

NIORARA STATE PARK 2019 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

- MAY 25 – SEPT 1: HORSE TRAIL RIDES
Mon., Wed., Thur. ~ 9:30 & 10:45; Tue. ~ Closed; Fri., Sat., Sun ~ 9:30, 10:45, 1:00, 2:15, 3:30 pm. 45-minute ride. Persons age 6 and older, NO doubles. Reserve rides one day in advance. \$25 per person
- JUNE 1 – AUGUST 4: SWIMMING POOL 402-857-3710, OPEN DAILY 1 – 6 PM.
DAILY ADMISSION: ADULTS (13 & OLDER) \$4, CHILDREN (3-12) \$3
AUGUST 5 – SEPT 1: WEEKENDS ONLY, SUBJECT TO LIFEGUARD AVAILABILITY.
- MAY 25, JUNE 15,
JULY 6 & 13, AUGUST 31: BUFFALO COOKOUTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
Cookouts and programs located at the Buffalo Cookout Pavilion, meal served at 6:00 p. m., entertainment following immediately after meal. Programs are free and open to the public. Prior to the start of the Cookout, you will need to make reservations by noon on day of cookout and purchase tickets at office. Adults (13 & older) \$15; Children \$12
- MAY 3: 10 AM – 2 PM OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL RENDEZVOUS, School students from Northeast Nebraska and Southeast South Dakota come to experience the great outdoors with 45 sites having 55 master naturalist activities including: Petting Zoo and Pony Rides, Archery, Fishing, Kite flying, S'mores making and many more. New for 2019: Lewis & Clark - John Colter Program & Lewis & Clark White Pirogue II. Educators please contact the Park office if you are interested in attending at (402)857-3373.
- MAY 25: 7 AM EARLY-BIRD BIRD WATCHING, Join park superintendent Mark Rettig and wildlife bird specialist Mark Brogie as they guide you through the park trails for an early-bird hike and bird watching experience.
- 10 AM BIRD IN HAND PROGRAM WITH WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST BIRD SPECIALIST MARK BROGIE AT RV CAMPGROUND SHELTER.
- 6:00 PM BUFFALO COOKOUT AND HUMANITIES NEBRASKA PROGRAM DARREL DRAPER AS "GEORGE DROUILLARD – HUNTER, INTERPRETER, AND SIGN-TALKER FOR LEWIS & CLARK." In full expedition costume and voyageur accent, Draper combines history and acting ability to portray the life of Lewis and Clark's most valuable expedition member. Half French and half Shawnee Indian, this expert hunter, Indian sign talker and wilderness woodsman was called upon by the two captains whenever they needed a nearly impossible task to be completed. The audience will relive the humor, dangers, miracles and hardships of the expedition and receive a rare glimpse of how Shawnee spirituality contributed to the success of this amazing story of human perseverance and voyage of western discovery.
- MAY 26: 10 AM SIDEWALK CHALK ART WITH BIRD PROGRAM AT PARK OFFICE. Children of all ages are welcome to come and show their creative side. Bring your own chalk or borrow ours. Educational packets for all participants. A bird program will follow.

