

CANTE ETANHAN OWAGLAKE



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“SPEAKING FROM THE HEART” THE CUSTOMS AND NORMS FOR THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

The Standing Rock would like to extend a warm welcome and handshake all visitors who wish to experience a part of our unique, rich and beautiful heritage. Learning about and respecting the customs and norms of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to help make your visit to our lands more enjoyable. We speak from the heart when we welcome visitor to our home.

Please honor our wishes with your visit to Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

YUONIHAN “ REPECT”

Respect our laws:

1. Respect and obey our laws.
Standing Rock has different levels of laws that govern the reservation. These laws include Tribal laws, Federal laws and laws from two States- North and South Dakota.
2. Respect our wildlife and do not hunt, unless you have obtained a tribal hunting or fishing license. Before entering land ask for permission to hunt or fish from the landowner. Wild game and fish continue to be a source of sustenance for tribal people. It's appropriate to offer to share the bounty of your sporting success with landowners and elders. The Game and Fish Division of the Standing Rock Department of Water and Natural Resources regulate game and fish activity. Always seek permission from a landowner or leaseholder to hunt or enter property to fish.
3. A reminder that it's unlawful to trespass for any purpose on trust or private land without permission from the landowner or leaseholder.
4. Do not litter our environment. Clean up your campgrounds or picnic areas.
5. It is important to drive with caution through our communities we have informal traffic laws in our small community and many small children playing.

6. It is unlawful to harvest, gather or remove plants, medicines, or trees without permission from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe or Game and Fish Department.
7. It is against our Tribal laws to pick up or loot artifacts from on our sacred sites, burial, traditional cultural properties and tourist are FORBIDDEN to trespass on these sites. Respect our sacred sites, memorials, burials and village sites.
8. Please be cautions about smoking and campfires. Rangeland fires are a constant threat on the Prairie. Never thrown your cigarette butt out the window and put out campfires.
9. Respect our people and do not bring or use alcohol and drugs on the reservation. Alcohol and drugs are forbidden at all ceremonies, pow-wows and tribal events.

WAUNSIILA-COMPASSION

Compassion for our ways

1. Respect our privacy do not knock on people doors to ask questions, do not interrupt our elders when they are talking. If you need to find some answers contact the Sitting Bull College or the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. They will give you names of appropriate people from the reservation that has knowledge of our culture.
2. All across Standing Rock there are sacred sites, memorials, burials and village sites. It is inappropriate to disturb or touch offerings placed at these sites such as tobacco ties, tobacco flags (pieces of cloth with tobacco in them for Prayer), food, rocks or other objects.
3. Many graves and burial sites are unmarked and can be happened upon accidentally. A burial site is considered sacred and must be left alone.
4. Please respect our decision about where you are allowed to go and not go on Standing Rock. Respect a decision to not allow you at some ceremonies. Some ceremonies are not open to the public and some not to non- natives. Please ask before you attend and never attend a ceremony unless invited.

5. Respect our people's wishes and do not take pictures unless you ask permission. No photos may be taken at ceremonies.
6. Respect your host by taking the food or drink that is offered to you. Many of our people find it disrespectful to turn down food. It is also respectful to take food home with you after an event.
7. Respect our people and do not ask excessive questions or talk constantly. Do not talk loud or laugh loud during our ceremonies.
8. Respect our people by spending time with small talk before you start asking questions.
9. Respect our elders and leaders when asking for information by offering a small gift like tobacco (tobaccos considered sacred), or food before you ask questions.
10. Respect our humor, teasing, joking and laughing is a part of our culture.
11. Respect our people by dressing in a proper manner, unkempt appearance, short skirts, or shorts at ceremonies, feast and other tribal events is consider disrespectful.
12. Respect our people who believe that direct eye contact is disrespectful by most elders and leaders of the communities. The people of Standing Rock lower their eyes as a form of respect.
13. Respect our belief that women on their moon time (menstruation) are forbidden to enter, be around or attend ceremonies, sacred sites, and gathering were they will be praying with the pipe and around the drum at pow-wows.
14. Respect our belief that women must wear dresses or long skirts at Ceremonial events.
15. Respect our pow-wows and when stand when they play the flag song, victor song and pray.
16. Respect of ceremonies at the pow-wow when the announcer request that no cameras be used during a ceremony.
17. Respect our people and stand when we give the meal prayer or pray for the people.

18. Respect our decision as to where you can go and not go on the reservation.
19. Respect our views and concepts that we have lived by because these rules have been with us since time immemorial.
20. Respect our decision not to answer some of your questions. We have things in our culture we would like to keep to ourselves.
21. Respect each and everyone you come in contact with and the world will be a better place.