

Planning Your Field Trip:

- One adult must accompany each 10 children. Chaperones should stay with and assist the group at all times.
- Adults and students are asked to wear easily readable nametags.
- Good walking shoes and appropriate clothing for hiking on the prairie are recommended. Activities are scheduled rain or shine - students should dress for the weather.
- Ticks and mosquitoes are present on the prairie. Students may want to bring insect repellent.
- Groups are welcome to eat lunch at the picnic tables near the visitor center. A water fountain and restrooms are available in the visitor center. Food is not allowed in the buildings.
- Please share with us any special needs your students may have.



Today's Technology - Yesterday's World!

Videos are also available for viewing at the monument or may be borrowed free of charge by teachers. A popular choice is "The Free Land", the 18-minute orientation video for Homestead National Monument. Call for a complete listing of available videos.

Visit Homestead National Monument on the World Wide Web!

Learn about the Homestead Act of 1862, and the items people used to survive at that time. Special attractions include virtual tours and artifact views.
<http://www.nps.gov/home>

Other Learning Opportunities:

The Heartland Storytelling Festival

Held in May of each year, this festival features local and nationally known storytellers. Stories are of interest to all ages, and workshops are offered. Call for details.

Nebraska History Week

Events are planned yearly. Please call for more information.

Various special events for school groups and the public are planned throughout the year. Call for details, or call to organize your own educational event.

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Homestead National Monument of America is located four miles west of Beatrice on Nebraska State Highway 4.

This park includes the Daniel Freeman Homestead site, one of the first homesteads claimed. At this National Park Service site, one can visit the historic Freeman School and Palmer-Epard Cabin, explore the 2 1/2 miles of trails through restored tallgrass prairie and timber, and view films or browse through the museum areas.

**Homestead National
Monument of America**
8523 West State Highway 4
Beatrice, Nebraska 68310
(402) 223-3514

<http://www.nps.gov/home>

National Park Service



Settlers, Sunflowers and Schoolhouse:

Education

Opportunities at

Homestead National Monument of America

Settlers, Sunflowers and Schoolhouse: Education Opportunities at Homestead National Monument of America

Exciting hands-on learning activities await school and community groups at Homestead National Monument of America. These activities are based upon Homestead's curriculum guide, "Homesteading: The Free Land Idea! An Activity Guide for Teachers, Grade 4-6." This guide, available by purchase or by attending a free teacher's workshop, shows how the themes of Homestead National Monument fit into the school curriculum standards of Nebraska and Kansas.



Come explore this National Park Service site to learn how the Homestead Act of 1862 changed the lives of all Americans and of the world.

Hands-on History!

The following programs are teacher-guided activities from the curriculum guide, "Homesteading: The Free Land Idea! An Activity Guide for Teachers, Grade 4-6". Monument staff are involved in advance setup, welcome and orientation, and are available for assistance during groups visits. Special arrangements can be made if group leaders are not familiar with the activities.

Homestead Search:

Students take a close look at the museum, cabin and prairie by searching for items significant to the homesteading movement. (30-45 minutes)

Day in the Life of a Homesteader:

A relay race gets students scrambling to finish their daily chores. Costumes are provided. (45 minutes)

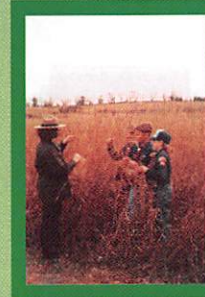


Stake Your Claim:

Students choose a "homestead claim" on the prairie with a partner, then learn how available water, timber and land affected the success of early settlers. (45 minutes)

Prairie Walk:

Trail guides are available for teachers to use while guiding their students on prairie walks. Rangers are available to lead these walks upon request. (45 minutes)



Searching for Prairie:

This activity, best done in the fall, encourages students to search for and identify common plants on the prairie. Students also learn some of the traditional uses of these plants. (45 minutes)

Jr. Pioneer Program:

Students complete three activities in the Jr. Pioneer Booklet to receive a free Homestead button and certificate.

An award ceremony will be conducted by park staff. (30-45 minutes)



Follow the Buffalo:

This program, usually led by a ranger, enables students to touch and see items made from buffalo parts in the traditional American Indian way. Students learn about American Indians of the Great Plains and their traditions. (1 hour)

If you have a special request for a new program not listed here, please call! We are happy to discuss new events and learning opportunities for students.

"Staking Your Program Claim"

Please contact the Education Coordinator at 402-223-3514 to make program reservations at least two weeks in advance of your visit. Longer advance planning is suggested for the busy spring and fall season.

For Teachers:

Two-day teacher workshops are offered in the spring, summer and fall.

Teachers receive a free copy of the curriculum guide "Homesteading: the Free Land Idea!". Participants experience many of the hands-on activities in the guide. The workshop alerts teachers to other resources available for teaching about the Homestead Act and Nebraska History. Many school districts offer professional development credits to teachers who attend. Call for more information or to register today!