



24th Annual Fort Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run Visits Crazy Horse Memorial®

"The Youth gain a strong connection to the sacrifice of their ancestors. The run instills in them a sense of pride, greater self-esteem, a deeper respect for their identity, sincere appreciation and connection to their homeland and to value life." Yellowbird Life Ways

Yellow Bird, is a non-profit organization, founded by Phillip Whiteman, Jr. Northern Cheyenne Traditional Chief and Lynette Two Bulls, Oglala Lakota who is also the Executive Director, located on Northern Cheyenne Homelands in Southeastern Montana.

The United States Army outpost of Camp Robinson was established in 1874 in response to the necessity for a military presence near the Red Cloud Indian Agency, located at the time near the northwest Nebraska border. One of the original buildings at the Camp was a cavalry barracks erected in 1874. In 1878, the building was unoccupied and was available when Dull Knife's band of Cheyenne was brought to the fort.

In 1877, The Northern Cheyenne had been removed from their traditional lands to a reservation with their familial relatives, the Southern Cheyenne, to Indian Territory later to be known as Oklahoma. The following year, after suffering from scant or poor food and diseases, and after they were denied returning to the north, more than 350 Cheyenne decided to break away from the reservation led by Chiefs Dull Knife and Little Wolf. The group moved through Kansas and had several clashes with army troops, despite efforts to evade them. The Cheyenne continued north following the Union Pacific rail line in Nebraska.

The group split apart in an unnamed place in Nebraska. Little Wolf and his people wanted to continue moving north to join Lakota leader Sitting Bull in Canada and Dull Knife's group tried to seek refuge with Lakota Chief Red Cloud. Unknown to Dull Knife, Red Cloud and his people had been relocated into Dakota Territory, and only soldiers remained near the now unused Red Cloud agency. Dull Knife and his people were intercepted by soldiers on October 24, 1878 and escorted to Fort Robinson. A total of 149 were taken into military custody and confined to the barracks. All were free to come as go as they pleased, so long as they were present for roll call every night. Eventually, that would change as the soldiers were ordered to pressure Dull Knife's band to return to the southern reservation. To compel the Cheyenne to return to the Commanding Officer at the fort, they were denied food or fuel. By evening of January 9, 1879, a point of crisis for Dull Knife's people was reached. While some of the warriors in Dull Knife's band held off the soldiers, the remaining Cheyenne fled. Multiple engagements between the soldiers and the Cheyenne left only 64 who made it to their refuge with Red Cloud.

For the last 23 years and again this year, the Annual Fort Robinson Outbreak Spiritual 400 mile Run is held January 8-14th. The Run began with only 14 runners and has now grown to 80-100 youth. The Fort Robinson Outbreak commemoration requires many dedicated volunteers as the youth journeys from Nebraska to Montana in subzero temperatures.

This year, the 24th Annual Fort Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run will be dedicated to the Cheyenne language, which is their connection to their Way of Life. The 2019 Run was dedicated to the year of Indigenous Languages declared by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The runners will make a stop at Crazy Horse Memorial to have hosted lunch on January 11th and will then move on to Deadwood to the Montana state line.

"We are honored to be a part of this remembrance run of the Cheyenne people" said Jadwiga Ziolkowski, daughter of Sculptor and Mrs. Korczak Ziolkowski.

