Homestead National Monument of America
2012 Special Events and Programs

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Homestead Act of 1862
Admission to all events, exhibits and displays is free

JANUARY

Special Exhibition	***Travel Back in Time: Buggies, Carts and Wagons***
Sat. & Sun., Jan. 7 & 8, 2 p.m.	**"Hollywood and Homesteading" Film Festival -** *Far and Away*
Sat. & Sun., Jan. 14 & 15, 2 p.m.	**"Hollywood and Homesteading" Film Festival -** *An American Tail*
Sat. & Sun., Jan. 21 & 22, 2 p.m.	**"Hollywood and Homesteading" Film Festival -** *Tumbleweeds*
Sat. & Sun., Jan. 28 & 29, 2 p.m.	**"Hollywood and Homesteading" Film Festival -** *Day of the Outlaw*

FEBRUARY

Special Exhibition	***Travel Back in Time: Buggies, Carts and Wagons***
Sat. & Sun., Feb. 4 & 5, 2 p.m.	**"Hollywood and Homesteading" Film Festival -** *Shane*
Sat. & Sun., Feb. 11 & 12, 2 p.m.	**"Hollywood and Homesteading" Film Festival -** *The Unforgiven*
Sat. & Sun., Feb. 18 & 19, 2 p.m.	**"Hollywood and Homesteading" Film Festival -** *Big River Rescue*
Sat. & Sun., Feb. 25 & 26, 2 p.m.	**"Hollywood and Homesteading" Film Festival -** *Abilene Town*
Sunday, Feb. 26, 1 p.m.	**African Americans of the Great Plains -** *Honoring Black History Month*

MARCH

Special Exhibition	***Travel Back in Time: Buggies, Carts and Wagons***
	From Longships to Spaceships: A Thousand Years of Exploration
Sunday, March 11, 2 p.m.	**Honoring Women's History Month Program**
Wed. - Fri. March 28-30	**"1862 and The Making of the Great Plains" Symposium (at UNL)**
Saturday, March 31	**James A. Rawley Graduate Conference in the Humanities**

APRIL

Special Exhibition	***Original Homestead Act of 1862 on display, beginning April 25***
	From Longships to Spaceships: A Thousand Years of Exploration
Sat. - Sun., April 21 – 29	**National Park Week**
Sunday, April 22, 2 p.m.	**Remembering the Oklahoma Land Rush**
Wednesday, April 25	**Welcome the *Homestead Act of 1862***
Wednesday, April 25, 2 p.m.	**U.S. Immigration Naturalization Ceremony** – *Welcome Homestead Act*
Saturday, April 28, 9 - 3 p.m.	**Get Out Get Fit & Spring Fling Trail Run**
Saturday, April 28	**NEW for 2012:** ***Opening of the Quilt Discovery Experience***
April 30 - May 4, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	**Heartland Storytelling Festival**

MAY

Special Exhibition	***Original Homestead Act of 1862 on display, until May 28***
	From Longships to Spaceships: A Thousand Years of Exploration
Sunday, May 20, 6 - 9 p.m.	**"Beginning of the Dream, Homestead Act Made Law"**
	Commemoration of Homestead Act's 150th Anniversary
Mon. - Fri., May 21 - 25	**"Free Land?, 1862 and the Shaping of Modern America" Chautauqua**
Sat., May 26, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.	**Monumental Fiddling Championship,** featuring John McCutcheon

JUNE

Special Exhibition	***From Longships to Spaceships: A Thousand Years of Exploration***
Daily, June 2 – 30	**Living History Demonstrations**
Saturday, June 9, 8 a.m.	**Birds and Bagels** - *Early Birding at the Monument*
Thursday, June 14, 2 p.m.	**U.S. Immigration Naturalization Ceremony** – *Flag Day*
Fri. - Sun., June 15 - 17	**Homestead Days 2012 - "**150 years of Pursuing the American Dream"

JULY

Special Exhibition	***From Longships to Spaceships: A Thousand Years of Exploration***
Daily, July 1 – 31	**Living History Demonstrations**
Every Saturday, 10 a.m.	**Kids in Parks Programs -** *Nature Detective Series*
Sun., July 1, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	**Laws that Build America -** Homestead, Morrill & Pacific Railway Acts
Wednesday, July 4, 7 p.m.	**Campfire Program -** 150th Anniversary of the Homestead Act
Sat., July 7, 14, 21, & 28, 7 p.m.	**July Campfire Programs -** America of the Homestead Act
Sun. – Sat., July 29 – Aug. 4	**Art in the Park Week**

AUGUST

Special Exhibition	***From Longships to Spaceships: A Thousand Years of Exploration***
Daily, August 1 – 31	**Living History Demonstrations**
Saturday, August 4, 10 a.m.	**Kids in Parks Programs -** *Nature Detective Series*
Sat., August 4, 11, & 18, 7 p.m.	**August Campfire Programs -** America of the Homestead Act

SEPTEMBER	**Celebrate National Homesteading Education Month**
Special Exhibition	***From Longships to Spaceships: A Thousand Years of Exploration***
Sat. – Mon., September 1 – 3	**Special Historical Demonstrations and Crafts**
Sat. - Sun. September 1 - 2	**Living Homesteader Reunion Weekend**
Monday, September 3, 2 p.m.	**3rd Annual Old Fashioned Spelling Bee at the Freeman School**
Monday, September 17, 2 p.m.	**U.S. Immigration Naturalization Ceremony** – *Constitution Day*
Wednesday, September 26	**Prairie Visions Writing Festival**
Sat., September 29, 9:30 a.m.	**Public Lands Day Volunteer Project** – *Deer Survey*
Sunday, September 30, 2 p.m.	**Prairie Appreciation Week Program**

OCTOBER

Special Exhibition	***Judy Thompson: Homestead Paintings Series***
Saturday, October 6, 9:30 a.m.	**Prairie Work Day** - *A Prairie Appreciation Week Event*
Wed. - Fri., October 3, 4 & 5	**Pioneer Days**
Sunday, October 7	**NEW in 2012:** ***The Homestead Hedge Apple Festival***
Sat. - Sun., October 13 & 14	**Family History Weekend -** *Finding Your Homesteading Ancestors*
Saturday, October 20, 6 p.m.	**Howling Homestead**

NOVEMBER

Special Exhibition	***Judy Thompson: Homestead Paintings Series***
	Winter Festival of Prairie Cultures - Opens November 23
Sunday, November 4, 2 p.m.	**Author Program & Book Signing**
Sunday, November 11, 2 p.m.	**Honoring American Indian Heritage Month**
Fri. - Sun, November 23 - 25	**Junior Ranger Weekend**
Saturday, November 24, 10 a.m.	**Nature Detectives** – *Explore your winter world*
Sunday, November 25, 2 p.m.	**Winter Festival of Prairie Cultures special program**

DECEMBER

Special Exhibition	***Judy Thompson: Homestead Paintings Series***
	Winter Festival of Prairie Cultures - Closes December 31
Sun., December 2 & 9, 2 p.m.	**Winter Festival of Prairie Cultures special programs**
Saturday, December 8, 2 - 4 p.m.	**Old Fashioned Christmas at the Freeman School**