

ROCKY BOY'S RESERVATION

Chippewa – Ojibwe, Cree – Ne-i-yah-wahk

Tribal Seal Description: “The Chippewa and Cree have come from two nations of the American continent. Each tribe has come together to form the present day Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation. The picture of this seal represents the circle of life on the Rocky Boy’s Reservation. Baldy Butte is the sacred mountain of the tribe. The sun represents life rising from the east. Also, the sun’s rays represent the fifteen Sacred Grass Dance Chiefs who are active in preserving the culture of the Chippewa Cree Tribe. The sun also represents the Sacred Grass Dance Drum of the tribe.

The Sacred Four Bodies text under the sun represents good health and good fortune for the tribe, so that they can prosper in education. Tribal customs and traditions are integrated into each of the schools on the Rocky Boy’s Reservation. The eagle represents strength, wisdom, bravery, and honor, all elements conceived from the bird that represents the thunder and lightning of the sacred sky.

The buffalo, a source of food and shelter for the tribe for many years, is also a sacred animal representing the source of life and a Sundance element. Bear paw tracks represent the Bear Paw Mountains where the Chippewa Cree now make their present home. Also, the bear is a sacred animal of the tribe.

The tipi is where all values and customs are derived from as well as the life and traditions the Chippewa Cree have always held. The sacred pipes were held by the last official chiefs of the Chippewa and Cree, Chief Rocky Boy and Chief Little Bear. The braid of sweet grass is an element of communication to the Creator and the Spirits. The nine eagle feathers represent the nine elected chiefs of the Chippewa Cree Business Committee.



In conclusion, these elements of the Great Seal are formed together to represent the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation of Montana, in values, traditions, and customs, so greatly valued by the Chippewa Cree People. (As told by Lloyd Top Sky, 1991)”

Tribal Website: <http://www.chippewacree.org>

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

Baptiste Samatt, also known as Dressed In White. Photo circa 1940s, Rocky Boy, Montana

Courtesy of the Montana Historical Society