



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

June 5, 2008

For Immediate Release

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Let's 'Play Ball' at the Preserve

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve announced today that a special weekend featuring hard work and play is scheduled for June 21 and 22.

Harken back to the old days of summer when many small Kansas towns proudly sported their own baseball teams. The weekend begins with a vintage baseball game at 11 a.m on Saturday. The Cowtown Vintage Base Ball Club of Wichita will travel to the preserve to square off against the preserve's team, the Tallgrass Wranglers. Wearing historically accurate uniforms and playing by 1860s rules, the two teams will play in the pasture south of the historic limestone barn. Spectators are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs and umbrellas, as seating will be somewhat limited with no shade.

Following the game, the teams and ranch hands will be treated to a traditional noon meal prepared by the women of the ranch using historic Dutch oven and ranch stove cooking methods. Cooking demonstrations are from 10 a.m. to noon just west of the barn.

Hear the ring of the blacksmith's anvil throughout the day on Saturday as he demonstrates hard work and the art of metallurgy by using heavy hammers and hot metal.

On Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the top floor of the barn will be open to view the historic farming equipment from 1920 to the 1940s. This once a year opportunity brings local

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experts out to interpret the historic farming equipment and labor saving devices of the time period.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a public/private partnership with the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Kansas Park Trust. 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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