

The Sand Creek Massacre Spiritual Healing Run/Walk November 24-27, 2016

Cheyenne and Arapaho people will conduct the annual "Sand Creek Massacre Spiritual Healing Run/Walk" over the Thanksgiving holiday. The relay-run begins on Thanksgiving Day at the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in southeastern Colorado. We are invited to join them by running or walking the last 4 miles in Denver on the morning of Sunday, November 27. Cheyenne elder Otto Braided Hair reminds us: "It's not a race; it's a prayer."

Schedule:

Nov. 25, 9 am: Ceremony and Blessing of Runners at the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site

Nov. 24-26: Spiritual Healing Run Relay from Massacre Site to Denver

Nov. 27, 7-9 am: Sunrise honor ceremony at gravesite of Silas Soule, Riverside Cemetery, Denver

Nov. 27, 9-10 am: Spiritual Healing Run/Walk from Riverside Cemetery to State Capitol, Denver

Nov. 27, 10 am - Noon: Closing ceremony on Capitol steps

According to information from Karen Wilde, the National Parks Service staff liaison with the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, this year's Spiritual Healing Run will begin on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, around 9 am at the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. People who want to participate in the relay run should be there by 9 am. The event begins with prayers and ceremonies and blessings of the runners. It is important to be there for this if you plan to run the relay, between the Sand Creek Massacre Historic Site and Denver.

The last leg of the Spiritual Healing Run/Walk will be on Sunday, Nov. 27, in Denver. We will gather at Riverside Cemetery, where Silas Soule is buried. Silas Soule is the soldier who refused to participate in the massacre and reported it to the US Congress. He was shot and killed in Denver shortly after reporting it, and he's buried at Riverside Cemetery.

Gather at the Riverside Cemetery at 7 am. There will be prayers and honor songs. At (or a little before) 9 am, a police escort will accompany the runners, who will run about 3 miles to the corner of Arapaho and 15th St. If you join this leg of the run, just remember to follow behind the lead runner who carries an Eagle Staff. Don't run ahead of the Eagle Staff. Remember this is not a race, it's a collective prayer for healing. People may also choose to walk.

Groups can also gather at 15th and Arapahoe and be there to welcome the runners, who will arrive around 9 to 9:15 am. From this corner, everyone will walk behind the Eagle Staff to the

Capitol building (about 1 mile). At the Capitol, there will be speeches and prayers and honor songs. It will end before noon.

It would be great if Senior Young Friends as well as adults participate in the Denver events Sunday morning.

--Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee