



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Come Enjoy the Stars at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve



Screenshots from the Stellarium program, showing the night sky looking south at approximately 10:30 pm on Monday, January 11, 2016, with constellation artwork off (above) and artwork on (right).



Strong City, Kansas – Picking up where the preserve’s indoor night sky programs left off in January, the preserve will take to the great outdoors to see the wonders of the night sky on Saturday, April 2. Reservations are not necessary.

Schedule:

- 7:00-7:45 p.m. - Viewing of sun via solar-filtered telescope of the Kansas Astronomical Observers from Wichita, KS
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. – National Park Service program on the introduction to the night sky with a 15-minute repeating presentation using a software called Stellarium. Program given in the visitor center conference room using a 60-inch screen.
- 7:51-8:00 p.m. - Enjoy the prairie sunset which occurs at 7:51 p.m.
- 8:29 p.m. - International Space Station passes over

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

- 8:30-8:45 p.m. - Introduction to the current sky, outdoors with laser-pointer, by Dr. Susan Aber of the Emporia State Planetarium.
- 8:30 p.m. - Nighttime viewing. Telescopes and operators are courtesy of:
 - Emporia State University's Peterson Planetarium
 - Kansas Astronomical Observers (Wichita)
 - Northeast Kansas Amateur Astronomers' League (NEKAAL) (Topeka)
 - Salina Astronomy Club and Kansas Wesleyan University
 - National Park Service and volunteers
- 10:30 p.m. - End of program (some telescopes may close at 10:00 p.m.)

In the event of clouds or rain, the program will be the following Saturday, April 9 with the same schedule. Check the preserve's website (<http://www.nps.gov/tapr>) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NPS.TallgrassPrairie>) for cancellation.

The preserve has over 40 miles of hiking trails for you to explore. All trails are open 24/7 for you to enjoy wildlife viewing or the night sky. All preserve buildings, including the visitor center and historic Spring Hill Ranch house and barn are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If solitude and history are what you are looking for, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve has it all. Come "Find Your Park" at the preserve.

In celebration of the National Park Service 2016 Centennial and Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve's 20 year anniversary, the preserve invites you to discover the meaning of national parks, how your park inspires you – both in personal connections and memorable experiences. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway) and is a unique public/private partnership between the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. For additional information on Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, please visit www.nps.gov/tapr, email tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, call the preserve at (620) 273-8494, or visit the preserve's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NPS.TallgrassPrairie>. To learn more about The Nature Conservancy in Kansas, visit the Conservancy's website at www.nature.org/Kansas or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TNCKansas>.

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