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

### **Santa featured at State Historical Society holiday open house on Nov. 29**

PIERRE, S.D. – Santa Claus is not only coming to town, but to the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

Santa will be one of the featured attractions during the annual holiday open house of the South Dakota State Historical Society on Friday, Nov. 29. The event runs from 12-4:30 p.m. CST.

Kids of all ages can visit with Santa and have their picture taken with him in the center's Observation Gallery.

"Our day-after-Thanksgiving holiday open house has become a tradition," said Jay D. Vogt, society director. "We hope our members and supporters will attend, bring their friends and enjoy the many activities we have planned for the day!"

With the theme "Sharing Holiday Traditions," this year's open house will include traditional holiday items from both the United States and abroad displayed in the lobby.

The open house features free museum admission, holiday treats and entertainment. There are also living-history demonstrations, and the Heritage Store will offer discounts on its unique gifts.

Visitors are encouraged to bring canned goods to donate to the local food pantry.

"The holidays are a time of giving," Vogt said. "We started this food drive last year and it was very successful, and we hope it is even more successful this year!"

Starting Nov. 29 and running through Monday, Dec. 23, the museum in the Cultural Heritage Center will be open extended hours, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1-4:30 p.m. Sundays. The center is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

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*The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. 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.*