

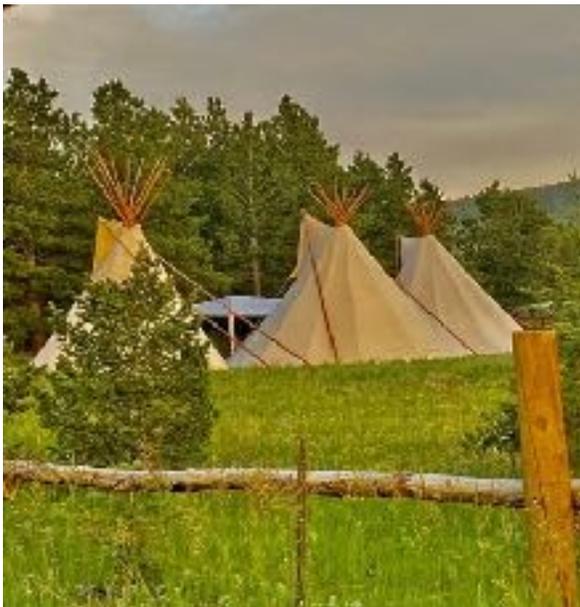
Cheyenne-Arapaho Culture Enrichment Encampment

July 7-14, 2025 Gold Hill – Broken Arrow Ranch

A group of 16 Cheyenne/Arapaho youth, 5 adult chaperones and 9 elders.

The group arrived from Concho, Oklahoma to Lafayette, Colorado at about 3:00 a.m. on July 7th where they stayed at the Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (BVUUF) in Lafayette. They were greeted by members of BVUUF and provided with dinner from Right Relationship Boulder (RRB) and received welcome bags which included: a Boulder Boulder t-shirt, a water bottle from Broomfield Open Space, a book on Hand Talk, a wash cloth and microfleece bath towel, a head lamp from RRB, lip gloss, candy a tote bag and sun visor from BVUUF. The group also received a welcome bag from the City of Lafayette.

BVUUF provided breakfast the next morning and RRB members met them to help load equipment and go to Longmont to pick up the tipi poles, on their way to Gold Hill. They arrived at the Broken Arrow Ranch in Gold Hill late morning, had lunch, and began to set-up the tipis.



Tuesday morning, Clare Tone offered morning experiences with her horses and in the afternoon, the group went to experience the river nearby. A group also visited EcoDharma which is a site for future Encampments.



Tuesday evening, Donald Whyte, a Ute Mountain Ute elder, who recently retired from the National Park Service, met with them and share story-telling. He then returned on Wednesday to escort them to Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) where they got a personalized Native American tour of their homeland, mixed with friendly banter about the Ute People and the Arapaho and Cheyenne Peoples. The group had free entry without reservations to RMNP and Bear Lake and were able to have a wonderful

experience at Trail Ridge Road! Thursday, Maggie Engelman arranged a fishing experience at Wonderland Lake with David Ford and some of his staff members from Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks. The fishing trip was a rousing success with all youth having significant bites, and most catching several fish! We headed to Eldorado State Park for lunch, but a severe hail storm interfered with plans – though it quickly passed. Thank you to the Park Manager and Jerilyn DeCouteau for arranging the trip. The group spent the afternoon swimming at the Boulder Reservoir, courtesy of the City of Boulder and got to watch a triathlon competition at the Rez. Friday, they spent the morning with Clare Tone at Broken Arrow Ranch, working with the horses and painted Arapaho symbols on the horses. Nico Strangeowl, a Northern Cheyenne elder and owner of Chief Eagle Plume Gallery in Allenspark gave them a tour and they spent a wonderful time hiking at Lily Lake. Afterwards, they went to Estes Park to do a little sightseeing, shopping, and to get a view of the Stanley Hotel where the Shining was filmed. Lynn Walker, owner of Colorado Mountain Ranch and her daughter Rosie provided trail rides for the youth, chaperones and some elders. Steve La Pointe, a local Lakota leader, taught them archery and told them about the role of hunting in their Plains Indian heritage. It was amazing to watch how quickly the youth were hitting the bulls eye, especially since this was the first archery experience for most of them. Steve told them, “It was in their blood!”



Members of the Broomfield Sister-City committee joined them on Saturday.







That evening, they experienced a thunder and lightning Rocky Mountain evening storm. Their last day, Sunday, the group were able to learn about Colorado native plants. They identified and gathered sweetgrass, sage, wild onion, wild rose and heard stories from elders. They wanted one last Boulder Reservoir experience so headed down to Boulder in the afternoon. Michael Sandrock from One World Running met them at Boulder Reservoir and provided the youth with tennis shoes and new backpacks. The group left Monday morning for the reservation. They delivered the tipi poles to Longmont and Debbie Lane graciously provided them with brunch before they left for Oklahoma.

Cedar, one of the Arapaho chaperones, who was also accompanied by her 4 year old son, told me that this was a life experience that would stay with the youth for the rest of their lives.

The trip was made possible through the generous donations of so many individuals, as well as time and services donated by the Colorado Mountain Ranch, City of Lafayette, the Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Joseph Antone from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder and Tipiraisers, Broomfield Sister-City and Broomfield Open Space, Boulder City Open Space and Mountain Parks, the Eldorado State Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, the City of Boulder, One World Running, EcoDharma,

People of the Sacred Land, and the members of Right Relationship Boulder
Coordinating Council and Land Group. It took a village!

Thank you again from Right Relationship Boulder!

Laurie Rugenstein & Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, Land Group