



American University

United Methodist Community

SPRING BREAK PROGRAM

SPONSORED BY THE AU UNITED METHODIST CHAPLAINCY

PROSPECTUS

- Event: Alternative Spring Break
- Dates: Saturday, March 10th through Friday, March 16, 2012
- Site: Cherokee Nation, Quallah Boundary, Cherokee, North Carolina

The reservation that we will be traveling to is located in the Great Smokey Mountains. This portion of the Cherokee Tribe is known as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and has more than 12,500 enrolled members. Many of these people are descendants of the Cherokee people who hid in the Great Smokey Mountains during the Indian Removal of 1830 and 1840.

The route that many tribes including Cherokee, Creek, Chicksaw, Choctaw, and Seminole, took is termed "The Trail of Tears". Many people died on this trail, but people did remain when they reached Oklahoma. The route leads straight into Oklahoma for most tribes and this is why you can find The Cherokee Nation, established in September 6, 1839, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The mothers of Cherokee cried so much from being removed from their homeland that the chiefs prayed for a sign to life their spirits. The result of this, the prayers and tears, was the blossoming of the Cherokee Rose, which is the state flower of Georgia.

These people are a people of strong heritage despite the hardships they have had and do endure as a result of the colonization of North America. The Cherokee Indians have been traced back in North America since the 1500s, with settlements all over the southern United States. Much of their heritage is still preserved in Cherokee, NC. They have their own language, Dikaneisdi, and an alphabet created by Chief Sequoyah. They also have their own Tribal Government. The major cultural attractions are The Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Oconaluftee Indian Village, and the "Unto These Hills" outdoor drama. Handmade Cherokee crafts are displayed and sold at the 350 member Qualla Arts and Crafts Cooperative. They receive a lot of tourists in the summer months and the rest of the year the tribe lives their normal day-to-day life without much of the tourism. Be prepared to see, learn, and experience a culture different from your own!

KAY SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER—AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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Transportation

Passenger vans

- A borrowed 10 passenger church van
- Rented passenger vans from Enterprise. Will need drivers with valid license who are at least 21 years old.

Departure Date and Time

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Loading: 7:30 a.m.

Departure: 8:00 a.m., Kay Spiritual Life Center

Arrival in North Carolina: approx. 8 p.m.

Return Date and Time

Friday, March 16, 2012

Loading: 9:00 a.m.

Departure: 10:00 a.m.

Arrival in DC at Kay Chapel between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. (approx.)

Number of students

The maximum number of participants is 18, including chaperones. In addition to Rev. Mark Schaefer, United Methodist Chaplain, there may be other staff from American University chaperoning.

Accommodations

We will be staying at a former day care center on the Reservation that has been adapted for the purpose of housing large groups of visitors. We will have to bring our own bedding (sleeping bag or comparable) and will be doing some of our own cooking (when we're not being fed by the local community). We anticipate buying groceries when we reach Cherokee.

Personal Expenses

Cost of lunch coming to and from North Carolina

Any personal expenses

Souvenirs

All other costs, including travel, groceries, and other supplies, will be included in the program price. We anticipate that we will be able to keep the costs around \$225 per person.

Sample Itinerary (Based on previous trips--Final version to be confirmed),
Each day will end with an opportunity for reflection upon the day's events. No particular religious affiliation is required nor is participation required, but participants are welcome to reflect in their own traditions upon the work or experiences of the day.

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Travel to Cherokee, NC
Move in and pizza dinner
Campfire (weather permitting)

Sunday, March 11, 2012

Optional worship services at Cherokee United Methodist Church
Picnic or hike (weather permitting)
Evening worship services (optional)/Sweat lodge?

Monday March 12, 2012

Work sites (Details TBA)
Dinner at Cherokee UMC
Presentation by member of Cherokee Community

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Work sites
Dinner, Cherokee UMC
Presentation by member of Cherokee Community

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Work sites/Potato drop
Sweat Lodge?
Cherokee Family Dinner (potluck)

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Sightseeing Day
Meet with Tribal Government
Trip to Native American Museum & Co-op
Dinner
Campfire/Time for reflection and sharing

Friday, March 16, 2012

Return to Washington D.C.