

# 2021 LYD ANNUAL REPORT

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**Lakota Youth Development,  
March 2022**

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# LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Refinement and enhancement continue to be the approach for the activities and programs for Lakota Youth Development (LYD). Our overriding mission is to teach all aspects of Lakota culture to Lakota youth, to instill them with necessary cultural and historical knowledge to help them cope with a modern world with a strong sense of their Lakota identity. We continue to refine our methods relative to the theme for each of our summer camps with regard to materials and staff training, for example. One of the largest commitments we have made is for the entire LYD staff to engage in a Lakota Language class with the goal for them to reach basic fluency. This is a regularly scheduled activity several hours weekly or biweekly. We are now past the goal of building a basic vocabulary and progressing into basic idiomatic phrases. All staff members are committed to the overall objective of learning the language and are making progress. Knowing and using the Lakota language in basic communication with our young campers can only help strengthen their sense of identity and connection to their culture.

**- Joseph Marshall III**



# OUR MISSION

**To reclaim Lakota language, culture and Spirituality by promoting education and healthy lifestyles for our youth through culturally based strategies.**



Using *culturally specific curriculum and strategies*, we meet our goal through summer programs, weekend youth retreats, equine life skills training, and our Lakota song, dance and youth society drumming programs. These activities offer the opportunity for: leadership development, social skills development, relationship building, healing from trauma and fear management, all leading toward increased self-esteem and confidence.



# OUR PROGRAMS - WEEKEND RETREATS



Once a month, Friday through Sunday, weekend retreats provide immersive cultural activities in a drug and alcohol free environment

Some of the activities youth can choose from are: Regalia making, Hand Drum Making, Beading, Quill Work, Traditional Games, Team Dancing, Tipi Painting, Learning how to put up a Tipi, Story-telling from Elders, and more.



Culturally specific Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) is woven into activities with cultural perspectives and values through Lakota Storytelling



# OUR PROGRAMS - SUMMER CAMP

Each of the camps help teach our youth life skills as they all routine on responsibilities of chores that you must do throughout their 4 days. Beyond each of the topics of the camp, we always include sometime for our resident Traditional Artist, Mike Marshall, to work with them on a variety of projects, i.e. murals, rawhide jewelry, buffalo bone spoons, etc, and plenty of stories by the campfire.

We are excited to be introducing more Lakota language into our 2022 camps as we seek to record our elders/knowledge keepers and have two fluent speaking chaperones in order to begin a completely Lakota immersive environment





**Spring harvest** - our youth learn how to properly harvest and process wild edibles and medicinals and help tend our summer and underground gardens. Plants that are typically harvested at this time are tinpsila, ceyaka, stinging nettle, bitterroot, and wild rose petals.

**Isnati Awicalowanpi** - this is a sacred rite within Lakota traditions as our girls gain skills to become young women. During this 4 day camp, our girls learn important life skills about being a women within Lakota society from youth mentors, aunties, mommas, and unċi. By the end of this camp our young women have a coming out ceremony that introduces their women hood to society.



**Leadership** - over the course of this camp our youth learn to follow the 4 principles of leadership as outlined by Lakota warrior Crazy Horse. Our youth and chaperones receive challenges daily (either with the help of others or on their own) and must report back to the group about how they completed their challenge before selecting a new challenge.



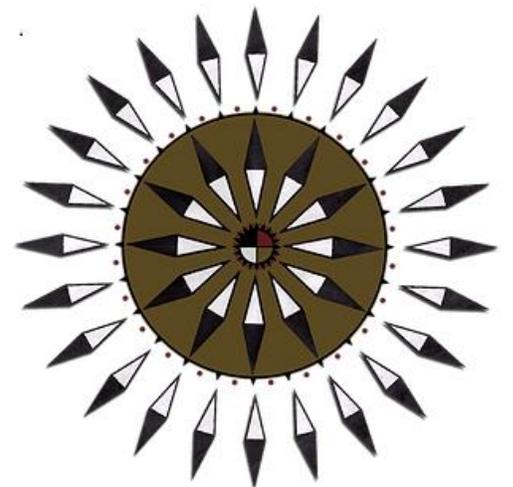
**Lakota History** - this was a new camp for us in 2021. Our youth learned some brief history about their ancestors and the occupation of the settlers on their homelands. This was led by Joseph Marshall III and we are excited to keep expanding our youth's knowledge with this camp for many years to come!

**Summer harvest** - our youth continue to learn how to harvest different wild edibles and medicinals along with maintaining our summer and underground gardens. Wild plants that are typically harvested during this time is bergamot, chokecherries, wild plums, golden rod, sage and sweet grass.

**Theater** - this partnership with Cornerstone Theater Company is a very exciting one with us. The company members worked with our youth in movement exercises, playwrighting and performance. This camp ended with our youth performing their very own original play on our cultural campus.

## **Bow & Arrow Camp**

- our youth spend 4 days making their own Lakota bow from staves and/or arrows. Youth mentors, chaperones, and board members assist our youth through the process of them creating their bows.





# SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



When Lakota Youth Development (LYD) was facing lack of funding for youth programs and also looking at the unemployment challenges facing Lakota youth, they turned to their own youth members to participate in creating solutions. Through social enterprises which they conceive, lead and operate with Lakota cultural values, our young entrepreneurs learn practical business and employment skills that help prepare them for financial independence as young adults.

With the support and guidance of the LYD leadership, Elder advisors and skilled business mentors, these hard working youth are practicing vital business skills, learning how to be good employees and creating sustainability for their enterprises as well as for their youth programs.



# SOCIAL ENTERPRISE - HONEY LODGE

In 2021, Youth Apprentices continued learning about beekeeping, honey production, and herbal medicines. We also traveled to events and conferences such as the Lakota Food Sovereignty Conference and sold honey to 45 states!

Next year we are looking forward to building a new processing facility and continuing to grow our social enterprise in support of Lakota Youth Development!





# SOCIAL ENTERPRISE- TIPI STAYS



## **SOUTH DAKOTA NATIVE TOURISM ALLIANCE**

With the support of SD Tourism and George Washington University, in 2020 the South Dakota Native Tourism Alliance was formed in order to include authentic Indigenous voices in the movement of cultural heritage tourism. Representatives from all of the tribes across South Dakota gather as they create new infrastructure for domestic and international visitors to come experience tribal lands. Being a part of this alliance allowed for Tipi Stays to be highlighted in an upcoming Trafalgar Tour Destination America and even more cultural heritage tourism trade shows. This is an exciting opportunity we have as we give access to tribal members for opportunities in the hospitality sector.



# BY THE NUMBERS

In 2021, LYD provided:

**1,098** in-person hours of prevention service hours

**20** tobacco prevention sessions with youth and community members

**26** events last year with **90** participants

**4800** people reached through social media and zoom presentations

Over **\$450,000** in funding



# STAFF AND BOARD

## Board of Directors

**Joseph Marshall III**, Wokahnipe Itancan (President), Rosebud Sioux Tribe

**Earl Bullhead**, Wowapi Awayanke (Secretary), Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

**Jerome Kills Small**, Mazaska Awanyanka Wicasa (Treasurer), Oglala Sioux Tribe

**Karen Little Thunder**, Board Member, Rosebud Sioux Tribe

## Staff

**Marla Bull Bear**

**Charlie Bull Bear**

**Nate Bull Bear**

**Fred Fasthorse**

**Tyler Makes Room For Them**

**Felisha Whiting**

**Lauren Coffman**

**Frances Kelliher**

**Jake Fee**

