

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, Friday, Nov. 14, 2014

For more information, contact: Icelandic State Park 701-265-4561

Icelandic State Park holds Christmas Open House

The Northeastern North Dakota Heritage Association (NENDHA) and Icelandic State Park extends an invitation to the annual *Christmas Open House* on Sunday, Nov. 23, at the Pioneer Heritage Center from 1 to 5 p.m.

There will be trees donated by local growers and artificial trees that were decorated by volunteers to showcase holiday spirit. Various local groups and individuals have donated their time, talents and resources to make each bulb on the trees throughout the Pioneer Heritage Center shine bright!

The ethnic tree this year will be Austria. The tree will be unveiled at 1:45 p.m. according to Austrian traditions where a bell is rung to summon the children to view the tree. There will also be information near the tree in the exhibit area depicting these traditions. This year's theme features music and entertainment influenced by the "Sound of Music." Suzanne Larson will be playing her violin in the exhibit area from 1 to 2 p.m. After the unveiling of the tree, Rosemarie Myrdal will be the featured speaker on Austria traditions followed by music from the Stegman family. Dessert and refreshments will follow featuring traditional Austrian foods.

Santa will stop in for some photo opportunities and good cheer for kids and adults from 3 to 4 p.m. Santa will also have a special mailbox at the Pioneer Heritage Center for kids to put their wish lists and letters in.

Just in case you cannot make it to the *Christmas Open House*, the display can be viewed anytime during regular Heritage Center hours from Nov. 23 through December. The Pioneer Heritage Center at Icelandic State Park is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. It is closed Saturday and open Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. The Heritage Center will be closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The center will be closing at noon on Christmas Eve.

For more information contact Char Binstock at (701) 265-4561.