

# MMDTC Active Member Demographics Survey 2-14-2020.

*Surveys can be emailed to mendotadakota@gmail.com*

## **WHY WE NEED YOUR INFORMATION.**

- Acquire a land base so we can build a community center.
- Obtain federal recognition.
- Maintain a tribal office in Mendota.
- Promote and support the preservation of the Dakota culture, including protecting sites of cultural significance to the Dakota people.
- Promote a better understanding between the Native American community and the public.
- Teach community members and others the Dakota language.
- Develop self-sufficiency through in-house business.
- Did your family live in Mendota from 1900 to 2020, are they still living in Mendota and where?
- Another list of families from before 1900, where did they live in Mendota.
- On a separate sheet of paper please give us dates of Wedding, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Funerals, etc. We need Dates, Times, and who these events were for.
- There use to be woman who met at the VFW in the basement. They were all related. Anyone know of these meetings, those meeting were held for years around the 1960 & 1970 maybe even before 1960.

For the past 24 years, the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community (MMDTC) has tried to honor our ancestors by re-uniting the Dakota people. To help them understand not only where we have come from, but where we are going and why. We continue to inform and challenge our members to get involved in order to meet our mission. Our mission is to preserve, protect, and promote our Dakota culture for future generations.

In June 2020 we will be celebrating 25 years as the formally organized community, the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community. We are the Descendants of a band of Mdewakanton Sioux Indians of Minnesota, who have resided in Mendota since the 1880's and before.

Our family's and ancestors have lived in Mendota since before history was being written.

The Mendota Community are the Traditional Guardians of the Eastern Gate.

In order to continue our mission, we need additional demographic information from our members.

This information will help us identify potential areas of need, as well as potential resources to help us achieve our mission.

One result of this survey is that we hope to compile our membership other than our basic

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membership data. This will include a list of names, phone numbers, emails, tribal I.D, origin families, when you became a member, etc. If you need a realtor, electrician, or carpet-layer you can refer to our membership directory to find one. If you are in a trade, please let us know if you wish to help other members.

**You our members have created a great Community! You have also given us the ability to take this Community to the next level.**

Several of our mission items relate to obtaining Federal Recognition. In order to obtain Federal recognition, we need to know who our members are in relation to the general population. We will eventually provide this demographic information to the Federal Government as part of the Federal recognition process.

MMDTC is here to play an important role for all people who live here in the land of our ancestors. Please help us to continue our mission by taking a few minutes to complete the survey. We need all completed surveys for the Federal recognition process. If we don't receive your completed survey by the end of March, your application may not go into the Bureau of Federal Acknowledgment.

A member must be current with your contribution and a current membership application from 2015, when we did our new application, as requested from the Bureau of Federal Acknowledgment.

Please mail your completed survey via US mail to:

MMDTC Demographic Survey  
1351 Sibley memorial Hwy  
P.O. Box 50835  
Mendota, MN 55150

Or you can email it to us at [mendotadakota@gmail.com](mailto:mendotadakota@gmail.com). If you have any questions, you can contact the MMDTC Office 651-452-4141.

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## **YOUR INFORMATION:**

Full Name (first, middle, last): \_\_\_\_\_

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Gender:  Male  Female (Maiden Name. \_\_\_\_\_)

Marital Status:  Single  Married  Divorced  Widowed

If Married: Spouse full birth name: \_\_\_\_\_

If spouse female, include maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to be included in the MMDTC Membership Directory?  Yes  No

## YOUR FAMILY INFORMATION:

### Your Children:

Child's Name	Sex	Date of Birth	Adopted?
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

If child was adopted, please provide the full name of each birth parents.

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Father: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Your Mother:**

Full Name (first, middle, last): \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Alive or Deceased: Alive  Deceased

Dakota  Yes  No  If your mother is still living, please provide the following so we may contact her.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Your Father:**

Alive or Deceased: Alive  Deceased

Full Name (first, middle, last): \_\_\_\_\_

Dakota:  Yes  No  If he is still living please provide the following so we may contact him.

Address (if different than above): \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **YOUR INCOME INFORMATION:**

Single income  Dual Income

Annual income

\$10,000 - \$29,999

\$70,000 - \$99,999

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\$30,000 - \$49,999

\$100,000 and above

May we contact you about leaving a legacy to MMDTC in your estate?  Yes  No

## **YOUR WORK HISTORY INFORMATION:**

Retired:  Yes  No

Please list the work you would like included next to your name in the member directory. This will inform Community members that they can hire you to perform this work.

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Please list any work experience or hobbies that you would like to share with Community for volunteering or mentoring purposes.

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## **VOLUNTEER INFORMATION:**

Do you or your family members currently volunteer?  Yes  No

If yes, where do you volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

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What type of volunteer work do you currently perform? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have any storage space available that you would be willing to let the Tribal Council use free-of-charge? (For example, a place to store event equipment.)

