

Homestead National Monument of America



Photo courtesy of Nebraska State Historical Society #RG2608

FREE LAND WAS THE CRY! The Homestead Act of 1862 had an immediate and enduring effect on America that is still felt today. Under this law, more than 270 million acres, 10 percent of the land in the United States, were turned over to individuals. This great transformation led to profound and lasting changes to land, American Indians, to immigration and migration patterns and to agriculture. Homestead National Monument of America commemorates the lives and accomplishments of all pioneers and the changes to people, land and the world brought by this Act. The park encompasses the Daniel Freeman Homestead Site, one of the first homesteads claimed in the nation.

If interested in volunteering or becoming a member of the Volunteer Senior Ranger Corps, call the Volunteer Coordinator at 402-223-3514.

Monument Features:

Once at this National Park Service site you see historic farm implements and household tools, view videos of equipment in use with horses and experience museum exhibits relating to early farming, early school life, and home life. Walk inside a log cabin built in 1867 and visualize your family living there. Visit the Freeman School which was one of the first schools to challenge using the Bible in class and also one of the first to provide standard textbooks. Hike the trail system (2 1/2 miles) through the tallgrass prairie, which reaches 10 foot tall in the Fall, and imagine this land 150 years ago as the pioneers saw it. You can also just relax at the picnic tables.

Ask about our curriculum-based education programs and distance learning opportunities.

How to get there:

Homestead National Monument of America is located 4 miles west of Beatrice, Nebraska on State Highway 4. It can be reached from the north and south via U. S. Highway 77 or from the east and west via U.S. Highway 136. If traveling on I-80, take Exit 397 and continue south on U.S. Highway 77. Homestead is located 38 miles south of Lincoln and 90 miles south of Omaha.



Hours:

Homestead National Monument of America is open daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The monument is closed Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1. Beginning Labor Day to Memorial Day weekend, hours change to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Special events and activities are scheduled throughout the year. Call for additional information at 402-223-3514, visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/home/, or write the Superintendent at the address below.

Homestead National Monument of America
8523 W. State Highway 4 Beatrice NE 68310
(402) 223-3514
www.nps.gov/home