

## CROW INDIAN RESERVATION

### Crow (Apsáalooke)

**Tribal Seal Description:** “The Crow Cultural Commission designed the Crow tribal emblem [tribal seal] and flag and the graphic illustration were designed by Lawrence Big Hair. The emblem on the flag [which is the tribal seal] is encircled. This represents the Path of All Things. There is the sun and its rays. These represent the clans of the Crow.

Three mountains are depicted. They are the three mountains on the present day Crow Reservation: the Wolf Teeth, the Pryor and the Big Horn Mountains. They are considered sacred by the Crow. The two rivers depicted are the Big Big Horn and the Little Big Horn Rivers.

The tipi is white because it represents purity and goodness. The tipi has the foundational structure of the four base poles. They represent the never ending Cycle of the Seasons. The tipi has the two ventilator flap poles. They are the sentries that watch over the home: the Coyote by day and the Owl at night. The tipi is anchored by stakes, which were gifts from the badger who said the stakes have the strength of his claws when they are imbedded in the ground. The tipi is flanked by the two war bonnets, representing the Crow clan system.

The Crow belief system has four major foundations, and each is represented on the emblem: the clan system, the sweat lodge, the sacred tobacco bundle, and the pipe. The tipi on the emblem represents the white tipi given to Yellow Leggings by White Owl.

The sweat lodge is a gift from the Creator since the beginning of the Crow. The sacred tobacco bundle represents the foundation of the religion of the Crow. The pipe is the spiritual gift from the Seven Sacred Buffalo Bulls and Buffalo Woman. When the pipe is lit, the mind is to be filled with good, pure thoughts and peace.”

**Tribal Website:** <http://www.crow-nsn.gov/>

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



**Crow Girls.** N.A. Forsyth, Photographer. ST001.338. Courtesy of the Montana Historical Society Research Center Photograph Archives, Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.”