

# NORTH GEORGIA CANOPY TOURS

## **Campsite Information: The Cherokee Indians**

### **Wolf Clan – Red Region**

The **Wolf Clan** (Aniwaya) was the largest and most prominent clan - providing most of the war chiefs. This clan was known for being protectors of the people. They were keepers and trackers of the wolf and the only clan who could kill a wolf during special ceremonies. They had the responsibility to gather, develop, maintain, and teach the other members of the clan about protecting the environment and the wolf's habitat. Their Clan color is red and their wood is Hickory.

### **Hickory Teepee**

The Hickory Teepee sleeps 10 people on twin bunk beds. Linens are not provided for this teepee. Located closest to the facilities and fire pit, this is a great choice for groups.

The Wolf Clan used the Hickory tree as their symbol. The Cherokee mixed the nuts of the hickory with cold water to make a rich, nourishing drink. The meat from the hickory nuts were pounded and boiled. Skimming the surface of the boiled nuts provided the Cherokee with butter. The bark was also used to weave baskets and make archery bows. Smoke from burning green hickory wood added flavor to the meat. The Hickory Teepee has a hickory branch painted around the opening of the teepee and a wolf painted on the backside of the teepee.

### **Panther Clan – Blue Region**

The **Panther or Wild Cat Clan** (Anisahoni) were also called the Blue Holly Clan in some regions. Members of this clan were able to make special medicines for children and were caretakers of medicinal herb gardens. They became known for a medicine from a bluish colored plant called a blue holly. In addition to teaching the preparation of herbs for food and medicinal purposes, their responsibilities included teaching the members about the panther's habitat. Their color is blue and their wood is Ash.

### **Bobcat Campsite**

The Bobcat rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 2 to 4. Located closest to the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option most convenient.

The Panther Clan identified with the Bobcat (*Felis rufus*) as they shared characteristics: clear vision in darkness, vigilance, suspicion and the ability to survive in solitude. The Cherokee used the bobcat hide for blankets and clothing. Bobcats are found throughout most of the United States with the highest population located in the far western states.

### **Blue Holly Campsite**

The Blue Holly rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 2 to 4. Located closest to the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option most convenient.

The Panther Clan's alternative name was Blue Holly. The Cherokee named the Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) the "Blue Holly Tree" referring to the blue/black drink made from the tree. The drink, high in caffeine, was prepared and consumed during purification and renewal moon ceremonies.

### **Ash Teepee (coming soon!)**

The Panther Clan used the Ash tree as their symbol and for medicinal purposes. Almost every part of the Ash tree was used by the Cherokee to serve healthcare needs. The sap treated external cancerous growths, leaf extract was used as an antiseptic after childbirth. Tea from the bark treated itching scalps and skin. Even the seeds were used as an aphrodisiac.

### **Wind Clan – Yellow Region**

The **Wind Clan** (Anigilohi) was also known as the Long Hair Clan, Twister Clan, Hanging Down Clan, and Offended Clan. This Clan represented night and day and was an ancient warrior women's society. Those belonging to this Clan wore their hair in elaborate hairdos and walked in a proud and vain manner twisting their shoulders. They were teachers and keepers of tradition. Peace chiefs usually came from this clan and wore a white feather robe. Prisoners of war, orphans of other tribes, and those that were not part of a Cherokee tribe were often adopted by this clan. The Clan color is yellow and their wood is Beech.

## **Beech Teepee**

The Beech Teepee sleeps 10 people on twin bunk beds. Linens are not provided for this teepee. Located close to the facilities and fire pit, this is a great choice for groups.

The Wind Clan used the Beech tree as their symbol. They ate the spiny nuts from the Beech tree which were gathered during the fall season. These nuts were rich in protein. The bark was used to make a tea to purge the body of parasites. The bark when steeped in salt water would create a lotion that soothed the itch of poison ivy. You can see an American Beech tree on the canopy tour Grant trail.

## **Day and Night Teepee**

The Day and Night Teepee is suitable for a family with 1 queen and a twin/full bunkbed which sleeps up to 5. Linens are provided. Located close to the facilities and fire pit makes this a convenient camping option.

The Wind Clan believed the world was created during the autumn New Moon. They worshiped the sun and prayed for abundant crops. Religious ceremonies were held during the New Moon. Smoke from fire was believed to be the messenger of requests of the Cherokee to the sun.

## **Shaman Campsite**

The Shaman rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 2 to 4. Located closest to the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option most convenient.

The Shaman of the Wind Clan were the medical practitioners. Color was symbolic to the Shaman:

East = red = success and triumph

North = blue = defeat and trouble

West = black = death

South = white = peace and happiness

It is interesting to note, the teepee openings at North Georgia Canopy Tours™ face the southeastern sky!

