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Cultural Heritage Center Holiday Open House a holiday tradition

PIERRE, S.D. -- 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. 27, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, celebrates our holiday traditions.

The catchphrase of this year's holiday open house is "The Cultural Heritage Center – Your Holiday Tradition," and open house organizers have prepared activities that are a part of the region's annual holiday routine.

"We've had over 800 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. The holiday open house is truly a holiday tradition for many in the Pierre and Fort Pierre area."

This year, members of the Oahe Boys & Girls Club are joining in the decorating process by creating large greeting card posters. The children will divide into groups to make several 2-foot-by-3-foot cards that will be displayed in the Heritage Center lobby throughout the holiday season. About 200 children participate in the Boys and Girls Club activities, and the State Historical Society hopes that the giant cards will be a draw for visitors not only for the open house, but throughout the season.

Other draws to this year's open house include free admission to the museum throughout the afternoon, pictures with Santa Claus, live entertainment and living-history demonstrations. One of the museum's most popular exhibits is "Play Ball!" which is about the history of baseball in the state.

The Heritage Store at the Cultural Heritage Center will be featuring unique Christmas gift opportunities, and as people enter the Cultural Heritage Center, they 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. Monday-Saturday and 1-4:30 p.m. Sundays. From Nov. 28 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 for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.