

# Missouri River

Missouri National Recreational River



## Curriculum Coordinated School Outreach Programs

2008 - 2009



**Dear Educator:**

Thank you for your interest in adding National Park Service ranger programs to your classroom curriculum. The Missouri National Recreational River was created by Congress in 1978 under provisions of the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The park consists of 98 miles of the Missouri River and 26 miles of its tributaries. The park's mission is to maintain the natural state of the river and make its natural, cultural, and recreational resources available to the public, while preserving these resources for future generations.



National Park Service rangers present interpretive programs at many sites along the river. The rangers are also available to come to your school to present programs and interact with your students. All of the available programs support and enhance requirements of both South Dakota and Nebraska state curriculum standards. The programs allow students to connect personally to the natural and cultural resources of Missouri National Recreational River while working toward the goals of the state standards. Staff is available to visit schools throughout southeastern South Dakota and northeastern Nebraska. Please call us at the number listed in this brochure so that we can discuss your interests and needs!

R. Michael Madell  
Superintendent



## **About our Ranger Programs**

School outreach programs are an excellent means of giving students unique learning opportunities without the expense and logistical headaches of a field trip. These programs are currently targeted toward the fourth and fifth grade Social Studies curriculum, but many are suitable for and can be adapted to other grade levels from 1 to 12. Students are encouraged to interact through questions, polling, or brainstorming sessions. Some programs include hands-on props and exhibits. There are no fees for these programs. All programs are presented by a uniformed National Park Ranger. Please do not hesitate to contact a ranger at the numbers below to discuss coordinating a program to your needs.

Each program description on the following pages includes a list of the Nebraska or South Dakota educational standards that the program may help meet.

## **Scheduling**

Current staffing allows school outreach programs during the months of September through November. Multiple programs can be presented to different classes on the same day if desired. Fourteen days advance notice is requested, but since available time slots are typically expected to fill quickly, please make your scheduling requests as early as possible by contacting the park at the numbers below.

Missouri National Recreational River  
PO Box 666  
Yankton, South Dakota 57078

Missouri National Recreational River  
402-667-2550 (local call from Yankton)  
MNRR\_interpretation@nps.gov

## **Smoke, Steam, and Snags**

What made a Missouri River steamboat special? Discover the unique design of these vessels and share the risk-filled lives of the men who piloted them through the treacherous waters of the Big Muddy.



This PowerPoint slide program explores the effect of technology on the rise and fall of river traffic, and the subsequent effect on river communities. Students will learn the risks of the steamboat business and the adventures of the men who owned and operated these uniquely built vessels. Length: approximately 40 minutes. School provides projection screen.

### **South Dakota**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 5.US.1.4, 8.US.2.2 (U.S. history), and 8.E.1.3 (economics).

### **Nebraska**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 8.1.5 (U.S. history), and Nebraska Social Studies Framework for upper elementary and middle: Science, technology, and society (technology and controversy).

## Let Me Go Home!

He was just a Nebraska farmer who wanted to go home, but Chief Standing Bear of the Ponca Tribe became the first American Indian to successfully file suit against the United States Government. Experience courtroom drama and discover the long-range effects of this landmark decision.

This PowerPoint slide program tells the story of Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca Tribe and how they became the first American Indians to fight the United States government in a courtroom. Students will learn about prejudice and changing attitudes in the late 1800s, the relocation of American Indian tribes, and the workings of the federal courts. Length: Approximately 45-50 minutes. School provides projection screen.



### **South Dakota**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 3.US.1.1, 4.US.2.2, 5.US.1.1, 8.US.2.2, 8.US.2.4 (U.S. history), 8.C, 2.1 (civics).

### **Nebraska**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 4.1.2, 8.1.7 (U.S. history), 4.1.6, (Nebraska history), 8.3.8 (civics), and Nebraska Social Studies Framework for secondary students: individual development and identity (prejudice), and for upper elementary grades: Constitution and Bill of Rights.

## Did We Forget Anything?

Experience a taste of life on the trail through replicas of items the Lewis and Clark expedition members carried with them. A “show & tell” for all ages.



This program exhibits the technology of 1803 and its connection to the success of the expedition. Students learn about the difficulties and excitement of exploration as replicas are compared to their modern equivalents. Students can handle some of the objects, including uniform components, navigation instruments, personal goods, trade goods, and copies of Captain Lewis’ “shopping lists”. Length: Approximately 30 minutes plus Q&A. School provides 6ft to 8ft table.

### **South Dakota**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 4.US.1.1, 5.US.1.4, 8.US.1.2 (U.S. history).

### **Nebraska**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 8.1.5 (U.S. history).

## Pelts & Profits

From before Lewis & Clark until the 1870s, European and American traders did business with American Indian tribes along the Missouri. This peaceful commerce had both positive and negative influences on the native cultures. A National Park Ranger displays the goods available at the trading posts, and some of the furs the American Indians used as money to make their purchases.



This interactive program gets students up close to learn about technology and cultural changes, native culture, intercultural influences, and the concept



of barter. A trade scene is set up with a buffalo robe as the “conference table”.

Students are given the opportunity to negotiate a trade in Indian sign language.

Length: Approximately 45 minutes. Requires approximately 8ft x 10ft floor space plus area for students to sit.

### **South Dakota**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 4.US.2.3 (U.S. history), 4.E.1.1 (economics), 5.US.1.1 (U.S. history), 5.E.1.1, 8.E.1.2 (economics).

