

Historical Connections

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION



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Join us for the First WanderNebraska and Trail Trek Special Tour



Join WanderNebraska and Nebraska Game and Parks Trail Trek for our first joint guided tour of the year. We're kicking off the tours this season with a visit to Walk to the Rock at Chimney Rock, followed by a reception at Ash Hollow State Park.

Join the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation's Sandra Reddish on May 23 for guided tours at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mountain Time. We will meet at the patio near Trailhead A, located in the Walk to the Rock parking lot. Please go past the Visitor Center and follow the Walk to the Rock trail signs. From here, we will explore the trails at Chimney Rock, where visitors will learn more about the geology and history of the area.

Following the tour, we invite visitors to join us at Ash Hollow State Park for a 1:30 p.m. social reception with light bites and refreshments. Joseph Buffalo Robe will provide flute and drum music, Karen and Phil Little Thunder and Paul Harney Soderman will speak about bringing the belongings home and the healing process. Tamara Cooper will speak about the Peters Collection and Bluewater history.

This is an exciting time to bring the past and the present together, and we hope to see you there! Visit the [WanderNebraska Trail Trek Special Tours webpage](#) to view all of our upcoming tours.



How are You Wandering Nebraska?



WanderNebraska is in full swing, and runs now through September 30! 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!](#)

We'd love to see and hear how you're wandering Nebraska. Please be sure to tag us on our social media platforms using [@wandernebraska](#) and [#wandernebraska](#) so we can share in your travels this summer!

[WANDERNEBRASKA WEBSITE](#)

[DOWNLOAD FREE APP](#)



Students Explore WTTR at Chimney Rock Through Outdoor Learning



On Friday, May 8, Sandra Reddish, West Division Coordinator, greeted a fourth-grade class visiting from St. Agnes Catholic School, located in Scottsbluff, during their visit to Chimney Rock. Led by teacher Kristie Becker, the students began their experience at the Abbott Visitor Center before heading out on the Walk to the Rock trails for guided outdoor learning.

During the visit, Sandra provided guidance along the trail, helping students understand the relationship between their location and Chimney Rock while encouraging them to observe their surroundings, including local wildlife such as reptiles. Experiences like this reflect the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation's commitment to education by utilizing trails as outdoor classrooms.

The Foundation is currently developing an initiative to expand access to these educational opportunities for elementary students, connecting natural science and historic trail learning with classroom curriculum. More details will be shared as the program evolves.



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 is currently open now through Give to Lincoln Day, May 28.



LAST CALL to RSVP for the Juneteenth 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

The registration deadline for this tour is **May 17**.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER



Mark Your Calendars for These Exciting Upcoming Events!

JUNE 5&6 - CATTLEMENS BALL - The Foundation will be at the History Tent at the Cattlemen's Ball in Cozad.

JUNE 6 - ROCK CREEK GUIDED HIKE - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour: Follow the route of pioneers as they made their way west. The trail is approximately one mile long on firm terrain. The hike will start at 1 p.m. Central Time at Rock Creek Station State Historical Park This activity is free, but a valid state park vehicle permit is required for park entry.

JUNE 13 - TOUR OF ALKALI STATION - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour: The next WN/TT tour will be held at Alkali Station, a site rich in Nebraska history. A special presentation and guided tour will be conducted by retired State Archaeologist Rob Bozell. Participants are encouraged to wear boots and bring 4-wheel-drive vehicles or trucks if possible. The tour will include the military fort site, the wagon wheel ruts, and several other interesting locations on the property. The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. on June 13. Look for the signs when you exit at Paxton.

JULY 7-10 - GOLF AND HISTORY TOUR - WanderNebraska Adventure Tour: Our four-day adventure will take you from north to south in central Nebraska, experiencing amazing golf, history, food and drinks along the way! [Click here to learn more.](#)

JULY 11 - LEWIS AND CLARK VISITOR CENTER - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour: Join the museum's Executive Director, Doug Friedli, at 9:00 a.m. for a one mile guided hike along the Tree Trail and walk in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark. The trail has a chipped wood surface and is stroller friendly. Living history reenactors will be on site at 10 a.m. and Joe Starita, author of *I Am a Man*, will give a special presentation at 11 a.m.

AUGUST 8 - BUFFALO BILL RANCH - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour: Join Nebraska historian and author Jeff Barnes for an insightful tour of Buffalo Bill Cody's home property. A Buffalo Bill impersonator will be on hand and Barnes will sign purchased copies of his book. The tour begins at 10:00 a.m. and will be approximately half a mile on level ground. This event is free and open to the public, but a valid state park vehicle permit is required for park entry.

SEPTEMBER 12 - ENGINEER CANTONMENT - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour: Nebraska State Archaeologist, Rob Bozell, will share the history of the Engineer Cantonment site as well as archaeological insights. Participants will walk to the site from the county road. This program begins at 9:00 a.m. and will last approximately one hour. Length of walk is approximately one-quarter mile. Engineer Cantonment is located .2 miles south of the intersection of County Road P51 and Bluebird Lane, Omaha. There is limited parking at the site and all others will need to safely park along side the road. Watch for yard signs with more information.



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

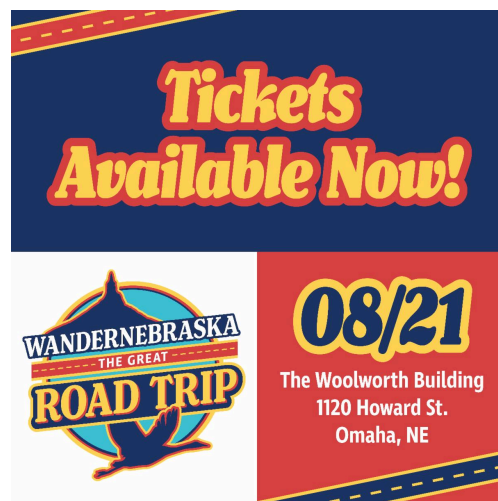
We are excited to announce the date for our 2026 **WANDERNEBRASKA: THE GREAT ROADTRIP!** Mark your calendars for August 21st so you don't miss the fun.

Thank you to our Sponsors!

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Get Your Tickets Now - Click Here for More Information



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