Yes  No

When thinking about volunteering for MMDTC please consider the following areas: computer work, bookkeeping, newsletter, cleaning, organizing, committees, fundraising, phone calling for special events, mailings, etc.

Please check the number of hours *per month* you are willing to volunteer for MMDTC.

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## From Home

- 8 hours
- 6 hours
- 4 hours
- 2 hours
- 1 hour

## Onsite

- 8 hours
- 5 hours
- 4 hours
- 2 hours
- 1 hour

Select all the areas below that interest you for volunteering. If you have other ideas or suggestions, please list them below.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bookkeeping      | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning         | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailings       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committees       | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Work    | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising      | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone tree     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Press releases   | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Issues   |

Additional ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a spirit name?  Yes  No If Yes please write it: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been in an Inipi or sweat?  Yes  No

Have you ever Sundance yourself?  Yes  No

Have you gone to a Sundance to support a Sundancer?  Yes  No

Over the past 24 years we have spent many thousands of volunteer hours fighting for the preservation of sites sacred to the Dakota people. We have brought Dakota ceremonies, language,

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and culture back to the birthplace of the Mendota Dakota Nation. Mendota is not a reservation as far as the BIA believes. The Mendota community feels we are a reservation. Our family's elders have told us for years that we are a reservation.

Mendota and other Dakota people believe Pike Island is the center of the earth.

We have visited schools and cultural organizations throughout the Twin Cities area to educate our neighbors about the true story of the Mendota and other Dakota People in Minnesota to promote acceptance and healing between our people and the general public.

Dakota people have been so traumatized over what has happened to their ancestors. Even today Native people are traumatized.

We brought together once again the scattered descendants of the Mdewakanton band of Dakota people who once thrived in the Mendota area. We have bridged the gap between Indian and non-Indian communities. Our commitment to sustaining Dakota language and culture is our organizations driving force. Our programs and events are open to the public. We encourage all people to learn and participate in our activities. We collaborated with tribal communities, cities, counties, state governments, and also grass-root organizations on issues and initiatives that pertain to and affect Dakota and other Native peoples.

Consistent with our mission, our programs and our activities, focus on the preservation of Dakota heritage, culture, our descendants.

Here are some examples of our past accomplishments and projects:

- Mendota has Initiated and hosted the annual remembrance ceremony for 22 years to honor the Dakota ancestors, who were interred in the Fort Snelling concentration camp after the 1862 Dakota Conflict.
- Starting our biweekly Dakota language classes free of charge and open to the public.
- Starting our biweekly monthly traditional craft classes free of charge and open to the public.
- Starting our biweekly monthly Cultural Class.
- How to make our traditional frybread with a group of 10 people or more. Watch for emails or look on our website for more details.
- We have participating in an annual traditional Sugar Bush Camp from time to time.
- Exercising Treaty rights, such as pass and re-pass rights at Camp Coldwater and fishing rights under the 1805 Treaty.
- Partnering with the Pilot Knob Preservation Association to protect a historical site from being developed into a commercial office-building complex. Promotion initiatives also provide the foundation for improved relationships with our non-Dakota relatives.
- Educational Outreach to local schools to share the Dakota culture, crafts, regalia, and artifacts.
- Maintaining a website for the MMDTC providing historical and cultural information to visitors we work collaboratively with tribal, city, county and state governments, Native and non-Native

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non-profits, and grass root organizations on issues and initiatives that pertain to and affect Dakota and other Native peoples.

- Working with the Preserve Camp Coldwater Coalition to protect a site that is sacred to Dakota people and of cultural significance to the people of Minnesota.
- Partnering with the Pilot Knob Preservation Association to protect an historical site from being developed into a commercial office-building complex.
- Collaborating with the University of Minnesota on several native-related projects.
- Teaming up with the City of Mendota and the Mendota VFW in organizing the Mendota Days community celebration.
- Working with both the MNHS and MDHS to help us get the truth told about our Mendota history.
- Collaborating with (Friends of the Sibley Site).
- The MNHS lets us use the Dupuis House for our meetings.
- The Dupuis House is the ancestral home of many Mendota families.
- Work with the Ospaye (a.k.a. Friends of the Friendly), a group of people ineligible to be MMDTC members who are dedicated to supporting MMDTC and its efforts.
- We will continue to fight for our Treaty Rights with the Federal Government.
- Collaborating with St. Thomas College, we will have students helping us do research for our history and federal recognition for the bureau of federal acknowledgement.

We are here to play an important spiritual and cultural role for all people who live in this land of our ancestors. Please help us to continue. Pidamaya! (Thank you)

**BE DAKOTA EVERYDAY!!!**

**Your Tribal Council**

Sharon Lennartson Chairwoman, (Good Thunder Woman) John LeClaire Vicechair, Greg Strandmark Historian.