



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

226 Broadway
P.O. Box 585
Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845

620-273-6034 phone
620-273-6099 fax

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

For Immediate Release
Heather Brown, (620) 273- 8494
May 8, 2009

The Preserve Offers Children's Activities Over the Memorial Day Weekend

On Saturday, May 23rd living history interpreters at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve will assist children in doing authentic ranch chores of gathering eggs, feeding the chickens, milking the goats, currying the horse, and cleaning the barn stalls from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. After completing each chore, children will collect a sticker token and then earn a Spring Hill Ranch certificate. Throughout the weekend, visit with living history characters as they go about their daily activities.

Sunday, May 24th is kids fishing day. Children will experience an afternoon of fishing from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with fishing poles and bait provided by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP). Representatives from KDWP and the National Park Service will teach casting, knot tying, fish identification, and safety. A valid Kansas fishing license is required for anglers between the ages of 16 – 65. These fishing ponds are open and located 1.5 miles east of Strong City on U.S. Highway 50. Turn north on U- Road at the Kansas historic marker and travel approximately one mile. The parking lot is on the west side of the road. The ponds are accessible via a short hike from the parking area. In addition to a valid Kansas fishing license for those aged 16 to 65, anglers will need to have in their possession a free Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve permit. These permits must be completed per the instructions located at the kiosk in the parking area prior to fishing. Anglers are limited to worms and artificial lures and may fish from the bank only. Additional fishing regulations are posted at the parking area kiosk.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Monday, May 25th is school day. From 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. join the schoolmarm at the one- room Lower Fox Creek School and participate in penmanship lessons, spelling, and reading from the McGuffey Readers. The schoolhouse is located north of the historic ranch headquarters on the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway (K- 177). The school will be open to the public and staffed by National Park Service volunteers from 12 noon until 4 p.m. each day Saturday through Memorial Day Monday.

A 6.4- mile bus tour of the preserve's backcountry is available at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. daily from April 25 through October 25, 2009. There is no charge for the tours. Advance reservations for the bus tours are recommended, but arrangements can be made on the day of the visit if space is available. For more information, please call the park rangers' offices at (620) 273- 8494.

Guided tours of the historic 1881 limestone ranch house are conducted hourly on the half- hour starting at 9:30 a.m. and concluding at 3:30 p.m.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a public/private partnership with the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. Located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway), the preserve's historic ranch headquarters is open daily from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve's website at www.nps.gov/tapr, e- mail tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, or call the preserve at (620) 273- 8494.

-NPS-