

Guilford College
Bonner Scholar Service Trip Proposal
– Crow Agency, Montana

February 26, 2004

Description of Trip

- A. Dates: May 10 – 20
- B. The Center Pole Foundation located on the Crow Reservation in Garryowen, Montana, will be working with several service groups over the summer to support their Entrepreneurship Education Center. Projects include constructing an outdoor amphitheater, organizing food and clothing donations, and working with youth and elders on art and entrepreneurship projects. Two years ago Guilford's first-year Bonners were the first group to participate in this work; this year we will be returning to continue to help with ongoing projects. We are thrilled to be a part of the progress that is unfolding through the Center Pole Foundation!
- C. The trip will have a two-fold purpose: 1) We will work with local people on the reservation to accomplish projects that they themselves have decided are important to the people living on the Crow Reservation. 2) Bonners will have the opportunity to learn about the history and culture of the Crow people. This is important because Guilford recruits Native American students who struggle to adjust to life at Guilford. Of Guilford's current population of Native American students, two are Bonner Scholars; we also had two Crow Bonners graduate from Guilford last year. It has been important to the Crow students to have a group of Guilford students who have at least some understanding and appreciation for their culture and community issues. They are enthusiastic about our trip and are working with their community to plan our trip schedule. We are thrilled to have the chance to return to Crow Agency and enable a new group of Bonner Scholars to see the reservation through the eyes of our Crow Bonners and to learn about the issues facing their community.
- D. We will be working with two small non-profits who are in partnership. The Kelly Foundation in Arlington, Virginia, works with Native American communities to promote self-esteem, resourcefulness and initiative in youth through education, volunteerism and entrepreneurship. The Center Pole Foundation was started on the Crow Reservation by Crow people to address unmet community needs.
- E. Most of our preparation time will be spent raising money for the trip. We are planning numerous events from car washes, to bake sales, to a benefit dinner to come up with the additional money required to get 17 people to Montana for a week. Students will receive a reading packet after exams to help us prepare. Our Crow Bonners will also work with us before the trip to orient us, and we will meet with our hosts on the reservation when they visit campus in March for an orientation meeting (they are accompanying a group of prospective Crow students visiting Guilford). During the trip we will spend some time each day learning about Crow culture through field trips, speakers and cultural experiences.

Space for Bonner Scholars from Other Schools

There will be no space for Bonners from other schools. We will be taking thirteen first-year Bonners (two of our first-years are unable to come this year), two returning sophomore Bonners serving as trip advisors, one junior Bonner who has never participated in a first-year trip before, and two staff members. We hope this relationship with the Center Pole Foundation will grow and that in future years, Bonners from other schools could be included. However, living space at the Center Pole is limited, and we have found that it does not comfortably accommodate groups larger than twenty.

Proposed Budget

Cost for each Bonner Scholar includes:

Plane fare:	\$400
Room and Board	250
Local transportation	50
Speakers, field trips, and cultural events	100

Total:	\$800

The Bonner Foundation pays \$250 for each first-year Bonner as well as the junior who is going on her first Bonner trip (Forest Raven), therefore \$550 per student will need to be raised. We strongly feel that it is beneficial to bring returning students, which is why we are including two sophomores again this year. Heidi Macdonald is a Crow student who grew up one hour north of Garryowen, and Maya Stewart-Silver spent her fall semester in Guilford's pilot program on the Crow Reservation. Both are very familiar with the Center Pole and with life on the reservation. We would greatly appreciate if the Bonner Foundation could also support these students with \$250 each! Students are currently working in committees to organize fund raising events to raise the extra \$550 per person needed.