



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
Heather Brown, (620) 273- 6034
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Memorial Day Weekend Children's Activities



On Saturday, May 28th 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 the goats, currying the horse, and cleaning the barn stalls from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. After completing each chore, children will collect a sticker token and then earn a Spring Hill Ranch certificate.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Sunday, May 29th is children's fishing day. Bring your own fishing pole and have fun fishing with the park rangers. In celebration of the "Let's Move Outside" initiative, kids have the chance to learn about the different preserve fish species, while also having fun participating in our Catch-and-Release Fishing Program. No live bait please; lures only. Program is from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, May 30th is children's kite day. Bring your own kite or make your own using basic supplies provided by the preserve. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse located ½ mile north of the ranch headquarters area on the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway K-177. Once completed, kites may be tested using the plentiful supply of prairie wind in a good old fashioned kite day. Program runs from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please call ahead at 620-273-8494 to make your reservation. The Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse will also be available this holiday Monday from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

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 41 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 at a distance. You might even spot the new bison calf born on May 11, 2011.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway). All programs and activities are free of charge. 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.

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