

# The Crow Nation, Montana



FORWARD  
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INTERNATIONAL

Forward Edge Team #668—Crow Fair

August 14-22, 2010

## Where Are We Going?

You will be serving in the community of Crow Agency, which is located on the Crow Indian Reservation, approximately 60 miles from Billings, Montana. Crow Agency is in the valley of the Little Big Horn River, adjacent to the site of the legendary battle between tribes of Plains Indians and the U. S. 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry.



A proud people with a rich culture and heritage, the Crow people today face obstacles such as high unemployment and alcoholism. In fact, 67% of Crow young people, grades 9-12, have had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days. Nearly 26% of them have also attempted suicide.

The history of the Whites and the Crow people has been one of alliances and friendships for survival and preservation of a way of life.

The Crow People treasure their families and relationships with others, including Whites, although sometimes there is an obvious level of intolerance, based upon direct and indirect conflicts, both past and present.

It is perceived by many, due mostly to misguided Christian evangelism, that Christianity is a “white man’s religion”, and it has been equated with exploitation.

Forward Edge International has been involved building relationships with the Crow people since the early 90’s. Crow Agency is unique in that it provides a platform to work on reconciliation between First Nations People and their American counterparts. Through our relationship with the Crow people, we have begun a dialogue that people like you can get involved in! There will be many opportunities to share the love of Jesus as you serve in Crow Agency.

**CROW FAIR**—Each August, approximately 25,000 people gather for the Crow Fair celebration, a family reunion of dancing, singing, parades and a rodeo. As the sound of the drum begins, men, women, and children, adorned with magnificent regalia, dance to the customs and traditions of the past and present. There will be many opportunities to share the love of Jesus as you participate in Crow Fair.



A young boy at Crow Fair

Everyone  
should have  
an  
opportunity  
to change a  
LIFE.



Building Relationships!

Ordinary People ▶ Extraordinary Purpose



FORWARD  
**EDGE**  
INTERNATIONAL

*Come to the Edge...*  
where you will discover in a deeper  
way who God is, who you are and  
what God can do through you.

## What Will We Be Doing?

You will build upon more than two decades of developing trust and friendship between FEI and the Crow people by reaching out in the communities on the reservation. You will be demonstrating God's love through a variety of opportunities; assisting with the preparation and set-up of camps (including Teepees and Tents), teaching VBS, helping at the Senior Center, and completing minor construction and painting projects.

## Who Will We Work With?

Your host will be Kenneth Pretty-On-Top, pastor of Spirit of Life Foursquare Church. Kenneth and his wife, Hannah, are highly respected both on and off the reservation by Christians and non-Christians alike.

## Where Will We Stay?

You will have opportunities to stay at various locations on the Reservation (Church property, out-buildings, tents (BYOT), Teepees, Pow Wow Campground, etc). Bring a sleeping bag, and pad or air mattress. Pad or mattress **must be a single bed size** (39" X 75" or smaller). Anything larger takes up too much space. Team members will share in the kitchen/cooking duties, as arranged by Doug & Elaine Brannon.

## What's Our Schedule?

- Day 1 Arrive in Crow Agency, unpack and get oriented.
- Day 2 Attend church services at Spirit of Life.
- Days 3-5 Service and ministry projects, including preparation for Crow Fair.
- Day 6-8/9 Crow Fair / Excursion Day. Re-entry session in the evening.
- Day 9 Departure Day

## What Will It Cost?

The fee of **\$495** covers food, lodging, ground transportation in Crow Nation, practical preparatory materials, an experienced on-site facilitator and complete logistical coordination. This also includes your transportation from the Billings airport to Crow Nation.

Once Forward Edge receives completed applications, we'll send you a team pack, which includes a T-shirt, training materials, and details on what to pack.

## Need More Information?

Please contact **Nicole Klepec**, Forward Edge Team Coordinator for Montana at **360.574.3343** or [nicole@forwardedge.org](mailto:nicole@forwardedge.org).

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**May 11, 2010**  
Coordination Agreement, Application & Liability Release Form and \$175 Non-refundable Deposit DUE.

**June 29, 2010**  
\$320 Final payment DUE.



Working alongside the locals to serve the community

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