



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Special Holiday Celebration at the Preserve



Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve announced today that the historic ranch house, barn, and new visitor center will be decorated for the holidays from November 30 – December 31, 2013. Decorating will be done with Eastern red cedar, natural berries, pods, and buck brush representing an 1880's historic holiday setting.

On Saturday November 30, from noon to 4 p.m., experience the Spring Hill Ranch at the height of the holiday season. Let your senses indulge in the aroma of cedar, nutmeg, and cinnamon, while strolling through the lively ranch house filled with period-costumed characters enjoying

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family and friends at a holiday party.

Historic characters will present a true picture of the holidays. Many gifts were crafted at home, so characters will demonstrate spinning wool, while others will make hand-made gifts using a small loom, crochet hooks, and knitting needles. In the kitchen, a costumed character will cut out holiday cookies, while she and her husband sing traditional holiday songs to the tune of his violin. Throughout the ranch, hear historic music being played and partake in a reading of *“Twas the Night Before Christmas”* in the ranch house parlor. Visitors are welcome to join in the fun of singing Christmas carols.

Children’s activities will include making snowflakes—and everyone can enjoy light refreshments of hot cocoa and coffee served in the visitor center complex. All preserve activities are free and open to the public.

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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