

TRAVELING TO SACRED STONES

Standing on the ground with the Sacred Stone and Red Warrior camps in North Dakota, especially as they prepare for the winter, is one of the most meaningful ways of showing up for justice in this fight. The resistance to the Dakota Access pipeline has been led by the young people of Standing Rock, and we as a generation must stand in solidarity for the future that we want and deserve – a future that does not include the devastating Dakota Access pipeline.



Before you go, it is important to acknowledge and embrace that you'll be in a space framed by indigenous culture and leadership. **It is our responsibility, as allies, to educate ourselves and act in an appropriate and respectful manner.**

There are some important resources on the “NoDAPL Reading List” – in particular, “Standing Rock: A Time to Listen, Not to Spout,” and “How You Can Support Standing Rock,” are good introductory resources about what’s going on, and how allies can be most respectful in supporting and uplifting the Native communities at the center of the NoDAPL resistance.

A few other things to keep in mind when you're at the camp:

- ◆ Respect indigenous spirituality and be cognizant of how you interact with traditional cultural symbols. Native American designs and spirituality have been appropriated repeatedly by New Age movements, retailers, authors, and in thousands of other instances. You can embrace your own powerful and sacred connection to the land, without equating your experience to Native religious traditions that have hundreds of years of heritage and struggle.
- ◆ Be prepared to interact with cultural practices you may personally disagree with. Remember that you are a visitor to a site in the midst of very real traumas, and avoid reacting to your discomfort by being accusatory.
- ◆ Come prepared to be present, not to be a tourist. This could mean pitching in around the camp – there's food to cook, supplies to sort, and plenty of other daily tasks to keep the camp functioning. A part of solidarity is using your capacity to maximize the capacity of those on the front lines.
- ◆ Bring your own equipment and food, so the supplies at the camp can continue to provide for those living there into the winter.
- ◆ Listen. Learn. Laugh. This moment in history will be remembered not only as resistance to the oil industry, but as a beautiful and courageous declaration of indigenous cultural pride. Soak in the stories, meet new people, and bask in the powerful ways that this community is redefining what is possible.

Further Guidelines*

- ◆ When you are at the Sacred Stone Camp, you are a guest of the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota nation. If you are told to do or not do something according to tradition, please be respectful and comply.
- ◆ Photography is not allowed during ceremony and prayer.
- ◆ If you are a woman, you are asked not to attend ceremony, including sweat lodges, while you are on your moon (menstruating).
- ◆ Certain traditional events, items, and clothing are only to be attended/used/worn by Native people.
- ◆ Please ask before collecting sage, berries, or any other plant from the area.
- ◆ When in doubt, ask an elder or local.
- ◆ Alcohol, drugs, and firearms/weapons are not allowed at Sacred Stone Camp or the nearby Oceti Sakowin / Red Warrior Camps. You will not be given entry to the camp if you try to bring in such items.

**From www.sacredstonecamp.org/faq - more information is available there*

Logistics

How to Get to the Sacred Stone Camp:

Direct yourself to Cannon Ball, ND. You will arrive via Highway 1806. Turn (left if coming from the north, right if coming from the south) when you get to Cannon Ball Pit Stop, a red building off of 1806. Keep on that road (the road turns a few times but just keep on it) until you reach a cattle guard. Cross it and turn right onto the dirt road. Follow signs to Sacred Stone Camp. A map is available at www.sacredstonecamp.org/faq

Security will greet you when you arrive, and you can ask them questions about who to connect with and where you can camp.

Finally, **bundle up!** North Dakota is chilly in the winter, so bring plenty of layers to keep yourself warm during your stay. The folks on the ground are doing their best to winterize the entire camp, but you are responsible for yourself. Consider bringing some blankets, hats, and scarves to donate to those who will be staying into the colder months!