

STATE OF NEBRASKA
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NEWS RELEASE
Feb. 11, 2005

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News media: please see the attached schedule for the party or parties in your coverage area.

Nebraska Statehood Day birthday parties scheduled

LINCOLN – Some 3,300 students are expected to attend 12 Nebraska Statehood Day birthday parties throughout the state from Feb. 22 to March 2.

Secretary of State John Gale, the NEBRASKAland Foundation and the Nebraska Humanities Council sponsor the parties.

The parties will be held in Grand Island, Kearney, McCook, Ogallala, Scottsbluff, Chadron, O'Neill, Norfolk, Lincoln, Beatrice, Omaha and Boys Town.

Participating students will enjoy musical entertainment, sing-a-longs and people in historical costumes, as well as have fun showing off their Nebraska history knowledge.

“These parties serve many positive purposes for the students,” Gale said. “My deepest hope is to enrich their state pride and their enjoyment of the unique heritage of Nebraska, as well as to reinforce their path to becoming good citizens.”

Gale is scheduled to attend all 12 parties, and Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy is scheduled to attend the parties in Grand Island, Kearney and Omaha.

Gale will appear in costume as the character “Cactus Jack,” and entertainers Chris Sayre and David Seay will portray “Sodbuster Sam” and Deadwood Dave,” respectively. The Nebraska Army National Guard will provide color guards at the parties.

The parties are geared for fourth-grade students because they study Nebraska history during the school year. In rural areas, other grades have been included as well.

Public schools, private schools and home-schooled students across the state have been contacted to apply. The parties are limited to classes that make reservations.

Teachers that are interested in having their classes attend the parties should contact Sharon Hambek at shambek@nol.org or (402) 471-6044.

The birthday parties will observe the 138th anniversary of Nebraska becoming a state on March 1, 1867.

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Schedule of parties

Grand Island, 9:30 a.m. Feb. 22, Stuhr Museum.

Kearney, 1:30 p.m. Feb. 22, Student Union, University of Nebraska-Kearney.

McCook, 9:30 a.m. Feb. 23, True Hall Gym, McCook Community College.

Ogallala, 1:30 p.m. (MT) Feb. 23, Gym, Prairie View Elementary School.

Scottsbluff, 9:15 a.m. (MT) Feb. 24, Cougar Palace, Western Community College.

Chadron, 1:30 p.m. (MT) Feb. 24, Nelson Physical Activity Center, Chadron State College.

O'Neill, 9:30 a.m. Feb. 25, Elementary Gym, O'Neill Public Schools.

Norfolk, 1:30 p.m. Feb. 25, Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College.

Lincoln, 9:30 a.m. March 1, Gym, Southeast Community College.

Beatrice, 1:30 p.m. March 1, Gym, Southeast Community College.

Omaha, 9:30 a.m. March 2, Durham Western Heritage Museum.

Boys Town, 1:30 p.m. March 2, Palrang Field House.

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