



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

For Immediate Release
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Weekend of “Work Hard and Play Harder” at the Preserve

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve announced today that a special weekend featuring hard work and play is scheduled for June 20 and 21.

Harken back to the old days of summer when many small Kansas towns proudly sported their own baseball teams. The weekend begins with a vintage baseball game at 11 a.m. on Saturday. The Cowtown Vintage Base Ball Club of Wichita will travel to the preserve to square off against the preserve’s team, the Tallgrass Wranglers. Wearing historically accurate uniforms and playing by 1860s rules, the two teams will play in the pasture south of the historic limestone barn. Spectators are also encouraged to wear historic costumes and bring their own chairs and umbrellas, as seating will be somewhat limited with no shade.

Following the game, the teams and ranch hands will be treated to a traditional noon meal prepared by the women of the ranch using historic Dutch oven and ranch stove cooking methods. Cooking demonstrations are from 10 a.m. to noon with an interpretive cooking program given at 10:30 a.m. just west of the barn.

On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. smell the smoke from the forge and hear the ring of the blacksmith’s anvil as he demonstrates hard work and the art of metallurgy by using heavy hammers and hot metal.

On both Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the top floor of the barn will be open to view the historic farming equipment from 1920 to the 1940s. This once a year opportunity brings

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local experts out to interpret the historic farming equipment and labor saving devices of the time period, including a hand- cranked corn sheller.

On weekends in June visit the one- room Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse 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. National Park Service volunteers will be available to answer questions and provide information about the school's rich history.

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.

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