



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

May 17, 2013

For Immediate Release

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Begins Summer Activity Schedule with Children's Farm and Ranch Special Event



On Saturday May 25, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., children will have the opportunity to experience life on a working ranch. Living history interpreters at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve will assist children in doing authentic ranch chores such as gathering eggs, feeding the chickens, milking

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the goats, currying the horse, and cleaning the barn stalls. After completing each chore, children will collect sticker tokens, earning an overall Spring Hill Ranch certificate.

The preserve will continue its 90-minute bus tours of the prairie on weekends, Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please check in at the Visitor Center to assure bus tour and spacing available. During the week, Monday through Friday, bus tours may be available at 11 a.m. as staffing is available. The bus tour season runs through Sunday, October 27, 2013. The bus tour takes visitors 3.2 miles out to a prairie overlook for a 360-degree look at the prairie's intricate system of plants, animals, and the unique vistas found in the Flint Hills. Along the way, rangers discuss the flora, fauna, and geology of the tallgrass prairie, American Indians, bison, and the legacy of ranching. A minimum of two passengers per bus tour is required. All activities at the preserve are free of charge.

Other opportunities to experience the prairie and historic buildings are also available:

Visit the one-room Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse on weekends in May and June from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. and learn about a prairie education. The school is furnished with historic desks, McGuffey Readers, a recitation bench, and other classroom items. Preserve volunteers will be available to answer questions and provide information about the school's rich history.

Explore nature and hiking trails through two short nature trails. For the more adventurous, there are over 40 miles of hiking trails to experience. All trails are open 24 hours, with some of the best wildlife viewing in the early morning and evening hours. Observe the bison herd in Windmill Pasture or hike around the pasture to observe the bison from a distance.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway) and is a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service. For more information, visit the preserve's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NPS.TallgrassPrairie> , website at www.nps.gov/tapr, email tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, or call the preserve at (620) 273-8494.

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