

Historical Connections

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION



ABOUT

PROJECTS

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Happening Tomorrow: An Exciting Fundraising Event in Downtown Omaha



There's still time to secure your tickets and join in on the fun tomorrow, **August 21** from **6-10pm** for an unforgettable evening, bringing history to life in an interactive way.

WanderNebraska: The Great Road Trip is our newest fundraising event, featuring:

- Guest Bartenders competing to raise funds
- A Virtual Road Trip across Nebraska
- Regional Flavors & Signature Drinks
- Live Entertainment & Interactive Experiences

Proceeds from the event support the Foundation's mission to preserve and promote Nebraska's rich history across all 93 counties. Join us as a sponsor and help drive this journey forward!



Game and Parks' Olivia DaRunga Revisits Walk to the Rock for Second Bee Study



On August 6, Olivia DaRunga, Game and Parks Wildlife Biologist, conducted a second bumblebee survey at Walk to the Rock. Bumblebees were observed along Trail B, where Olivia found seven hovering around buffalo burr blossoms. All were female worker bees carrying heavy loads of pollen.

As she was processing the bees's data, Visitors to Walk to the Rock trails, Meg and her two children stopped by shed porch and learned how to identify and data recording of the bumblebees. Olivia encouraged the children to conduct their own bumblebee survey and showed them the website to learn more about this survey. It was an educational and fun experience for Meg and her children.



RoamNebraska Discovery Grants Now Accepting Applications



ROAM NEBRASKA
DISCOVERY PROGRAM

Applications are now open for the RoamNebraska Fall 2026 Discovery Grants. This funding opportunity supports Nebraska organizations working to connect people with history, culture, and community through educational programs and meaningful experiences.

For the Fall 2026 cycle, grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded, with preference given to Nebraska non-profit organizations. Funding will focus on projects that expand education and access, including school visits and transportation, youth and family engagement, festival or milestone events, and professional development or conference registrations.

Applications, including all supporting materials and required budget estimates, must be submitted by September 15, 2026. One application for one project will be considered per organization, and grant recipients will be notified in October 2026.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)



Celebrate the Beauty of Chimney Rock at Plein Air Gallery Opening Reception



The beauty of Chimney Rock has inspired artists for generations, and this September, visitors can experience that landscape through the eyes of plein air artists. Join the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation on September 3 for the opening reception of the Chimney Rock Plein Air Artwork exhibition, featuring artwork created in the landscape surrounding this iconic Nebraska landmark.

The reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at West Nebraska Arts Center in Scottsbluff, NE. Come enjoy the artwork, meet fellow art and history enthusiasts, and celebrate the artists who captured Chimney Rock and its surroundings on canvas.



Junior Pathfinder Program to Connect Students with History, Science and Nature



A new educational program from the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is bringing K-5 students to Chimney Rock for hands-on learning in history, natural sciences, and conservation.

The Walk to the Rock Junior Pathfinder Program connects classroom lessons with real-world experiences at one of Nebraska's most iconic landmarks. Each participating student receives a Junior Pathfinder backpack with a workbook, pencils, and learning materials tailored to the class's curriculum. Activities can range from exploring westward expansion and prairie ecosystems to participating in conservation projects such as planting native grasses.

A recent major donor gift is helping launch the program by supporting educational materials, program development, coordination, and transportation, making these experiences more accessible to schools and students throughout western Nebraska.

Interested in learning more about bringing the program to a school? Contact Sandra Reddish, West Division Coordinator, for more information.



Mark Your Calendars for These Exciting Upcoming Events!

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 ample parking available at Engineer Cantonment. Complimentary side-by-side transportation will be available for anyone who would appreciate assistance. Watch for yard signs with more information. RSVP - LFattig@nshsf.org

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