

## UN TUWE PI (Who WE ARE)

Knife Chief Buffalo Nation Organization is a grass roots organization that is committed to caring for the members of the buffalo nation as relatives and learning from them



Hehaka Wankatuya Najin (Elk Stands High), Edward Iron Cloud, Sr., Grandson of Knife Chief

## Mila Yatan Pika Pte Oyate Okolakiciye (Knife Chief Buffalo Nation Organization)



Mila Yatan Pika (Knife Chief)

The buffalo that are in our care are used for sustenance as well as for ceremonial and spiritual purposes. The Wicasa Ihuni (becoming a man) and Isnati Awicalowanpi ("They Sing for Her that Lives Alone"—Womanhood Ceremony), and Sundance Ceremony are just a few of the ceremonies where the buffalo nation play an integral role. Our goal is restore a respectful and spiritual relationship that we once had with the buffalo nation so that our future generations can continue the ceremonies.



## Pte Oyate—Buffalo Nation As our Teachers

Historically, the Lakota people followed the buffalo herds for sustenance when they realized that the buffalo were going to the same places every year at the same time.



We soon realized that the buffalo were following a spiritual calendar

based on the constellations and what we know as Lakota Star Knowledge. For example, at the time of the Spring Equinox, the sun passes through the middle of the Seven Little Girls constellation and is the time when the Thunder beings return. The sun represents a fire, that when passing through the constellation, symbolizes lighting the sacred cannonpa (pipe) in the universe. When this happens this indicates to us that it is time for us to light our sacred pipes and welcome back the Wakinyan Oyate (Thunder beings)

## Learning and Applying

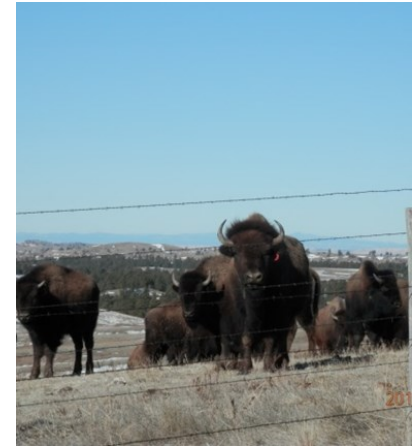
As we understand how much the Pte Oyate can teach us, we strive to apply these teachings. For example, the buffalo nation respect the earth and practice sustainability by tearing off the tops of the plants to eat and do not tear out the roots so that the plants can grow again. Health wise, they eat plants that have medicinal value, so when we eat the meat, we are actually eating medicine and understand the importance of a healthy diet, particularly with respect to the poor health conditions many of us experience.



## Sharing

There is so much more that we can learn from the Pte Oyate and as we apply the teachings, we understand the importance of sharing what we know and learn. If you would like to set up a training or workshop on the teachings from the Pte Oyate or related issues.,

contact us for more information. We can also arrange a tour of the buffalo pasture.



**Mila Yata Pika Pte Oyate  
(Knife Chief Buffalo Nation  
Organization)**

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