



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **WanderNebraska 2025: Expanded Travel Adventure Program Showcases Over 210 Historical and Cultural Sites Across Nebraska**

LINCOLN, Nebr. (May 1, 2025) – The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) officially kicked off the 2025 WanderNebraska Travel Adventure Program today.

WanderNebraska was created to promote the work of local museums, historical societies, and libraries, while increasing awareness of the fascinating historical and cultural sites found along Nebraska’s scenic backroads and in communities often overlooked by typical tourists.

Running from May 1 to September 30, this year’s program features more than 210 locations across Nebraska — including over 50 new sites added for 2025. Visitors can order their free WanderNebraska booklet through the [NSHSF website](https://www.nshsf.org). The booklet provides details about each destination, a map outlining seven regional areas, and tools to help travelers plan their road trips.

The [WanderNebraska.com](https://www.WanderNebraska.com) website also offers expanded features including site descriptions, a Google map for navigation, information on upcoming events, and recommendations for nearby WanderNebraska sites. Members of the media are encouraged to visit [WanderNebraska.com](https://www.WanderNebraska.com) to explore featured locations near their coverage area and highlight the unique historical sites within their own communities.

A few of the featured 2025 sites include:

- **Boswell Observatory (Doane Campus, Crete)** – Built in 1883, Boswell is the oldest extant operating observatory west of the Missouri River and was home to Nebraska’s first Signal Service Office (now the National Weather Service) from 1884 to 1894. The observatory houses 19th- and early 20th-century scientific instruments related to astronomy, weather recording, timekeeping, and surveying.

- **Historic Oshkosh Water Tower (Oshkosh)** – The first and only water tower in Nebraska listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The plaza beneath the tower features commemorative bricks that tell the story of Garden County’s pioneering spirit.
- **Little House Museum (Stratton)** – Located inside a historic home in Pitner Park, the museum preserves local history, including the Bailey Cabin, Stratton’s first cabin, which was relocated to the museum site in 2012.
- **Historic Bryant House (Tekamah)** – Built in 1854 by Colonel Benjamin R. Folsom, the founder of Tekamah, this Victorian-era home is filled with memories from generations of the Bryant family and offers visitors a glimpse into Nebraska’s early settlement days.

The kickoff of the 2025 WanderNebraska program aligns with [National Travel and Tourism Week](#) (May 4–10), a tradition established in 1983 to celebrate the U.S. travel industry's role in driving economic growth, creating jobs, and enriching communities. Through WanderNebraska, NSHSF proudly highlights the importance of travel in supporting Nebraska’s smaller towns and unique destinations.

“Our small towns and local museums are the heart and soul of Nebraska,” said Leslie Fattig, Executive Director, NSHSF. “WanderNebraska gives travelers a chance to explore the rich, authentic stories of our state — stories that you simply can’t find along the interstate. Every site has something special to offer.”

The 2025 program also brings back prizes for adventurous travelers. Participants can register their visits either online or by mailing in the map from their booklet. Prizes include WanderNebraska-branded koozies, T-shirts, socks, car shades, and a special gift package awarded to the Top 5 most active travelers.

Additionally, NSHSF is continuing the popular [WanderNebraska Adventure Tours](#) led by historian Dr. Sara Crook. These engaging, historically focused tours offer a deeper dive into Nebraska’s past and will be announced on NSHSF’s social media channels and website.

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### **About the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation**

Now in its 83rd year, the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation raises money in support of the cause of history, including projects of the Nebraska State Historical Society, a state agency. The Foundation solicits funds and support from individuals and organizations across the state and beyond, who value Nebraska's unique heritage and who wish to play a personal role in ensuring that Nebraska's history will be accessible to future generations.

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