

Sundance July 20-24 Turtle Lodge, Sagkeeng First Nation.

This is a letter of invite those that want to witness and learn what the Sundance ceremony is about.

Our Sundance Lodge runs during the fullmoon cycle of every July.

This is a dance where the participants that pledge to dance will go without food and water for 4 days and nights.

These individuals sacrifice themselves so that their prayers can be heard to help their families, friends, etc. They dance for all people of the world.

Our Nations are still dealing with a lot of unresolved trauma and this is one way in which we seek help from the Great Mystery/Creator.

People from all walks of life come to dance under the sacred tree of life, they seek to make a stronger connection to all our relations.

They give of themselves as they dance and pray or when they pierce after being tethered to the sacred tree of life or when they drag the buffalo skulls from their back piercings for their relatives to get healed.

It is a place of prayer, sacrifice and healing.

All that we ask of visitors is to respect the space you are visiting. No food or drink is allowed in the Sundance circle and we ask that those that are on their moon time/menses don't enter the circle and/or roped off visitor section. We also ask that women wear a dress/skirt to respect their roles as women.

The dancers usually enter the lodge around 9 a.m. and will dance until 2 p.m. where they will then be taken out of the lodge to rest until 5 p.m. Around 3 p.m. in the afternoon while the dancers are resting, a healing ceremony will be held in the Sundance Lodge for those that want to participate. You will need some tobacco if you plan on participating.

If you want to witness the piercing, that will begin on Monday, July 22 and the dragging will start on Tuesday, July 23.

If you show up let me know and I will take some time to explain what you are witnessing.

Robert Maytwayashing

Strong Standing Red Buffalo

Regional Knowledge keeper

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