- JUNE 1: 10 AM – 2 PM NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MOBILE RANGER STATION, EXPLORE THEIR “VISITOR CENTER ON WHEELS” AND FISHING AT THE BUFFALO COOKOUT PAVILION.
- JUNE 15: 6 PM BUFFALO COOKOUT AND NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LEWIS & CLARK INTERPRETIVE. Program to be announced.
- JUNE 16: 9 AM – NOON 10TH ANNUAL FATHER’S DAY FISHING TOURNAMENT Enjoy a morning of fishing with family and friends, prizes will be awarded for biggest fish and most caught. Register at the park office or buffalo cookout pavilion. Loaner fishing poles and tackle will be available.
- JUNE 23: 10 AM SIDEWALK CHALK ART WITH POLLINATOR PROGRAM AT PARK OFFICE. Children of all ages are welcome to come and show their creative side. Bring your own chalk or borrow ours. Educational packets for all participants. A pollinator program will follow.
- JULY 4: 10 AM POLLINATOR/BIRD PROGRAM IN THE RV CAMPGROUND WITH ROOTBEER FLOATS. Root beer floats for \$1 and a Pollinator/bird program at the gazebo.
- JULY 6: 6 PM BUFFALO COOKOUT WITH HUMANITIES NEBRASKA PROGRAM “CORPS OF DISCOVERY IN SONG AND STORY” BY MICHAEL F. MCDONALD. Through original songs and stories, McDonald leads a lively celebration of the challenges and adventures faced by the members of Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery.
- JULY 12: 7 PM “S’MORES WITH THE DOERRS” IN RV CAMPGROUND. Enjoy s’mores while learning more about geocaching.
- JULY 13: 9 AM – 3 PM GARY AND LIZ DOERR PRESENT THE 6TH ANNIVERSARY GEOCACHING “EVENT WITH A VIEW” AT THE BUFFALO COOKOUT PAVILION. A great chance to learn more about geocaching. Niobrara State Park has over 60 caches for beginners to veterans.
- 6 PM BUFFALO COOKOUT WITH NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM. Program to be announced.
- JULY 14: 11 AM THE SPIRIT OF MARS A LIVING HISTORY PRESENTATION by Samuel J. Haskin as portrayed by D. R. Haskin. This presentation provides an entertaining, “first-hand” account of the early settlement of the area in and around Ashfall Fossil Beds, near Royal, Nebraska.
- JULY 19: 1 PM – 3PM DESPERADO DAYS POOL PARTY SPONSORED BY HARTINGTON BANK. Free admission from 1 p. m. until 3 p. m.
- JULY 19 – 21: DESPERADO DAYS HOSTED BY THE CITY OF NIOBRARA.
- JULY 21: 1 PM – 3 PM KITE DAY AT 1ST PICNIC SHELTER ON 3-MILE LOOP. BRING YOUR FAVORITE KITE OR BORROW ONE FROM THE PARK. FUN FOR ALL AGES.
- AUGUST 3: 10 AM – 2 PM, MOBILE RANGER STATION, EXPLORE THEIR “VISITOR CENTER ON WHEELS” AT THE BUFFALO COOKOUT PAVILION.

- AUGUST 4: 10 AM – 12 PM WATERFOWL HUNTING/COLD WATER HYPOTHERMIA SAFETY CLASS: Located at the swimming pool. Bring your chest waders, hunting gear, etc.... and practice water safety in a controlled environment.
- AUGUST 9- 11: PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA POWWOW.
- AUGUST 29: 4 PM NIOBRARA-VERDIGRE COUGARS CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL: Hosted by Niobrara State Park.
- AUGUST 31: 5 PM BUFFALO COOKOUT AND HUMANITIES NEBRASKA PROGRAM, DAVID MARSH “MUSIC OF THE PLAINS.” Pioneers who settled the Plains traveled from far and wide, yet endured many similar joys and hardships. David’s goals with this program are twofold: 1) to demonstrate the various cultures represented by these courageous folks and 2) to share stories and sing songs that arose out of their common experience of early life here. Though music, audiences learn about homesteading, cowboys, children’s games and the wonders of the wide-open prairie.
- 10 AM – 2 PM NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MOBILE RANGER STATION, EXPLORE THEIR “VISITOR CENTER ON WHEELS” AT THE BUFFALO COOKOUT PAVILION.
- SEPTEMBER 1: 10 AM SIDEWALK CHALK ART WITH POLLINATOR/EMERALD ASH BORER PROGRAM AT PARK OFFICE. Children of all ages are welcome to come and show their creative side. Bring your own chalk or borrow ours. Educational packets for all participants. A pollinator/emerald ash borer program will follow.
- SEPTEMBER 7: REGISTRATION 7 PM; RACE 8 PM - 7TH ANNUAL NIGHT OWL RUN/WALK Register with Niobrara State Park online at OutdoorNebraska.org, \$25 registration fee.