



GROVES CONFERENCE on Marriage and Family

2023 Conference Announcement

The Groves Conference on Marriage and Family is excited to announce that the 2023 annual conference will be an **immersive, ethical service-learning experience in collaboration with Amizade (pronounced Ah-mi-za-jee), a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire empathy, link diverse networks, and catalyze social action through Fair Trade Learning, and the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, home to the Oglala Lakota people.** The conference will take place **May 30 through June 3, 2023 (including arrival and departure).** Some key information about the conference:

- This 5-day experience (including the days of arrival and departure) will “examine typical Lakota life through service, cultural immersion, and learning. Each day is busy with a mix of service, recreational exploration, cultural activities, and reflection.” The type of service performed will vary depending on the current needs of the community, but tends to be agricultural (cleaning and weeding irrigation canals, repairing cattle fencing) or performing general home repairs. Listening and learning about Lakota culture also is considered service. Service projects will be geared/adapted to the ability levels of participants and can include children over 8 years old.
- **The cost of the conference will be \$1,599 per person for members, \$1,499 for student members, and \$1,699 for non-members.** This probably seems expensive, but this includes the conference and all activities; transportation to and from the airport, hotel, and reservation; lodging; and all food. You are responsible for your airfare.
- You will fly into Rapid City, SD, on May 30, 2023, and then ride to Allen, SD (approximately 2 hours). All participants will stay at the Crossroads Inn Motel in Allen, South Dakota. This is the only lodging available in the area. **Because of the extremely limited lodging availability, all rooms are double adult occupancy (you will share a room with someone else).** We will take 12-passenger vans to and from the airport, and to and from the reservation each day (included in the cost of the conference). Therefore, with limited exceptions, **all activities/travel will be done as a group** – this is not a “go off on your own and explore” type of trip.
- **Spaces are limited** – we only can have a maximum of 40 participants (including any children/family members that you might wish to bring along).
- The conference will include “presentations,” particularly for those whose universities/employers require presenting for travel funding/reimbursement, but these will not be typical academic presentations, and we welcome creative ideas that fit the spirit of this conference. **All presentation topics must relate directly to Native American/indigenous families** and notably, there will be **no technology available**. Some ideas for possible presentations include:
 - Facilitate a discussion of relevant readings (we have a list of recommended readings from Amizade available for anyone interested);
 - Facilitate a reflection on a relevant topic or the day’s activities;
 - Present information/research relating to Native American families or indigenous populations.
- Because we need to confirm numbers of participants early (so we can book sufficient hotel rooms at the only available lodging), **proposals and registration will occur much earlier than usual for Groves.**
 - **Proposals are due by Monday, Oct. 3, 2022.** We anticipate making decisions about proposals within a week or two, so that individuals can plan whether or not they can/will attend. This is a quick turn-around, but because presentations/proposals will not be traditional, we anticipate both the proposals themselves and their review being a relatively “easy lift.”
 - **You must register by December 1, 2022, but, because spaces are limited, we recommend registering as early as possible. Once we have reached 40, we cannot accommodate any additional participants, even if that occurs before Dec. 1.** Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. We can possibly create a small waiting list in case some individuals register but end up being unable to attend.
- **COMING SOON: An information session and an FAQ page also will be coming soon, so stay tuned for more information!**