

Historical Connections

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION



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The WanderNebraska Launch is Finally Here!



It's a very exciting time as the 2026 WanderNebraska Travel Adventure program launches tomorrow, May 1! This year, participants are invited to explore 254 unique sites across Nebraska showcasing the rich history, culture and stories that define our communities.

In celebration of America's 250th Anniversary, we're partnering with Nebraska Game & Parks to highlight 50 WanderNebraska sites as special [Your Parks Adventure "Trail Trek" locations](#). These selected partnership sites highlight both the natural beauty and historical significance of our state.

This year brings an exciting new way to experience WanderNebraska: Our new WanderNebraska app is available for **FREE** on Google Play and the Apple App Store. The app makes it easy to search and filter sites, map out site locations, get site-specific information and record your visits.

Also - Don't forget to follow our NEW WanderNebraska social media channels to stay up-to-date with all things WanderNebraska throughout the season. Find us at @wandernebraska on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Tiktok!](#)

The WanderNebraska program runs from May 1 through September 30. Please join us in celebrating the amazing sites Nebraska has to offer in our 5th annual year of WanderNebraska.

WANDERNEBRASKA WEBSITE

DOWNLOAD FREE APP



WanderNebraska Adventure Tours Kick Off with Pioneer Prairie: Second Chance



Participants gather for a group photo outside Willa Cather's childhood home during the Pioneer Prairie: Second Chance Tour.



Group members learn about the history of the Starke Round Barn, a unique, three-story landmark built in 1902 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This year's season of WanderNebraska Adventure Tours kicked off on April 21-22 with the Pioneer Prairie: Second Chance Tour.

Why "second chance?" During 2025's Pioneer Prairie tour, a sudden blizzard on day two pushed a few items off the agenda. Attendees still had a fantastic time (what's more authentic to the pioneer experience than braving a Nebraska snowstorm?) This year, we had requests to revisit the tour in hopes of experiencing our missed stops in nicer weather.

We were very fortunate this year and had beautiful skies on the two days of the tour. Our travelers enjoyed sites including the Museum of Nebraska Art, Willa Cather Historic District, G.W. Frank House Museum, Gage County Historical Museum, and so much more!

Want to join us on the next WanderNebraska tour? Visit our [WanderNebraska Adventures page](#) to learn more about upcoming tours and register.



WanderNebraska Featured at Homestead Challenge Launch



Speakers pose with the 2026 Homestead Challenge commemorative bandana following the kickoff event at Homestead National Historical Park’s Education Center. (left to right: Teresa Breazile, Caleb Fjone, Susan Cook, Dr. Sara Crook, and Bob Hanover)

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) was honored to join Homestead National Historical Park on Friday, April 17, for the kickoff of its new “Homestead Challenge” at the park’s Education Center. Superintendent Susan Cook welcomed community partners and tourism leaders to launch the initiative, which incorporates this year’s WanderNebraska program.

Representing NSHSF, Teresa Breazile, Project Manager of WanderNebraska, and Dr. Sara Crook, NSHSF Board Member and Tour Director of the WanderNebraska Adventure Tours, shared how these programs inspire travel across Nebraska. They highlighted the power of heritage tourism to connect visitors with the state’s rich history while supporting local communities.

Also speaking at the kickoff event were Bob Hanover of Nebraska Game and Parks and Caleb Fjone, Executive Director of the Gage Development Coalition. Each speaker emphasized the growing economic impact of tourism in Nebraska and the importance of collaborative efforts like the Homestead Challenge, WanderNebraska, and the Your Parks Adventure Trail Trek in driving visitation and strengthening regional partnerships.

The event set an enthusiastic tone for the season ahead and reinforced the value of collaboration in promoting Nebraska’s unique cultural and natural destinations.



Dr. Sara Crook speaks to attendees about this year’s WanderNebraska Adventure Tours, highlighting the itineraries of each featured tour, including Juneteenth and Golf and History in Nebraska, which includes 18 holes at the Prairie Club.



Teresa shares this year’s new WanderNebraska features and highlights the program’s role in supporting local museums and historically significant sites, as well as its economic impact on Nebraska communities.



