



# PINE RIDGE, SD

## Windstorm – 2015

### Location

The Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, which encompasses more than 2.8 million acres, is home to some 38,000 Oglala Lakota, a tribe that is part of the Sioux people. The captivating landscapes of South Dakota play an important role in the lives of the Dakota, Lakota and Nakota who live there. The land holds legends and history as well as hope and strength for the future.

### Disaster

Straight line winds, tornados, hail-storms, and floods severely damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes during May and June, 2015, and again in September, 2016. This loss of housing compounded an already existing shortage of good housing for residents of the Pine Ridge reservation.



### MDS Response

MDS is partnering with Pine Ridge Long Term Recovery Committee to build a volunteer center and complete several new builds in the spring and summer of 2019. Building materials are funded by a coalition of agencies. MDS accommodations are in mobile homes and trailers on the outskirts of Pine Ridge town.

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## Transportation

It is the responsibility of weekly volunteers to plan, schedule, and pay for their transportation to and from the project. Pine Ridge is rural and transportation options are somewhat limited.

- Rapid City Regional Airport in Rapid City, SD is, 100 miles from Pine Ridge. Rental Cars are available at the airport. Commercial taxi or shuttle to Pine Ridge is very expensive. There are no public transportation options from the airport to Pine Ridge.
- Greyhound Bus service is available to Rapid City.
- There is no Amtrak service nearby.

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## Contact Information

### Physical Address

Old Sundance Rd Eastside  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770  
(See map and directions below)

### Mailing Address

PO Box 5043  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

### Telephone/E-Mail

(605) 407-2107 (Office Manager)  
(605) 407-2665 (Project Director)  
pineridge@mds.mennonite.net

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## Directions

From the center of Pine Ridge town (intersection of US-18 and SD-407) take US-18 East for 0.6 miles then turn left onto Old Sundance Road Eastside (gravel), just before the entrance to the Hospital on the right.

Go ¼ mile on Old Sundance Rd Eastside, turn right into an unnamed gravel street with numerous trailers. After 200 yards turn left onto a gravel street and follow it 200 yards around the corner to the right. The MDS camp is on the right. This site does not have a GPS street address.

See map on page 2.



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## What You Should Know when Traveling on the Pine Ridge Reservation

Much like Native American reservations across the United States, high unemployment and lack of access to health and other basic resources plague the citizens of Pine Ridge. The median individual income is about \$4,000 per year. Poverty and the Oglala concept of tiospaye – the unity of extended family – often results in many extended family members sharing housing.

Poverty and isolation also drives drug related crime on Pine Ridge. Although it is no greater than many cities experience, MDS visitors should observe normal precautions when traveling and living in a rural and unfamiliar area. Be polite, use common sense, stay alert, travel on the main highways and avoid venturing out after dark. Stay in public spaces; keep valuables such as cell phones and computers out of sight.

## Map of MDS Camp in Relation to the Town of Pine Ridge, SD

