

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, Fort Stevenson State Park, 701-337-5576.

Fort Stevenson State Park Frontier Military Days

What was life like on the North Dakota frontier when forts were built to protect settlers and the transportation of merchandise? Fort Stevenson State Park is providing a glimpse into the state's history when it hosts its annual Frontier Military Days, June 28-29.

During the two-day encampment, members of the Frontier Army of Dakota will set up authentic tents and gear in front of the park's Guardhouse Interpretive Center. Cannon maneuvers will start at 3:30 p.m. and a cannon is fired at 4 p.m. each day. In addition to the cannon maneuvers a Gatling gun presentation and firing is planned for Sunday at 2:30pm.

Daily activities include baking, live demonstrations featuring old-time skills like tomahawk throwing, a trader's tent, and black powder gun firing. New this year, is a pie baking contest with cash prizes. For more information on the contest please contact (701) 578-5507. Free pie and ice cream is offered to visitors on Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Kids' games take place from 1 to 4 p.m. each day.

The book *Military Life In Dakota*, one of the best first-hand accounts of military life in Dakota Territory, is available for sale in the Guardhouse. It was written by General deTrobriand, the first commander at Fort Stevenson.

Fort Stevenson Frontier Military Days are sponsored by the Fort Stevenson Foundation, a local volunteer organization that sponsored the reconstruction of the original Fort's Guardhouse. The Guardhouse is used as a visitor center with displays and artifacts about military life in the Dakota Territory.

Fort Stevenson State Park is located just south of Garrison, North Dakota. This event will take place on the Guardhouse lawn. If you have questions please call Fort Stevenson State Park at 701-337-5576 or e-mail at fssp@nd.gov.