Mark Your Calendars for Give to Lincoln Day 2026



As school budgets tighten, field trips and enrichment programs are often the first to go, particularly for Title I and underserved students. Local museums, libraries, and historical sites face growing pressure to sustain the programs that connect people to our shared past.

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is raising funds on Give to Lincoln Day, May 28, to expand history education and strengthen community organizations.

In 2025, donor support made it possible to reach more than 12,500 learners through field trips, classroom visits, and virtual programs. These gifts also fund free admission days, summer workshops, and speaker series for all ages at the Nebraska History Museum. Over the past four years, donor contributions have extended even further, providing nearly \$10,000 in support to Lincoln museums, libraries, and historical sites through RoamNebraska grants.

Every gift removes a barrier and keeps Nebraska's stories accessible to the people they belong to. Online giving opens May 1.

[SUPPORT NSHSF GIVE TO LINCOLN](#)



Explore Black History in Omaha on the Juneteenth WanderNebraska Adventure Tour



Join us on Friday, June 19, as we honor and celebrate Juneteenth, the anniversary of the liberation of enslaved people in the United States. This one-day WanderNebraska Adventure Tour will have pickup locations in both Lincoln and Omaha.

What You'll Experience:

- Depart Lincoln and meet Omaha participants at UNO
- Tour Great Plains Black History Museum
- Tour Malcolm X Site/Museum
- Lunch at Big Mama's Kitchen (As seen on Diners, Drive-ins and Dives!)
- Tour Salem Baptist Church
- Tour "Green Book" and other Important sites with Kyle Chattelton from the Durham Museum
- Lincoln attendees return to Lincoln

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER



Engineer Cantonment: Secure Your Spot on the Interpretive Panels



Our fundraising campaign raising \$18,000 for the turnout, interpretive panels, and Nebraska Historical Marker at Engineer Cantonment continues with great excitement! Thanks to our incredible group of supporters, we're that much closer to reaching our goal.

Thank you to our generous trustees and friends for your support of the Engineer Cantonment project: Harl and Kay Dalstrom; Ron and Judy Parks; Don Dillon; Bill and Jan Hill; Marvin Stumpf; Marty and Leslie Fattig; Bob and Carmen Shively; Sara and John Crook; Brent

Comstock; Larry Small; Brian and Dawn Rockey; Michael J and Jo McGuire. Their gifts of \$1,000 or more take us closer to our project goal, and will be permanently recognized on interpretive panels at the completed site.

We're also grateful for additional gifts from Roger and Shirlee Lempke; Jeff and Sue Barnes; J.B. and Carla Ketner and John William Irwin. With every contribution, we are closer to making this project a reality.

Special thanks to lead donors Nancy and Mike McCarthy, whose early and enthusiastic support, funding nearly half of the entire project, launched this effort and set us on a strong path to achieve our site improvement goals.

Just six \$1,000 sponsorships remain. Donors at this level will be recognized on the interpretive panels, creating a lasting legacy at Engineer Cantonment.

Join us: <https://www.nshsf.org/projects/engineer-cantonment/>



**Get Your Tickets for
WanderNebraska: The Great Road Trip**

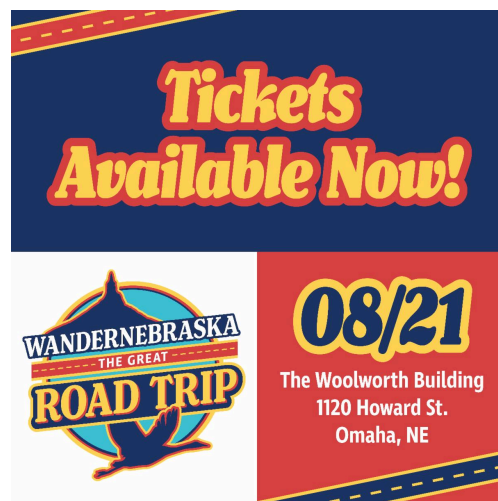
We are excited to announce the date for our 2026 **WANDERNEBRASKA: THE GREAT ROADTRIP!** Mark your calendars for August 21st so you don't miss the fun.

Thank you to our Sponsors!

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For more information on sponsorship, [click here](#).

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