

1,000 Lakota Sioux Youth To Descend Upon Pipeline Protest Site

1,000 Youth from the Pine Ridge reservation are raising \$100,000 to pay for the transport, tents, sleeping bags, and food needed for them to reach the pipeline protest site at Sacred Stone Camp. Their people are taking a stand to protect the water and the land, and they want to stand with them.

October 1, 2016 (FPRC) -- These youth have no idea how powerful they can be, and seeing the impact they can have would change the way they view themselves as individuals and as a people. This is critical, because the Pine Ridge Reservation has been hit with a wave of youth suicide in the past 12 months.

If you're wondering why, take a look at these numbers (for more detailed statistics, see below):

97% of the population at Pine Ridge Reservation live below federal poverty line.

The unemployment rate on the Reservation vacillates between 85% and 95%.

The median income on the Pine Ridge Reservation is less than \$3,500 PER YEAR.

75% of the youth drop out of school.

At least 60% of the homes are without water, electricity, insulation, or sewage systems.

The Pine Ridge Reservation has the shortest life expectancy of any community in the Western Hemisphere outside Haiti. It's a third-world situation right in America's back yard.

Many of these young people feel they have nothing to look forward to, nothing to live for. They feel powerless, and that their lives really don't matter. This movement will give them a voice, and first-hand experience of seeing the impact they can have. Not only could this be a turning point for the #NODAPL movement, it could also be a turning point in stopping the epidemic of youth suicide on the reservation.

They're raising funds to pay for transport, tents, sleeping bags, and food. They're just one state away, in South Dakota—but don't have a way to get there.

Let's make this happen!

For media inquiries, contact: Jeri Baker, Executive Director of One Spirit Native Progress at (570) 460-6567 or jbaker@nativeprogress.org

For the Lakota Youth Against DAPL fundraiser, visit <https://www.facebook.com/donate/10153765505705493/>

More information on One Spirit's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/OneSpiritPineRidge/>) and on Twitter (@SpiritPineRidge)

IN DEPTH STATISTICS

The Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Indian Reservation is located in the southwest corner of

South Dakota. At 11,000-square mile (over 2 million acres), it is the second-largest Native American Reservation within the United States. It is roughly the size of the State of Connecticut.

* Some figures state that the life expectancy on the Reservation is 48 years old for men and 52 for women. Other reports state that the average life expectancy on the Reservation is 45 years old. With either set of figures, that's the shortest life expectancy for a community anywhere in the Western Hemisphere outside Haiti, according to The Wall Street Journal.

* The infant mortality rate is the highest on this continent and is about 300% higher than the U.S. national average.

* 75% of youth drop out of high school

* Elderly die each winter from hypothermia (freezing to death).

* The rate of diabetes on the Reservation is reported to be 800% higher than the U.S. national average. Diabetic-related blindness, amputations, and kidney failure are common.

* The tuberculosis rate on the Pine Ridge Reservation is approximately 800% higher than the U.S. national average.

* Cervical cancer is 500% higher than the U.S. national average.

* It is reported that at least 60% of the homes on the Pine Ridge Reservation are infested with Black Mold, *Stachybotrys*. This infestation causes an often-fatal condition with infants, children, elderly, those with damaged immune systems, and those with lung and pulmonary conditions at the highest risk. Exposure to this mold can cause hemorrhaging of the lungs and brain as well as cancer.

* There is no industry, technology, or commercial infrastructure on the Reservation to provide employment. This is why the unemployment rate vacillates from 85% to 95% on the Reservation, median income is \$2,600 to \$3,500 per year. And this is why 97% of the population at Pine Ridge Reservation live below federal poverty line

Most 3 bedroom houses shelter between 15-20 people

Cervical cancer is 500% higher than the U.S. national average. Tuberculosis rate is approximately 800% higher than the national average, as is the rate of diabetes.* Diabetic-related blindness, amputations, and kidney failure are common.

More than half of the homes are infested with Black Mold. *

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Keywords

[DAPL](#)

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