



Center design is an ancient Nez Perce symbol called a whirlwind (Sa'plis). Other indigenous cultures use it as well. Its origin predates any similar symbol related to European history of the 1900's.

### History

The first Nez Perce Cultural Camp was held in August 2000. The concept was discussed for many years as a way to involve youth in a fun and educational gathering. An average of 100-110 students attend each year. This will be our **26th annual camp!** In 2020, we couldn't hold camp.

Again in 2026, we will benefit from participation of multiple partners, with lead coordination by the tribal Cultural Resources and Education departments. Additional support will come from NPTEC Youth Affairs Subcommittee, Nez Perce Local Education Program Fund, Nez Perce Circle of Elders, various private foundation grants, and other tribal and community sponsors and supporters.

### Mission Statement

To give youth a greater appreciation of the heritage of the Nez Perce people so they can continue the culture in the future. Overall, we want to increase the number of cultural bearers of the Nez Perce Way of Life (Nimiipuunewit), with special emphasis on Language.

The Cultural Camp appreciates the diversity and unique expression of culture that exists among the Nez Perce people, historically and today. We do our best to convey this to the students and promote respect for All Ways.



### Camp Sites

We will have 2 different sites. The older students will travel to Montana to Bear Paw and Flathead Lake. The younger students will stay at the Wallowa Lake Camp in Oregon. Traveling from the Nez Perce reservation in Idaho, gives the students an appreciation of the beauty, size, and diversity of terrain of the traditional tribal homeland and distribution of different bands of Nez Perce.

### CUT & RETURN THIS SECTION

#### Application Due Dates:

**Camp 1: Monday, 7/13, 4:30 p.m.**

**Camp 2: Friday, 7/31, 4:30 p.m.**

*Deadline is important so we can make the extensive arrangements for each youth. Late applications may be possible if accommodations are available.*

Turn application in: Education Services, Lapwai, ID, Mail: P.O. Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540

PH: (208) 621-4610

FAX: (208) 843-7387, Email: joycem@nezperce.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Ph No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### Required essay, turn in w/ application:

★ *The right to travel is in Treaty of 1855. Where did our ancestors travel? Where do you travel for cultural activities?*

★ *What are Nez Perce place names you know and why should we use Nez Perce place names today?*

Application is incomplete without essay.

#### Grade in Fall 2026:

\_\_\_\_\_ 4th \_\_\_\_\_ 5th \_\_\_\_\_ 6th \_\_\_\_\_ 7th

\_\_\_\_\_ 8th \_\_\_\_\_ 9th \_\_\_\_\_ 10th \_\_\_\_\_ 11th \_\_\_\_\_ 12th

#### T-shirt Size: Circle Size

Child: M LG

Adult: SM M LG XL XXL XXXL

#### Please list:

Medical Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Medications \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child need a medical release to participate?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No *If "yes," please provide a copy.*

**In case of an emergency contact:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Ph1 \_\_\_\_\_ Ph2 \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Ph1 \_\_\_\_\_ Ph2 \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

**RELEASE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, a minor, hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Nez Perce Tribe and members of each sponsor, from all claims, losses, expenses, fees, including all attorney fees, costs, and judgments that may be asserted against the sponsors as a result of the acts or omissions of the sponsors, its employees, representatives or agents, in the performance of their activity of transporting and chaperoning youth to the Nez Perce Cultural Camp in Montana (multiple sites) or Wallowa Lake, on July 20-23 or August 11-13, 2026. I give permission to the Cultural Camp staff to seek medical attention for my child and consent to necessary medical treatment if the emergency contacts listed or me cannot be immediately reached.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Student:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that while participating in the Nez Perce Cultural Camp, I will be expected to represent myself and my family with dignity and will respect others, including their property. I will not leave the company of the chaperones without asking first. I will follow the rules and expectations of the chaperones and be responsible to the group. I will take personal responsibility for my attitude and behavior.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



*A Memorable Experience  
As relates to Nez  
Perce culture:*

**Education:** Language, History, Legends, Customs, Leadership, Health, Wellness, etc.



**Enrichment:** Crafts, drumming, dancing, storytelling, etc.

**Recreation:** Swim, Basketball, Volleyball, GaGa Ball, Icebreakers, etc.




**Contact Person:**

**Joyce McFarland**  
Education Dept  
PO Box 365  
Lapwai, ID 83540  
PH: (208) 621-4610  
FAX: (208) 843-7387

# ACTIVITIES

**NOTIFICATION:**  
We will send letters to confirm registration and give more details about attending the camp.

**NEZ PERCE CULTURAL CAMP 2026**

**Montana (wk1) & Wallowa Lake (wk2)**

**First Camp:**  
July 20-23, 2026  
Entering grades 8-12

**Second Camp:**  
August 11-13, 2026  
Entering grades 4-7