

Navajo Study-Away Engagement Experience Sample Schedule

March-April: During these months, students meet for five weeks before the engagement experience for three-hour, biweekly sessions to discuss videos and readings about Navajo history, culture, and spirituality and the Anasazi people of Chaco Canyon.

The following itinerary is a tentative list of activities included in the Navajo Engagement Experience. This schedule is subject to change before and throughout the engagement experience.

- **Sunday, Week 1: Leave Bowling Green at 7:00 am**
- **Monday – Tuesday, Week 1:** Camp at **Chaco Canyon, NM**, a spiritual center of southwestern Native Americans from 1000 -1300 AD. Hike trails overlooking ancient ruins. Explore the visitors' center to learn more about the sophisticated ancient civilizations of Native America.
- **Tuesday – Thursday, Week 1:** Camp at a **Lutheran Mission**. Learn about the culture and politics of a typical isolated community on the reservation. Discuss the relationship between Christianity and Navajo spiritual beliefs.
 - o Visit a **Navajo cultural immersion school**, where children are taught in the native Diné language. Talk to administrators and teachers about the Navajo educational system and philosophy.
 - o Visit the **Navajo Museum in Window Rock**, the capital of the Navajo Nation.
 - o Visit a **Navajo adult education class**, interacting with individuals pursuing their GEDs.
- **Friday, Week 1 – Sunday, Week 2:** Camp in Pine Springs, AZ, at the home of **Francis and June Burnside**, traditional Navajo healers and active community members. Experience Navajo spirituality and lifestyle in nightly **talking circles** and a **sweat lodge ceremony**. Participate in **cultural demonstrations** by Navajo community members.
 - o Visit a **Navajo Trading Post** to see traditional Navajo artistry.
 - o Visit **NCI**, an alcohol treatment program in Gallup that utilizes Navajo cultural practices to treat alcoholism.
- **Monday – Tuesday, Week 2:** Hike down into **Canyon DeChelly** and camp by **Spider Rock**, a very holy place in Navajo culture.
- **Tuesday, Week 2:** Visit **Judge Carol Perry in Raman, NM**. Learn about the Navajo judicial system and the importance of storytelling and the clan system in Navajo culture.
- **Wednesday – Friday, Week 2:** Camp on **Ghost Ranch, AZ**, a retreat center off the reservation. Engage in self-directed activities throughout this reflective period, including sightseeing and hiking. A library, museums, showers, and a labyrinth are available here. Participate in evening talking circles, sharing reactions to the engagement experience with other students.
- **Friday, Week 2:** Visit a **flea market in Santa Fe**, experiencing local art and economic systems. Begin **return trip** to Bowling Green.
- **Saturday, Week 2: Arrive back in Bowling Green between 2 to 3 PM**