

Celebrate Diversity and the National Parks with a Free NET Television Film Screening and the “Traditions Festival” in Beatrice

LINCOLN, Neb. (Aug. 19, 2009) -- On Sunday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m., NET Television will present a free film screening of “This is America,” which tells the story of the national parks idea through the prism of our nation’s diverse population. The screening will be held at the Hevelone Center, which is in Beatrice High School (600 Orange Blvd., Beatrice).

The screening of “This is America” is part of a day-long celebration of our national parks in anticipation of the September broadcast premiere of the Ken Burns PBS series “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea.”

Homestead National Monument of America in Beatrice and NET Television will present a free Traditions Festival from noon to 6 p.m. at Homestead National Monument in Beatrice. Every half hour will feature cultural entertainment, including performances by such groups as The Omaha German Men’s Choir, Sacred Buffalo Indian Dancers and School of Rock Band. “Untold Stories from America’s National Parks,” a series of five original mini-documentaries designed to highlight stories of the role African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans and Native Americans had in the development of the national parks, will be shown continuously throughout the day in the Education Center.

The film “This is America,” which will be shown at the Hevelone Center, weaves together stories of extraordinary people from a wide variety of backgrounds who devoted their lives to the national park ideal and helped it broaden and evolve over the course of 150 years.

The Traditions Festival and the “This is America” film screening are free and open to the public.

The Traditions Festival events and screening of “This is America” are being offered in conjunction with the broadcast premiere of the Ken Burns’ PBS series “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea.” The first episode in the six-part series premieres at 5 p.m. CT on Sunday, September 27, on NET1 and in high definition on NET-HD.

“The purpose of these events is to encourage all Nebraskans to visit and learn more about opportunities available to them and to ensure that they feel wanted and welcome in their national parks,” said Homestead National Monument of America Park Ranger Susan Cook.

“We are thrilled to be part of these wonderful community outreach events at Homestead National Monument of America and at the Hevelone Center,” said NET Outreach Coordinator Martha Florence. “Our national parks both here in Nebraska and across America were created for everyone, and we hope these events encourage Nebraskans to get out and explore the parks and all the diverse opportunities associated with them.”

For detailed information about the “This is America” film screening and the Traditions Festival, contact NET at 800-634-6788 or visit netNebraska.org/nationalparks.

NET1 and NET-HD are part of NET Television, a service of NET. For more information about NET programming, visit netNebraska.org/television.

Homestead National Monument of America is a unit of the National Park Service. It is located four miles west of Beatrice. Current hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is free of charge.

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