LOWER BRULÉ SIOUX

The Kul Wicasa, or Lower Brulé, form part of the Sicangu Band of the Teton Sioux. Their lands were one of six reservations established by the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 [see Rosebud Sioux, Standing Rock Sioux, Oglala Sioux, Crow Creek Sioux, and Cheyenne River Sioux]. The Lower Brulé reservation originally encompassed some 446,500 acres, but has been reduced to 139,000 acres (NAA, 284).

Approximately 95% of the Kul Wicasa live around the community of Lower Brulé on the southern shore of the Missouri River. The Lower Brulé became administratively distinct in 1971 when the Crow Creek Reservation separated from it. They had been a single administrative unit since 1883 (Presenting the Lower Brulé Sioux, Pierre, n.d.).

The flag of the Lower Brulé is sky-blue with the tribal seal in the center. As on most Sioux tribal flags, the tepee occupies a key place in the seal: for the Lower Brulé a black and white tepee with red trim appears on an outstretched buffalo hide of light tan. This device appears on a sky-blue background. Both symbols recall the great days of the Sioux people as the masters of the northern plains, living in tepees and following the enormous herds of buffalo. A sky-blue band, edged in red on both sides, rings the seal, with “LOWER BRULÉ SIOUX TRIBE” across the top and “LOWER BRULÉ, SOUTH DAKOTA” across the bottom, all in red.

[Thanks to the staff at the United Sioux Tribes for a photo of the flag of the Lower Brulé Sioux.]