### **Nebraska**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 4.1.2 (US History), 4.1.5 (Nebraska history).

## Taming the Untamable

Just how wild was the Missouri River and how has the river responded to man's restraints? Explore the past and present of this powerful and ever-changing river. This program includes historic and current photographs and exciting new digital maps.



This PowerPoint slide program invites students to explore the pros and cons of man's efforts to harness the Missouri River. Natural river characteristics and changing human attitudes over the last two centuries are incorporated, as well as the environmental impact of river "improvements" and the mitigation thereof. The illustrations include historic photos and dramatic new graphics. Length: Approximately 45 minutes. School provides projection screen.

### **South Dakota**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 3.G.1.3 (geography), 3.US.1.1 (U.S. history), 4.G.1.2, 5.G.2.1, 7.G.2.2 (geography).

### **Nebraska**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 4.1.5, 4.1.12 (U.S. history and geography), and Nebraska Social Studies Framework for upper elementary and middle: Science, technology, and society (technology and controversy), and upper elementary: time continuity and change (nature changes physical environment).

## Free Land!

How did homesteading work? Was the land really free? Did everyone succeed? Share the rigors of life on the prairie to discover the answers to these questions and more in this 15 minute video. A ranger-staffed exhibit follows, giving you the opportunity to see and touch everyday articles and building materials used by homesteaders over 125 years ago.



This multimedia program features a fifteen minute video on the Homestead Act and homesteading, followed by a narrated exhibit of household goods and tools used by homesteaders on the Great Plains. The program encourages students to consider the government's offer of free land – with a catch. The topics of immigration and westward expansion are also brought up. Length: Approximately 40 minutes. School provides projection screen and 6 to 8 ft table.

### **South Dakota**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 4.US.1.1, 4.US.2.2, 5.US.1.1, 8.US.2.2 (U.S. history).

### **Nebraska**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 4.1.2, 4.1.6, 8.1.7 (U.S. and Nebraska History).

## Where's The Park?



A National Park Ranger gives you a preview of the splendor of the National Parks in South Dakota and Nebraska then reveals how and why Missouri National Recreational River was created under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The program concludes with a virtual tour of this unique park.

This PowerPoint slide presentation introduces students to the National Parks in South Dakota and Nebraska. The ranger then converses with the students about the purpose, meaning and creation of National Parks, touching on history and bringing up the values of citizenship and stewardship before the concluding pictorial tour of Missouri National Recreational River. Length: Approximately 45 minutes. School provides projection screen.

### **South Dakota**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 3.C.1.2 (civics), 4.US.1.2 (U.S. history), 4.G.1.2 (geography), 4.C.1.1 (civics).

### **Nebraska**

This program can coordinate with state social studies standards as follows: 4.1.5, 8.3.1 4.1.11, 4.1.12(Civics, geography, and Nebraska history), and with Nebraska Social Studies Framework part VI & VII upper elementary level.

## **Field trips**

The National Park Service shares the Corps of Engineers' Lewis & Clark Visitor Center at Gavins Point Dam. Every spring, the visitor center and power plant host school field trips. The following activities are available for your classes:

**Power Plant tour** – A Corps of Engineers ranger-guided tour of the power plant, including the generator room, driveshaft area and machine shop. The tour takes 30 to 40 minutes; no cameras, cell phones, purses, backpacks, food or drink are permitted. All visitors over age 18 must have a photo ID.

**Visitor Center activities** – Indoor activities that challenge students' learning skills as they explore the exhibits.

*The Discovery Trail* is targeted toward grades 1 and 2 and utilizes students' observation and counting skills.

*The Adventure Trail* is for grades 3 to 5, directing them to read specific parts of exhibits and, in some instances, forming conclusions.

*The Explorers' Trail* challenges grades 5 to 7 students to find specific information at each exhibit and process this data to answer questions.

Students are introduced to the Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service, then allowed 15 to 20 minutes to complete the activity sheets, usually in teams of two. After the allotted time, students are gathered together and a ranger reviews the questions for the students to answer verbally or by polling, and elaborates on some of the answers as time permits. Plan on at least 40 minutes total for a visitor center activity.

**Videos** – Several video presentations are available for students at the visitor center.

*Construction of Gavins Point Dam* – Brief background of the Missouri River dams and details of the construction process. Suggested for grades 2 and up. 10 minutes.

*Seasons of the Missouri* – A year of scenery and wildlife along Missouri National Recreational River. For all ages. 9 Minutes.

*We Proceeded On* – A short history of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Suggested for grades 5 and up. 30 minutes.

*Safe Passage* – An entertaining adventure story that teaches the basics of water safety. Suggested for grades K to 6. Coordinated activity books provided on request (as available). A teacher guide is available at <http://watersafety.usace.army.gov> . 38 Minutes.

*Bobber the Water Safety Dog* – A series of three animated cartoons introducing preschool to grade 3 students to water safety. Coordinated coloring pages provided on request (as available). More materials are available at [www.bobber.info](http://www.bobber.info). Approximately 20 minutes total.

*The Young and the Reckless* – The story of a group of students creating their own video on boating safety. Suggested for grades 5 to 10. 21 minutes.

Video times above are actual run times. Please schedule sufficient time for students to enter and leave the theater and make rest room stops, particularly when planning multiple activities.

Reservations are required for field trips. For more information or to schedule a field trip, please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the National Park Service at the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center, 402-667-2546.

