

Historical Connections

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION



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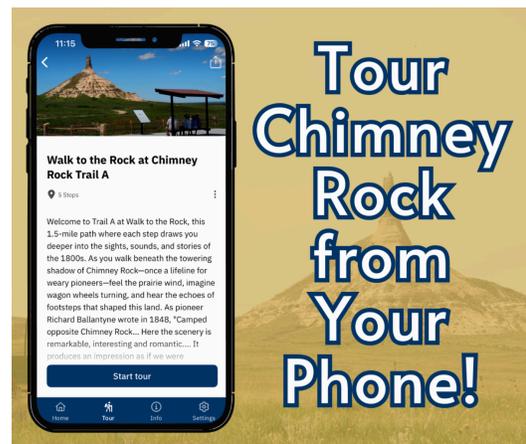
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Take a Walk to the Rock—Now with a New Mobile App!



NEW!
Walk to
the Rock
Tour App



**Tour
Chimney
Rock
from
Your
Phone!**



The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is excited to share a new way to experience the trails at Chimney Rock. Our new mobile app, Walk to the Rock, brings history to life as you explore the path leading to one of Nebraska's most iconic landmarks.

Developed in partnership with STQRY and funded through a grant from the Scotts Bluff Visitors Bureau, the app uses stories, photos, and audio to guide you along the trail, offering a peek into the lives, challenges, and dreams of the pioneers who once passed this way.

We invite you to experience Chimney Rock in a new way. Download it for free today on Google Play or the Apple App Store and start your adventure to the Rock!





Put your local history on the map with WanderNebraska!

Applications are now open for Nebraska museums, historical organizations, libraries, and landmarks to take part in this year's statewide travel program. Selected sites will be featured in WanderNebraska's print and digital guidebooks and showcased on the WanderNebraska website inviting travelers from across the state (and beyond) to discover and explore your story. Contact the [Foundation](#) for more information.



Inaugural Cottonwood Society Luncheon



We are excited to welcome members of the Mammoth Level and Cottonwood Legacy Council to the inaugural Cottonwood Society Luncheon, taking place Friday, January 23, at noon at the historic [Joslyn Castle](#).

This special gathering offers members an exclusive, behind-the-scenes experience, including a private tour of the Jens Jensen Conservatory—a remarkable space not typically open to the public. Attendees will hear directly from Amy Richardson, Executive Director of Joslyn Castle, who will share the conservatory's history and provide insight into the ambitious restoration project planned for 2026.

Cottonwood members will also have the opportunity to explore the historic home and engage with Castle staff throughout the visit. A light luncheon will be served, creating a relaxed and meaningful setting to connect with fellow supporters who share a deep commitment to preserving Nebraska's heritage.



1st Day Bird Walk at Chimney Rock





The new year kicked off with a brisk and memorable 1st Day Bird Walk at Chimney Rock, hosted by Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. Despite the cold temperatures and a steady winter breeze, four dedicated birders from Scotts Bluff County joined the morning stroll along Trail A.

Participants spotted a variety of birds along the walk, including a Northern Shrike, Prairie Falcon, White-crowned Sparrows, and Mourning Doves. As luck would have it, the highlight came after the walk wrapped up when two Bald Eagles appeared, soaring in front of the south hill and circling Chimney Rock itself.

Following the walk, visitors from Brazil stopped by the patio for a quick photo, adding an international touch to the morning. Hot cocoa and tea helped everyone warm up, and binoculars and field guides were available throughout the event.

More bird walks are planned for later this year, with a likely return in May when migrating birds begin to make their way back into the area.



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