

BLACKFEET INDIAN RESERVATION

Blackfeet (Amskapi – Pikuni)

Tribal Seal Description: The Blackfeet seal was created in 1980. “The Blackfeet Media Department sponsored a contest for the design. A panel of judges consisting of artists, elders, and community members chose it.

The design is black and white on blue sky. A multitude of single eagle feathers creates a circle. Inside the circle is the current land base of the Blackfeet Nation. . . Colors and design represent the earth, the cosmos, the elements, the plants and the animals, as well as the people.

The circle represents the cycle of life. The many feathers equate to the bands of the numerous Blackfeet are arranged in a circle, like life. The sun rises in the East and circles to the West. The moon rises and sets in this circular motion, as does the cosmos. Blackfeet people pitch the lodges with the doors to the East, knowing that they start life with the circle in mind.

The feathers represent the majesty and mysticism of the eagle. Eagle feathers represent long life, energy, power, and accomplishment or coup.”

[The war bonnet was to be changed to a Blackfeet-style, straight-up war bonnet; however, the creator of the seal, Lawrence Tailfeathers, passed away before he had a chance to change the drawing.]

Tribal Website: <http://tribalnations.mt.gov/blackfeet>
(At present there is not a Blackfeet Tribal Nation website.)

Blackfeet Timeline: <http://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/Page%20Files/Indian%20Education/Social%20Studies/K-12%20Resources/BlackfeetTimeline.pdf>

