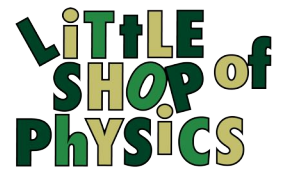


HALLIBURTON

Pine Ridge Reservation

November, 2019



When we talk about the Little Shop's relationship with Pine Ridge and the Oglala Lakota Nation, it's easy to be impressed by the numbers. We traveled over 5 hours from Fort Collins, CO to Martin, SD. We did hand-on science with hundreds of enthusiastic children. We have been coming to Pine Ridge for 13 years and have done science programs at every school on the reservation, over 20 schools in total. But the numbers only tell a small part of the story.

Our experience with the Oglala Lakota Nation is at its heart about relationships. We have spent decades fostering relationships with individuals and groups both on and off the reservation, and these relationships are the cornerstone of our success. Before we initially reached out to the Oglala Lakota Nation in 2008, Little Shop of Physics (LSOP) worked with the Colorado State University Native American Cultural Center (NACC) to determine which nearby indigenous groups would benefit most from our unique program, and how we could approach those groups in a respectful and culturally-sensitive way. When planning our visits, we coordinate with Oglala Lakota College and Generations Indigenous Ways to determine which schools we should visit; often these Pine Ridge-based organizations reach out to schools on our behalf.

The relationships continue when we arrive at Pine Ridge. Our Colorado crew — students and staff affiliated with LSOP and NACC — stay at the Sacred Earth Lodge. This unique dormitory-style lodge is run by local Pine Ridge entrepreneur and philanthropist Henry Red Cloud. Henry, descendant of Chief Red Cloud, and his extended family often join us for dinner where he imparts his unique wisdom about Pine Ridge.

Our program of 100+ hands-on science experiments is set up and facilitated by a diverse crew made up of members of Colorado State University (NACC and LSOP), Oglala Lakota College, and Generations Indigenous Ways. Other folks also join in to help out, including family member and local teachers from other schools who have taken part in LSOP teacher workshops. The program is called Little Shop of Physics, but the people who make a school visit happen are so much more than a single organization or entity.

While set up at Bennett County Schools, we worked with their students and other groups as well. Children from nearby He Dog Elementary came by to participate. Lauren Big Crow, a teacher at Red Cloud School, brought 6 of her high school students to experience LSOP and to help work with the younger children. It seems as if everyone on Pine Ridge knows LSOP is in town, which is not surprising since by tribal proclamation, Oglala Lakota Nation Little Shop of Physics Week is an official holiday.

We are incredibly grateful to the Halliburton Foundation for allowing for these unique relationships to grow and thrive. Each of the students we worked with received a Halliburton branded science-at-home kit. These kits will allow the children of the Oglala Lakota Nation to continue to explore and do science, and remind them of connections that can help them advance and choose options for education and careers.