## **Long Hair Campsite**

The Long Hair rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 6 to 8. Located close to the facilities and fire pit makes this a convenient rustic camping option.

The Long Hair members of the Wind Clan were the Cherokee who did not shave their heads for warfare and were devoted to making peace. This clan was also referred to as the "Stranger Clan" as runaways and escaped captives would be adopted by this clan.

### White Feather Campsite

The White Feather rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 2 to 4. Located closest to the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option most convenient.

The Peace Chief wore a robe of white feathers and wielded significant influence with the Cherokee. Only in the Wind Clan could a member who was not 100% Cherokee become Chief.

### Bear Clan – Green Region

The **Bear Clan** (Anigatogewi) was also known as the Wild Potato Clan or Raccoon Clan in different regions. This clan was historically known for their farming and gathering of the wild potato plants along streams and swamps, which they used to make flour and bread for food. A legend from this clan describes a boy who preferred the food from the forest over the beans and corn from his village. After many days without eating human food the boy grew hair all over his body and turned into a bear. He eventually persuaded his parents to stop eating human food and they also became bears. The bear family lived happily in the forest together. Most Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*) live in Georgia's remote forests: the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Okefenokee Swamp. The Clan color is green and their wood is Birch.

### Dream Catcher Teepee

The Dream Catcher Teepee is suitable for a family with 1 queen and a twin/full bunkbed which sleeps up to 5. Linens are provided. Located close to the facilities and fire pit makes this a convenient camping option.

The Bear Clan believed dreams were an avenue in which the spiritual powers revealed medical issues. They also believed that dreams were signs of a struggle of the spirits determining whether a person would live a long life.

## **River Birch Teepee (Coming Soon)**

The Bear Clan used the River Birch tree as their symbol. They would chew the leaves of the River Birch as it would help relieve symptoms of dysentery (intestinal infection). The leaves were also brewed to make a tea to help soothe the symptoms of the common cold.

## **Wild Potato Campsite**

The Wild Potato rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 2 to 4. Located away from the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option one of the more secluded.

The Bear Clan was known as the keepers and protectors of the earth. They were farmers and gatherers of wild potato plants usually located along swamps and streams. The wild potato plants were ground into flour to make bread which was a staple for the Cherokee. Wild Potato plants a/k/a Big Root Morning Glory (*Ipomoea pandurata*), blooms June through September and can be found on the North Georgia Canopy Tours™ property along the North Oconee River.

## **Raccoon Campsite**

The Raccoon rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 2 to 4. Located away from the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option one of the more secluded.

The Bear Clan used raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) skin for ceremonial purposes. It was customary for a raccoon skin to adorn a drum. The Cherokee had a "Raccoon Dance" depicting the capture of a raccoon from a tree. The word raccoon comes from an American Indian word 'araughcoune' meaning "he who scratches with his hands."

## **Mortar and Pestle Campsite**

The Mortar and Pestle rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 2 to 4. Located away from the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option one of the more secluded.

The Cherokee ground corn and sweet potato into a meal or flour using a mortar and pestle. A mortar is a bowl often made from wood, ceramic or stone. A pestle is a heavy tool shaped like a small baseball bat which would aid in grinding ("smashing") the objects in the bowl. North Georgia Canopy Tours™ has on display in the Canopy Command Center a mortar from the area.

## **Nature Nurturer Campsite**

The Nature Nurturer rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 2 to 4. Located a short distance from the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option convenient.

The Cherokee maintained a strong respect for the environment. They hunted, farmed and gathered food from the earth. The Cherokee depended heavily on herbal remedies from the local plants. During the hikes on the canopy tour you walk past many plants used by the Cherokees for a variety of purposes.

## **Stomp Campsite**

The Stomp rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 2 to 4. Located a short distance from the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option convenient.

The Cherokee's most significant dance was The Stomp Dance. Cherokee danced for either social or religious/ceremonial occasions. The Stomp dance was always preceded by a game of stickball (Lacrosse) and was usually performed during the Green Corn Ceremony celebrating the harvest of corn in September.

## **Buffalo Clan – Brown Region**

The **Buffalo Clan** (Anikawi) was also known as the Deer Clan. Deer hunters, trackers, tanners and seamers, as well as keepers of the deer medicines were members of this clan. Even though they hunted game for sustenance, they respected and cared for animals. They were also known as fast runners and foot messengers delivering messages from village to village. The Cherokee wrapped their new born in different animal skin: male infants were wrapped in cougar skins while females were wrapped in deer or buffalo skins. The Cherokee created the game of Stick Ball which later became known as Lacrosse. The game has a spiritual aspect which involves magical battles between shamans who use rituals and ceremonies to gain advantage. The Clan color is brown and their wood is Oak.

