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**CONTACT:** Jeff Mammenga, Media Coordinator, (605) 773-6000,  
Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us

**“There’s Snowplace like the Cultural Heritage Center” for a holiday open house**

PIERRE, S.D. – Residents of and visitors to Pierre are encouraged to attend this year’s annual holiday open house of the South Dakota State Historical Society, which will be held from 12-4:30 p.m. CST on Friday, Nov. 25, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

“We’ve had more than 600 people come to the Cultural Heritage Center for every holiday open house the last few years,” said Jay D. Vogt, society director. “People tell me that they look forward to coming each year to see the new museum displays and the decorations. We feel that there’s no place like the Cultural Heritage Center to get people in the Pierre and Fort Pierre area into the holiday spirit.”

This year, members of the Oahe Boys & Girls Club are joining in the decorating by creating more than 50 snowflakes that will hang in the lobby and education room throughout the holiday season. About 200 children participate in Boys and Girls Club activities, and the State Historical Society hopes that the snowflakes will draw visitors not only for the open house, but throughout the season.

There will be free admission to the museum throughout the afternoon of the open house, pictures with Santa Claus, live entertainment and living-history demonstrations. Current museum exhibits include “Building South Dakota” and a quilt and photography display.

The Heritage Store at the Cultural Heritage Center will feature unique Christmas gifts, and open house attendees are encouraged to bring a canned good to donate to the local food pantry.

The museum is currently open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CST Monday-Saturday and 1-4:30 p.m. Sundays. From Nov. 26 to Dec. 23, museum holiday hours will be 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. on Sundays.

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***About the South Dakota State Historical Society***

*The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society’s world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit [www.history.sd.gov](http://www.history.sd.gov) for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.*