

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, contact Fort Ransom State Park, 701-973-4331

Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days, Sept. 10-11

The 28th annual Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days are Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10-11, an event the whole family can enjoy in the picturesque setting of the Sheyenne River Valley at Fort Ransom State Park.

Fall harvest has long been a reason to celebrate in North Dakota as farmers realize the fruits of their hard labor over the spring and summer. Sodbuster Days recreate the festivities enjoyed by the state's early settlers as they wrapped up another growing season. Celebrations were about family, friends, neighbors, music, dancing, games, crafts, and of course... food. All this and much more make Sodbuster Days an event not to miss.

Activities begin Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. as members of the Fort Ransom Sodbuster Association recreate life on the prairie dating back over 100 years. Visitors glimpse why harvest was such a special time in North Dakota with fieldwork demonstrations along with a look at cooking, crafts and games.

Field work demonstrations include horse powered threshing and haying. Visitors will experience how a blacksmith shop operated along with pioneer handwork, homemaking skills and wood-working. On Saturday there is a pie auction at 4 p.m. followed by a chicken dinner with all the trimmings at 5:30 p.m.

The Custer's Memorial 7th Cavalry Company E will perform each day and will have an encampment which is open to spectators. Enjoy the live "Old-Time" music which will be played each day in the Music Building. The NorSweDane Dancers will display their talents in the Sodbuster Building on Saturday afternoon.

Admission is \$5 per person with kids ages 12 and under admitted free. The daily \$5 vehicle entrance fee to the park will be waived.

Fort Ransom State Park is located two miles north of Fort Ransom. While in the park visitors can take advantage of the camping and picnic facilities.

For more information about the event and Fort Ransom State Park go to www.parkrec.nd.gov on the Internet.