



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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Old- Fashioned Barn Dance and Holiday Activities at the Preserve

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve announced today that special activities are scheduled for the July 4th holiday weekend.

On Friday July 3rd, enjoy a day of music and clogging in the historic barn. Clogging demonstrations will be given at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. with visitor participation. In the evening, experience an old- fashioned barn dance from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. with the Tallgrass Express String Band.

On Saturday July 4th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, watch the women of the ranch prepare the noon meal for the hired hands. A special interpretive cooking demonstration will be provided at 10:30 a.m. Beginning at 10 a.m. visitors will have the opportunity to ride in the historic reproduction Bain farm wagon and listen to historic characters play live music and spin “yarns” and wool as they talk about their plans for the holiday celebration. 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 Sunday July 5th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., join in the historic games of an old- fashioned egg- toss, rope jumping contest, hoop and stick, tug- of- war, and a lively bucket brigade.

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

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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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