

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department
NEWS RELEASE

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

Frontier Military Days at Fort Stevenson State Park, June 23-24

Fort Stevenson State Park celebrates the 20th anniversary of Frontier Military Days on June 23-24 and there will be plenty of activity for the entire family, according to Park Manager Dick Messerly.

Members of the Frontier Army of Dakota will hold a two-day encampment using authentic tents and gear near the park's Guardhouse Interpretive Center. Cannon maneuvers and firing will be held each day starting at 3:30 p.m. The activities will take place from 1:00pm to 4:00pm each day. Visitors at the event will have a chance to experience what life was like at an 1870's military fort.

Daily activities, held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday will include: baking, tomahawk throwing, trader tent, and black powder gun demonstrations. A presentation by members of the Three Affiliated Tribes from Fort Berthold is also planned.

A special feature at this year's event will be the music group "Family Folk," with music from the late 1800s. The entertainment starts at 2 p.m. each day. The Miller family of Family Folk will also be providing period children's games each day. So bring the whole family for a fun filled time.

Military Life in Dakota, one of the best first-handed accounts of military life in Dakota Territory, is available for sale in the Guardhouse. It was written by General deTrobriand, the first commander at the fort.

Fort Stevenson Frontier Military days is 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 South of Garrison, North Dakota. Information about the event and park can be found online at the North Dakota Parks and Recreation website, www.parkrec.nd.gov or by calling the park at 701-337-5576.