



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

September 30, 2009
For Immediate Release
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Second Annual Night Sky Program at the Preserve

The preserve's 2nd annual Night Sky Program will be held on October 10, 2009 from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. in the preserve's backcountry area.

Visitors will be transported via bus to the prairie overlook area roughly 3 miles from the ranch headquarters area, with buses leaving for the observation area at 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. from the historic ranch parking lot. No reservations are required and the activity is free of charge. A final decision to cancel the outdoor program will be made at 4 p.m. on that day. Please call the preserve at 620- 273- 8494 to check the status.

Visitors should wear warm clothing and sturdy shoes and bring a blanket or lawn chair for their comfort. Binoculars, a small flashlight, and bug spray is also recommended. The preserve will provide red film to cover flashlight beams to maintain the night vision at the observation site and large telescopes will be available to view the stars and planets, with presentations given by local astronomy experts.

Rain and cloudy conditions will cancel the outdoor night sky viewing program and will not be rescheduled. If the outdoor program is cancelled due to clouds, an astronomy expert will provide a short Power Point program on the night sky and shown in the historic barn. If severe weather and rain is in the area of the program, all programs will be cancelled.

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



Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway). For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve's website at www.nps.gov/tapr, email tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, or call the preserve at (620) 273- 8494. Superintendent Wendy Lauritzen can be reached at the Cottonwood Falls office headquarters at 620- 273- 6034.

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