always with you.

2. Everyone that is a Christian, no matter the age, should be prepared to give their testimony in a brief, concise, meaningful fashion. Practice it and then share it whenever an opportunity arises where there is just one, or a small group. Ask them if they have made a commitment. Tell them what a relationship with God, through Jesus Christ really means to you.

3. Good topics to work into conversations include:

- Everything about Jesus (His life, love, purpose)
- Forgiveness
- Purity – in relationships, God fills the void, not premarital sex
- Salvation Plan (Tell an onsite DWM staff member ASAP if anyone from the community is contemplating this decision so we can assist)
- Gospel
- Truthfulness
- Bodies are a temple – no drugs or alcohol
- God is seeking you, call on Him
- You are never alone – God is always there

4. Pray. Ask if they have something they want to pray about. Ask if they know how to pray. Teach them to pray, even a very basic prayer. Tell them how to pray when alone or afraid.

5. If you make a special contact, get an address. Don’t make promises that you can’t keep such as, “I will write you all the time.” Get their address and write them an encouraging note or get their phone number if they have one and call them. Please do not write to DWM for a particular child. In the past we have been overwhelmed with letters and packages. Children move so often, it is very difficult to keep up. Please try to write directly to the child you have promised, not DWM.

6. Do not curse, swear or use crude language. Again, don’t bring individuals here as a place for them “to grow spiritually”. If they aren’t mature in their speech or actions, DO NOT bring them on this trip!

Do not tease in a negative manner. Because there is already so much negativity here, it can be damaging even though the local kids may be involved bantering right back. Please use positive words.

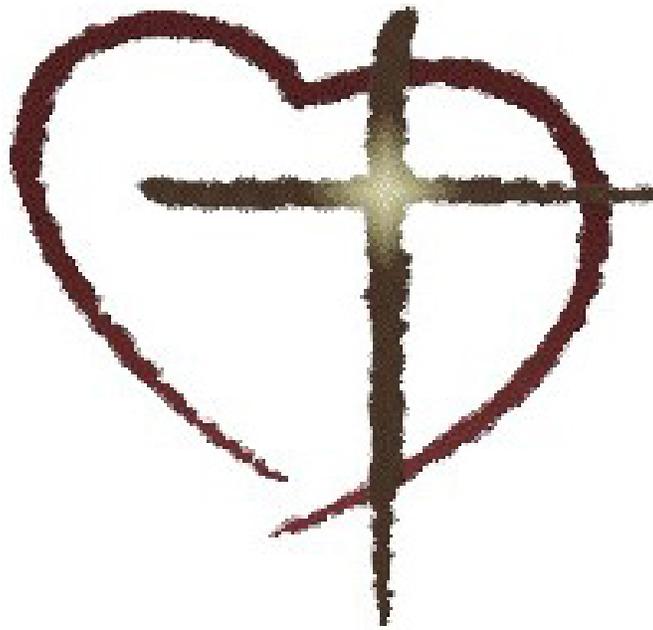
7. The following are a few verses that have a special meaning to some of us here on the Reservation. Read and meditate on them and ask God what He is saying to you through them.

Psalm 68: 4 – 6

Matthew 9: 36 – 38

James 1: 27

Mark 10: 13 – 16



We look forward to seeing you in 2020!