

NIGHT EAGLE WILDERNESS ADVENTURES

A Primitive Camp for Boys,



“To Be A Man” 2020

A Rite of Passage for Boys ages 12 - 16

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Night Eagle Expectations?

We expect all campers and staff at Night Eagle to contribute positively to the community and reserves the right to refuse acceptance of any applicant who in our judgment will neither benefit from nor contribute to the camp experience. We are selective in admissions because of the close community we strive to foster and the quality experience we seek to provide. Although we have worked successfully with many boys as they are maturing into young men, Night Eagle's staff is not trained or licensed to work with troubled boys. Our program is designed for boys who enjoy being outdoors and are excited about learning wilderness skills.

“To Be A Man” Description

During the summer at Night Eagle before a camper receives his Night Eagle name, he spends eight hours with his fellow campers who are spread out in the woods. Over the years, many campers and staff have asked if they could go on a one or two day Quest similar to the type that Lakota boys have taken for centuries. With so much going on in camp during the summer, however, finding time for a full day to go on a Quest was not possible.

In 2014, Night Eagle offered a weeklong program for boys that focused on *What It Means to Become A Man* and culminated with a 24 hour Quest.

In many cultures boys became adults through ritual, initiation, and meaningful tradition and spent one to four days and nights secluded in nature, which provided him with time to communicate with the fundamental forces and spiritual energies of creation. During this time of intense spiritual communication, he received profound insight into himself and the world.

Although we cannot lead boys on Vision Quests, we can assist them as they make the difficult and confusing transition from childhood to adulthood and try to help them answer questions such as “Who am I?” “What do I have to offer?” “Why do I feel the way I do?”

We know that there comes a time in every boy's life when he must leave family and friends and go off alone. Through “*To Be A Man*” we hope that boys will learn what it means to become an adult, take responsibility for himself, and make a meaningful contribution to society.

Campers will arrive on Sunday to begin forming a community. During the first three days of their stay, as a group they will design and complete a project that will benefit the *Night Eagle* community and participate in a variety of discussions (How to relate to women, children, community, adults, elders, nature, and self). On Wednesday, campers will begin to prepare, both physically and mentally, for their Quest.

On Thursday, the day will begin with a sunrise ceremony, and campers will enter the sweat lodge to prepare for their Quest. From there, they will walk up the mountain to their individual Questing sites, which they will have prepared ahead of time. Twenty-four hours later, they will return to the sweat lodge to complete their Quest. When the sweat has concluded, Questers will break their fast and return to camp for supper, reflection, and celebration.

“To Be A Man” will focus on the following 12 Lakota virtues:

Compassion – Concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.

Wisdom – Understanding people, things, events, and situations, and the willingness and the ability to apply perceptions, judgments and actions in keeping with an understanding of what is the right course of action.

Bravery – Showing courage and the willingness to confront fear, danger, and uncertainty

Generosity – Giving without expecting anything in return

Humility – Having a modest or low view of one’s own importance; humbleness

Perseverance – Showing steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty

Respect – Showing regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of others

Honor – Adhering to what is right

Love – Showing care, friendship, concern, kindness, unselfishness

Sacrifice – Surrendering a possession as an offering to a supernatural being; to give up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy.

Truth – Displaying the quality of being true

Fortitude – Displaying courage in pain or adversity

Registration

We welcome all Night Eagle campers and former campers, ages 12 -16, who are sincerely interested in participating in “*To Be A Man*” and will adhere to camp policies. The program fee must accompany each application. A completed application, health form and travel form complete the application process. We are unable to accept a camper on Opening Day unless we have had adequate time to review his complete application prior to his arrival.

Program Fee

Your son is the most important reason that “*To Be A Man*” is being offered. ***All contributions are based on your “ability to support.” PLEASE don’t keep your son at home because of financial concerns.*** His fee will be taken care of by Night Eagle. Perhaps at another time reciprocity can be balanced. Handshakes, smiles, and hugs are always great gifts to show your appreciation.

A \$350.00 donation is requested to cover the costs of the supplies, food, and staff needed to make the session happen. Anything beyond this amount will go to the Night Eagle Campership Fund so that less fortunate boys will be able to attend Night Eagle in the future. *Any* amount you give will be deeply appreciated.

Fee Payment

The fee for “*To Be A Man*” is all-inclusive and covers all program expenses, in-camp health supplies, and one camp photograph. There is no reduction for campers arriving later or leaving early as expenses are contracted for the season and our enrollment is limited.

Refund Policy

If an application is withdrawn prior to April 1st, the program fee will be refunded, less a \$50 registration fee. After April 1st, the program fee will be refunded (less the registration fee) only if your son is unable to attend Night Eagle for reasons of health or if his vacated spot can be filled. There will be no refund if your son is asked to leave during the session for infraction of a camp rule(s) or if he is voluntarily withdrawn. Tuition will be refunded on a pro-rated basis if illness or an accident shortens a camper’s attendance.