## **Oak Teepee**

The Oak Teepee is suitable for a family with 1 queen and a twin/full bunkbed which sleeps up to 5. Linens are provided. Located away from the facilities and fire pit makes this teepee one of the more secluded.

The Buffalo Clan used the Oak tree as their symbol. They used the Oak wood for furniture, construction of homes, canoes, mortars and other tools. The bark of the White Oak contains Tannin which was used to provide relief to pain and itching from insect bites. The bark was also brewed for those suffering from heart conditions. The canopy tour has multiple ziplines connected to Oak trees. Some of the tables and benches in the Canopy Command Center are made from Red Oak from the property.

### **Deer Teepee**

The Deer Teepee is suitable for a couple with a queen bed which sleeps 2. Linens are provided. Located away from the facilities and fire pit makes this teepee one of the more secluded.

The Buffalo Clan members were the deer hunters, trackers, tanners and seamers. The women of this clan often adopted fawns and raised them as pets. Many participants of North Georgia Canopy Tours™ have seen deer on the property while zipping!

### **Peace Teepee**

The Peace Teepee is suitable for a family with 1 queen and a twin/full bunkbed which sleeps up to 5. Linens are provided. Located away from the facilities and fire pit makes this teepee one of the more secluded.

"Nvwadohiyadv" pronounced 'nuh wah doe hee yaw duh' is the word for Peace in Cherokee. Legends describe animal spirits of the Cherokee became displeased with the increased fighting after many years of peace and suggested picking up the Pipe of Peace instead of weapons for war.

### **Rattle Campsite (Coming Soon)**

The Cherokee would use rattles (noise makers) when dancing. During the Stomp Dance, male leaders would often carry an handheld turtle shell rattle. Other rattles were made from gourds containing beans, corn kernels or pebbles. The gourds were attached to handles and decorated with feathers or rattlesnake rattles. Women would tie rattles just below their knee during a dance to create a rhythmic accompaniment. Georgia has six venomous snakes: Copperhead, Cottonmouth/Water Moccasin, Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake, Canebrake/Timber Rattlesnake, Pigmy Rattlesnake, and the Coral snake. Only the Copperhead and Canebrake/Timber Rattlesnake are found in Northeast Georgia.

## **Messenger Campsite (Coming Soon)**

The Buffalo Clan members were the fast runners and foot messengers who were commissioned to deliver important information to other clan leaders and villages. The messengers were some of the most trusted members in the clan.

## **Moccasin Campsite**

The Moccasin rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 4 to 6. Located away from the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option one of the more secluded.

The clothing of Native Americans varied among clans. One item of clothing which was universal was the moccasin. Although universal, one could often identify one's clan affiliation by the design of their moccasins.

## **Stick Ball Campsite**

The Stick Ball rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 2 to 4. Located away from the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option one of the more secluded.

The Bear Clan was known for their maintenance of sports and sports equipment. The Cherokee created the game of Stick Ball which later became known as Lacrosse. Stick Ball aided in community social cohesion, an occasion for laying some wagers and as a way to practice for battle with other villages. Many of the ceremonial aspects of the game are similar to those found in high impact and high pain tolerant sports such as rugby or football. The men played with a pair of sticks and the females played with their bare hands. Scoring: 7 points were earned when the ball strikes a wooden fish on the top of a 25 foot high pole, 2 points were earned when the ball strikes the pole.

## **Rawhide Campsite**

The Rawhide rustic campsite is suitable for a tent which sleeps 2 to 4. Located away from the facilities and fire pit makes this rustic camping option one of the more secluded.

Rawhide is made from animal skin. The Cherokee used buffalo, deer and raccoon skin which had not been tanned for a variety of uses. Not only were moccasins, weapons and tool handles made with rawhide, but rawhide was also used for ornamental decorations on drum heads, stick ball sticks, pipes, and bows and arrows.



### **Red Paint Clan (Coming Soon) – White Region**

The **Red (War) Paint Clan** (Aniwodi) were the only ones allowed to make a special red paint and dye used for warfare and ceremonial purposes. The Cherokee shaman, medicine men, and wise men traditionally came from this clan. When the Cherokees waged war, the Priest brought along several sacred objects, medicinal herbs, and a coal from the Sacred Fire – the 'soul' of the Cherokee. This Clan was the smallest and most secretive of the groups. Their responsibilities included teaching the knowledge of life, birth, and death. They also taught the ceremonies and tools of second sight and keeping things hidden. Clan members kept sacred quartz crystals in a special otter or deer skin pouch tied around their necks. The crystals were used by Priests to determine guilt in very tough murder cases. The Clan color is white and their wood is Locust.