

# Wyoming Mission Trip - 2015

Riverton, Wyoming - Wind River Indian Reservation - Working with the Northern Arapaho Tribe

## Itinerary

- July 17 1pm - vans leave (eat lunch before you get on the bus). Spend the night in Lincoln, Nebraska.  
Responsible for your own meals this day (dinner)
- July 18 Arrive in the early evening. Check in at the Hampton Inn in Riverton & eat dinner there.  
Responsible for your own meals this day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner)
- July 19 Attend worship services at the various area Baptist Churches.  
Begin work in Beaver Creek village and possibly another village.  
Pass out invites to our various activities.  
Attend the Northern Arapaho Powwow.  
Breakfast at Hampton included. Lunch and dinner provided.
- July 20 Work in the village.  
Breakfast at Hampton included. Lunch and dinner provided.
- July 21 Work in the village.  
Breakfast at Hampton included. Lunch and dinner provided.
- July 22 Work in the village.  
Breakfast at Hampton included. Lunch provided. Hot dogs on the Reservation for dinner.
- July 23 Check out of the hotel and travel 3 hrs. to Grand Tetons.  
Sack Lunch provided.  
Travel on to Yellowstone and check into Grant's Village Lodge.  
Enjoy the afternoon in Yellowstone. Responsible for your own dinner.
- July 24 Enjoy a morning tour of Yellowstone.  
Responsible for your own meals this day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner)
- July 25 Leave at about 12pm to drive to Denver and spend the night.  
Return to Fort Smith.  
Responsible for your own meals this day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner)

## What we will be doing...

Our overall goal is to see indigenous churches planted among the Northern Arapaho Tribe. In order to get there, this trip we will be working mainly in Beaver Creek Village just outside of Riverton, Wyoming. We will be hosting a Backyard Bible Club, doing a basketball camp, and doing some building projects. At the same time, we will be constantly in prayer that God will break through the hearts of the tribe, and through the different ministries we will be trying to cultivate relationships with the people. We will also be attempting to build relationships with local Southern Baptists to mobilize them to do the work as well.

## Miscellaneous items...

- You will be responsible for finding your own roommates.
- No one under the age of 18 can go without an adult accompanying them.
- I cannot give family discounts as these are the bare minimum costs listed below.
- Anyone 13 and older must fill out the mission application.
- You are not signed up for the trip until we have your first deposit and mission application
- You must take the required Child Protection Training Class. (next class - Jan 18 @ 2pm)

## Costs...

Hampton Inn, Riverton, Wyoming - 5 nights

Queen Room with two beds	1 person in a room - \$600
	2 people in a room - \$300
	3 people in a room - \$200
	4 people in a room - \$150
King Suite	5 people in a room - \$130
	6 people in a room - \$110

Grant's Village Lodge - \$50 per person

Church Van fee - \$150 per person (There is limited space on the vans. It will be first come/first serve. You will be assigned a seat as soon as you put down your first deposit)

Provided meals = \$50 per person for the trip.

### **Example of Costs...**

You are with a 4 person group or family riding the church van. You, as an individual, would pay \$150 for your room at the Hampton, \$50 for the lodge in Yellowstone, \$150 for the van ride, and \$50 for provided meals for a total cost of \$400. Plus you will need money for 10 meals on your own during the trip and any extra money for souvenirs at Yellowstone.

### **Deposit Due**

Sign up deadline and non-refundable \$100 deposit per person due on March 15, 2015. Balance of the cost of the trip should be paid prior to leaving on the trip.

### **Book**

Arapaho Journeys: Photographs & Stories from the Wind River Reservation

by Sara Wiles and Frances Merle Haas

Release date: May 5, 2011 from Amazon and Book-A-Million (\$34.95 + shipping)

### **Prayer Requests**

Pastor and Leader of Set Free Church and Ministry - Richard Lee

Sandy Whitehair - a possible person of peace

Arleigh Armajo - Head of the Indian Housing Authority

## ***Northern Arapaho People***

**Pronunciation:** "Uh-RAH-puh-hoe"

**Location:** The Arapaho people are a Native American tribe that is split up into Northern and Southern tribes. The Northern tribe is mainly on a reservation in Wyoming and the Southern tribe is mainly on trust land in Oklahoma.

**Population:** There are approximately 9,000-7,000 Arapaho people living in the United States.

**History:** Early tradition suggests that they lived in permanent villages in the eastern woodlands, where they practiced agriculture. As they moved westward into the eastern plains of Colorado and Wyoming, they began to split into northern and southern groups. Similar to other Plains tribes, the Arapaho were nomadic, living in teepees and following the buffalo as a primary resource. They took part in trading with other Indians such as the Mandan and Arikara. Bands of the Arapaho and Cheyenne Indians lived in Colorado until November 1864 when the Sand Creek Massacre, and its aftermath, drove them from the territory.

**Government:** Each Arapaho tribe has its own government, laws, police, and services, just like a small country. However, the Arapahos are also US citizens and must obey American law.

**Language:** Arapaho people speak English today. Some elders also speak their native Arapaho language. Here are a few easy Arapaho words: "hebe" (pronounced "heh-beh") is a greeting used among men, "tous" (pronounced "tose") is a greeting used among women, and "hahou" (pronounced ha-ho) means "thank you." Today Arapaho is an endangered language because most children aren't learning it anymore. Because the Arapaho tribes were merged into two other tribes who didn't understand Arapaho, it was very difficult for them to preserve their traditional language. However, some Arapaho people are still working to keep their language alive.

**Values:** pity, respect, quietness

**Religion:** They have their own tribal religion. Everyday objects and actions have an important and symbolic meaning. Like other tribes, they practice the sun dance. Old stories tell of a sacred pipe that was always carried ahead of the northern tribe on their travels. The pipe-bearer would signal the beginning and end of the day's journey. At night, the tribe would make a circle and camp around the pipe-bearer. The northern tribe of Arapaho still possesses the pipe.

**Recent News:** In July 2005, Arapahos won a contentious court battle with the State of Wyoming to get into the gaming or casino industry. The 10th Circuit Court ruled that the State of Wyoming was acting in bad faith when it would not negotiate with the Arapahos for gaming. Presently, the Arapaho Tribe owns and operates high-stakes, Class III gaming at the Wind River Casino, Little Wind Casino and 789 Smoke Shop and Casino. They are regulated by a Gaming Commission composed of three Tribal members. The Northern Arapaho Tribe opened the first casinos in Wyoming.

**The Spread of the Gospel:** They are an unreached people group, and it is estimated that there are between .01% and 2% Evangelical Christians. The Arapaho people are very traditional people, and they have lived hundreds of years with a traditional belief system. When Jesus was finally introduced, His message was clouded by harshness and demands to conform to societal standards. The God of Christianity was misrepresented as a harsh taskmaster. Traditional beliefs and practices were discouraged, leaving Native peoples without a spiritual foundation. That spirit of aimlessness has only increased since.

Adrift without a moral compass, kids are easy prey for an enemy who eagerly tempts and leads them to destruction and death. Suicide becomes an option to young people who believe the enemy's lies and embrace the hopelessness he sells them. Although the Arapaho people have a rich cultural heritage, they struggle to live as a healthy community. They deal with alcoholism and drug abuse, diabetes, broken families, and limited economic opportunities. Local Christians are convinced that the Gospel message provides answers and offers life-giving hope.

**Prayer Requests:** Pray that the people's eyes would be open to the gospel. Pray that that strongholds of gambling, alcoholism, and drug use would be broken. Pray that they would see the true God of the universe who wishes to bring them peace.