



Mission, SD

The Area

Spend a life-changing week with the Lakota people of the Rosebud Sioux Reservation, and you will truly never be the same! You'll never forget the wild beauty of the land where the Sicangu Lakota, "Burnt-Thigh Nation," live. The Rosebud Reservation is an exciting world of rolling grassy hills and deep, tree-lined creek bottoms—like the scenery you glimpsed in the movie *Dances with Wolves*. For centuries these prairies were ruled by the proud horse culture of the Sioux, who roamed and hunted buffalo from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.

Today the various bands of the Sioux Nation live on reservations scattered across several states. The Rosebud is one of the poorest counties in the United States. Many here face a harsh choice: leave the reservation, the family, friends, and culture they love—or stay and live in shocking poverty, where up to 80% cannot find a job. Life is especially hard on the elderly, whose sons and daughters move away to find work, leaving them either alone or left to raise their grandchildren.

Our Partner

Group Mission Trips and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe have teamed up to reach out to these needy grandmothers and grandfathers. Overwhelmed with a backlog of requests for home repairs, they have turned to us—and you—to join their ongoing effort to provide safe, decent, and healthy homes for their seniors. Perhaps you'll add a sturdy new entry porch to a home where the Tribe has just repaired plumbing that hasn't worked in years. Or add a wheelchair ramp as the finishing touch on a house being remodeled to accommodate a handicapped resident.

Perhaps as important will be your opportunity to build a relationship—touching a heart as well as a home. The resident you serve will be encouraged to share their traditions with you. Special opportunities for one-on-one cultural exchange are being planned. You'll explore, and appreciate, the vibrant culture as well as the deep pride of the Lakota people.

Lodging Information

Participants will be staying at a fully* air-conditioned facility. There are 6 private showers, and 1 handicap shower, per gender. Each sleeping room has a bunk bed, so each group can just bring air mattresses for half of their participants. *Subject to change.

The Need

Your group will demonstrate Jesus' love and compassion in tangible ways, serving real people in need while working on projects like building wheelchair ramps and handrails, weatherizing homes and trailers, reconstructing sagging porches, significant painting projects, interior and exterior carpentry, and other home repair projects that the homeowner cannot otherwise complete.

Area Activities

The nearby small town of Valentine, Nebraska offers some shopping, dining, and other activities.

Your group may also plan a side-trip (before or after your Workcamp) to the Badlands National Park, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, or any of the many attractions in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Special cultural activities with the locals are also being planned. Stay tuned!