Cancellation of Program

If for any reason prior to the start of a camp session the session must be canceled, Night Eagle shall refund all monies paid by parents/guardians. If it becomes necessary during camp to terminate the session, a prorated portion of the full tuition for that session will be refunded.

Arrival Times - Departure Times

When you are bringing your son to camp or picking him up by car, these are the times you should plan to arrive:

Opening Day - Sunday, August 9

Parents may arrive anytime after 9:00 A.M. and before 12:00 P.M. (Noon).

Closing Day - Saturday, August 15

Parents may arrive anytime after 9:00 A.M. and before 12:00 P.M. (Noon).

Getting in Touch and Refraining from Doing So

Because of the nature of our program, we cannot stay by the office phone. Like your sons, we too would much rather be in the woods! *If there is an emergency* and you *need* to communicate with us, please leave a phone message or send an e-mail to the camp office. Messages are checked almost daily, and we will always respond as soon as we are able.

Photographs

During the session Night Eagle Wilderness Adventures, Inc. takes photographs that are used for promoting Night Eagle. This is standard industry practice. Submission of a camper application signifies that parents consent to the use of photographs or likenesses of their child by Night Eagle Wilderness Adventures, Inc. or by anyone to whom they may assign such rights. Parents also release Night Eagle or anyone to whom they may assign such rights from any claims arising from the use of such photographs or likenesses of their child.

Schedule Day by Day

Sunday – Campers will arrive on Sunday before noon. After lunch, campers and staff will meet to discuss the week. At that meeting campers, as a group, will decide what community service project they will complete and plan the project.

A welcoming ceremony will be held in the evening around the campfire.

Sunday through Tuesday – Campers will work on the project they selected. Various discussions will be held in the evenings around the campfire.

Wednesday – Campers will prepare for their journey:

 Select their site

 Build the Sweat Lodge fire

In the evening, the entire group will meet around a campfire, and campers will have an opportunity to share their hopes and fears.

Thursday – The day will begin with a ceremony.

Campers will begin their fast at sunrise and give up all it takes to live in the physical world. They will rely on strength of spirit for the duration of the journey.

Campers will enter the sweat lodge. After the ceremony they will be taken to their sites where they may not speak or touch other people.

Friday – Upon completion of the journey, the campers will be brought back to the sweat lodge where they will speak of their experience.

After the sweat, campers will break their fast with fruit.

Once in camp, there will be time for reflection and discussion.

After supper there will be a campfire celebration honoring the participants. This is a time of thanksgiving for all of existence and blessings inherent in each moment of it.

Saturday – Campers will return to their homes in society.

What to Bring to Camp

Large quantities of clothing are not needed as campers and staff will wear a simple breechclout during this special week. However, since the temperature can sometimes dip into the 40's, make sure that your son has an adequate supply of warm clothing. This list has been carefully compiled to ensure his wellbeing and to prevent lost clothing and clutter in the tipi. ***It is requested that you adhere STRICTLY to this list!*** Send ***old clothes*** as camp life has a way of treating clothing harshly.

REMEMBER: Since very little gear is needed for this session, it should be packed and carried into camp in a backpack. *Less is always best!*

CLOTHING

1 complete change of clothes
1 long sleeve wool (or fleece) shirt
1 heavy sweatshirt
1 poncho *or* raincoat

OTHER

1 towel and washcloth
Stationery/Pens
Candles (for tipi)
1 ***thick*** pair of ***leather*** work gloves
1 wool blanket for Quest
Toiletries (deodorant, biodegradable soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
Insect repellent (*No Aerosols*)
Sun block, SPF 15 or higher
Knife with 2"-3" locking blade
(*small sheath okay*)

CAMPING GEAR (for tipi living)

1 sleeping bag (rated 40 degrees)
1 canteen/water bottle (1 liter/32 oz.)
1 waterproof ground cloth
1 back pad

OPTIONAL

Hat
Small pillow
Moccasins

Gratuities

We ask that no gratuities be extended to the counselors or to any member of the staff. If you would like to show your appreciation, we suggest that a contributions be made to our library or Campership Fund. A written thank-you is always appreciated by staff members.

Personal Equipment

Night Eagle's insurance does not cover the personal property of participants. Please leave all valuables, including digital cameras, at home.

Rules and Policies

For the safety and welfare of all members of our community, campers are expected to obey the rules and policies of Night Eagle and to exhibit behavior that does not physically or mentally threaten the welfare of themselves or others. The failure of a camper to adhere to the camp rules, policies and behavioral expectations will result in immediate expulsion without refund.