

FOR RELEASE: Sept. 4, 2015

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Cultural Heritage Center to participate in 11th annual 'Museum Day Live!' event

PIERRE, S.D. -- The holidays come early at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, all museum visitors will be welcomed free of charge courtesy of Smithsonian magazine. This is the 11th anniversary of the event across the nation, and the third since the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society became a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate in January 2013.

The event represents the Smithsonian's commitment to make museums accessible to everyone across all 50 states by providing free admission to patrons, similar to the admissions policy of Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C. Last year's event drew over 400,000 visitors, and 2015 promises to be even bigger.

"We are delighted to participate in this program with our partners at the Smithsonian and many other museums around the nation," said Jay Smith, museum director. "It will be great to see thousands of people taking advantage of this unique opportunity to visit some of the best museums in the world, and we are proud to stand alongside so many of our colleagues participating in this project."

"This is a great opportunity to come see our baseball and South Dakota Environments exhibits," said Jay D. Vogt, director of the South Dakota State Historical Society. "These exhibits have hands-on components that are fun for the entire family."

To obtain free tickets to the museum, visitors need to visit the following web site and fill out a short form: <http://www.smithsonian.com/museumdaylive>. They will receive free tickets to the Cultural Heritage Center and other participating institutions.

Museum Day Live! tickets are valid only on Sept. 26 at the Cultural Heritage Center. Kids 17 and under are always free at the center.

To view the list of participating institutions around the nation, go to:
<http://www.smithsonian.com/museum> venues.

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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.

About Smithsonian Affiliations

Established in 1996, Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. The long-term goal of Smithsonian Affiliations is to facilitate a two-way relationship among Affiliate organizations and the Smithsonian Institution to increase discovery and inspire lifelong learning in communities across America. More information about the Smithsonian Affiliations program and Affiliate activity is available at <https://affiliations.si.edu>.