

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, contact Amy Schimetz at 701-263-4514

Artist in Residency program at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park

Local artist Eileen McEnroe, well known for her pine needle basket art, is featured at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park Aug. 19-25 as part of the Artist in Residency Program sponsored by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and North Dakota Council on the Arts.

On Aug. 24, McEnroe will introduce herself and her talents during an amphitheater program at 8 p.m. On Aug. 25 McEnroe is putting on a workshop, beginning at 10 a.m. at the amphitheater, teaching the art of basketry. Participants will have the opportunity to create their own basket.

The artist is a native of South Dakota who began making pine needle baskets seven years ago, after reading a book about basketry. She teaches classes in Bismarck and Beulah and most recently at the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) workshops sponsored by North Dakota Game & Fish. McEnroe is retired and enjoys camping, fishing, hunting, quilting and reading.

Those participating in the Artist in Residency program spend a week in a selected state park. The park provides either a cabin for the artist to stay in or a modern campsite for the week. Artists provide opportunities to share their talents with park visitors by showcasing their artworks, sharing techniques, demonstrating methods and allowing the public to try their hand at the artists' methods. Materials for programs are funded by the North Dakota Council on the Arts. Upon completion of their residency, artists donate an artwork reflecting their stay at the park. The ND Council on the Arts also pays each artist a stipend associated with the Artist in Residency program.

Artists have played an important role in the history of North Dakota's state parks, helping define the value of protecting natural resources. It is the aim of the Artist in Residency program that art generated through this experience allows the public to become stewards with a deeper appreciation of art inspired by the state's landscape and natural features.

All of North Dakota's state parks have hosted an artist since the program's inception. Visitors to the state parks can find art pieces generated by the program that celebrate the artists talents.

Information about Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park can be found online at www.parkrec.nd.gov or by calling the park at 701-667-6340. For more information on the Artist in Residency program contact Lake Metigoshe State Park Interpreter Amy Schimetz at 701-263-4514.