

# INDIAN VILLAGE CAMP

## 2014

This is a four day wilderness camp program focusing on tribal culture and natural living skills, using the Peacemaking talking circle throughout. This camp is for prevention (to keep kids who are currently *not* getting in trouble, on the right path) and for intervention (to get kids who are starting to veer off track, going back in the right direction). Indian Village Camp is something very powerful and positive for those who have found their way to the circle. It is a grass roots example of people helping people, and looking out for one another's best interest in a community setting. It is based on *inclusion* and allowing *everyone* to be heard. Indian Village Camp is a reconnection to our mother earth. It is learning to listen to the teachings of nature, a life changing experience for some.

Tentative Camp Dates for 2014:

**JUNE 26-29..... JULY 10-13..... AUGUST 14-17..... AUGUST 28-31**

This 2014 season will be our fourth year of operation. Our staff are devoted to this program and experienced in being positive leaders for our youth. These adult leaders offer many highly skilled and specialized projects, focusing on our Anishinaabe culture, and the balanced ways of simple natural living. This is truly a community built and supported program, supported by our elders, veterans, elected officials, different tribal departments, volunteers and parents.

The participants at Indian Village generally leave this camp with a feeling of having actually been a real part of a functioning tribal community. We try to empower the youth to find the best within themselves and give that gift back to their peers. This sense of belonging and responsibility to their friends seems to generate a positive feeling about who each of them are, as an individual, and about what they can offer back to the group in return. We attempt to move away from the philosophy of demanding entitlements and saying "What's in it for *ME*?" and move toward the tribal way of thinking, asking the question "What can I give back to this community?" Indian Village Camp teaches the lesson that selfishness and greed do not benefit the group, or the tribe, and that we should always give back more than we are taking. This is part of our responsibility to one another within a group, to focus on what good actions we can *do* to make things better, instead of just complaining with words about all the negative things that are wrong, but offering up no real positive solutions, or not doing the hard work that it takes to make things better. The lesson: Anyone can talk the talk, but can you walk the walk?

The lessons are layered within every activity, and even the process of cooking food over the fire becomes a lesson in group dynamics, responsibilities, and communication. Our goal is to give them communication tools to help deal with life problems, in any situation. To view new problems or disagreements as growth opportunities. To respect other people, even when we do not like what they might be doing. To reflect upon how our actions affect others, not only now, but many generations into the future. To help youth realize that they are our future leaders. Some of the youth have said that camp has helped them with envisioning what they are capable of as a person, and where they might want to go with their lives as adults. Others discover how much they really enjoy being outside and that they can survive without a phone or computer, connecting with their tribal identity through stories or crafts. There are layers and layers of lessons happening all the time at Indian Village Camp.

Simple communication and group cohesion is the foundation of this camp, talking through our problems and using the seven grandfather teachings as the camp rules. It is a people program. The people always

come first and the scheduled activities come second. This program is all about the people. No one is ever left out or left behind. Everyone does their part in the functions and duties of the camp. Participants cook their own food, as a group, over an open fire, in the communal longhouse. They haul firewood and bring water, as a team. They take turns cleaning up and saying a blessing in their own way. For shelter, they stay in bent sapling wigwams, covered with canvas tarps. In our final talking circle, everyone goes around the circle and says one positive thing about everyone else in the group. Some of the friendship bonds continue on, long after the camp is over.

Camps usually start at 12 noon on a Thursday and ends at 12 noon sharp on a Sunday. This program is sponsored by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Court, Peacemaking/Probation Department. Trained adult staff work all day and all night to keep programs moving and ensure safety. Indian Village Camp has four camps per season. Each camp is four days long.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All Tribally connected youth, 12-17, male or female, tribal members, descendants, of LRBOI or other tribes, non-members by special circumstance approval, such as from mixed homes. An application form is available at the LRBOI website or through the Peacemaking Department. All applications must be filled out by a legal parent or guardian.

For more information, contact the LRBOI switchboard at 1-231-723-8288 (hit zero for operator) or call the Peacemaking Department directly at 1-231-398-2240 to reach Austen Brauker, and 1-231-398-2239 to reach Peacemaking Supervisor Patrick D. Wilson. Email contacts are [abrauker@lrboi.com](mailto:abrauker@lrboi.com) or [pwilson@lrboi.com](mailto:pwilson@lrboi.com).

To get an idea of what camp is like, you can search for “Indian Village Camp” on youtube, or just use the following links:

**CAMP Overview** Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoNBitKVyKo>

**CAMP Program Activities** Photo-Documentary:

<http://youtu.be/3hiWAMD7iWM>

We try to make each camp unique, though some projects are repeated again at different camps. Youth can come back as often as they like, and many attend camp several times over a summer. There is limited space (20 participants maximum) and so, it is best to make sure you get your application in before the available spaces fill up.

**These are just SOME of the projects we have done in the past:**

Making Hand Drums, Traditional Styled Lodge Building, Dream Catchers, Rattles, Necklaces and Jewelry, Herbal Salve and Plant Picking, Organized Camp Games, Beadwork, Traditional Pottery, Personal Bundles, Cooking Frybread, Hammering Copper Bowls, Carved Walking Sticks, Making Wooden Spoons, Building Wilderness Shelters, Throwing the Atlatl, Making Spirit Houses, Spruce Root Digging, Leather Crafts (medicine pouches or bags), Orienteering Navigation with and without Compasses, Making Sassafras and Cedar Tea, Processing Nut-milk, Maple Syrup Sugar, Making Birch Containers, Birch Winter Bark Scraping, Cedar Bark Containers, Bow Drill Fire-making, Survival fire-making, Making a Clay Oven, Deer Hide Scraping/Brain Tanning, Natural Twisted Cordage, Traps and Snares, Carved River Stone, Snowsnakes, Drum Circle/Music Jam, Barred Owl Calling, Night Vision Teachings, Birch Oil, Pine Tree

teachings, Fire Safety and Survival Fires, Emergency Preparedness, Star Constellations, Hunting and Fishing Seminar, Traditional Foods, Plant Identification, Nature Walks, Tracking and Animal Calls, Bird Language, Elders Teaching Circle, Forest Service Job Opportunities, Mini-Pow-Wow and Drum presentation, First Aid and CPR Certification, Animal Meditation Movements, Eco-Presentations from Natural Resources, Welcoming Ceremonies from Various Volunteers, Peacemaking Talking Circles, Group Games. Culture Presentations: Clan Teachings, Water Ceremony Teachings, Naming Ceremony Teachings, Fasting Teachings, Women's Teachings, Men's Teachings, Medicine Wheel Teachings, Four Sacred Medicines, Storytelling and Oral Traditions, Sweat Lodge Talk, Dance Regalia Education, Anishinaabe Language.