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Cultural Heritage Center program to focus on Mexican food

PIERRE, S.D. – The Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre will host “Taco Nation/Planet Taco: How Mexican-American Food Conquered the World” on Tuesday, June 16 at 7 p.m. CDT.

The video presentation, from the National Museum of American History, is part of the museum’s Smithsonian Night series the third Tuesday of each month.

Celebrate, discover and savor the legacy of Mexican food in the United States and the world. Enjoy a lively discussion among historian Jeffrey Pilcher (“Planet Taco: A Global History of Mexican Food”), syndicated columnist Gustavo Arellano (“Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America”) and Smithsonian curator Rayna Green. Learn about the popularity of Mexican food in the U.S., from its indigenous origins in Mesoamerica to the present era of global commercialization.

“This is a fascinating and entertaining program,” said Museum Director Jay Smith. “Whether you are a foodie or just interested in Mexican-American culture, it will be a lot of fun. I would suggest, however, that visitors eat in advance of the program because all that talk about great food will make you hungry!”

On Smithsonian Night, the museum and Heritage Store at the Cultural Heritage Center will be open from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. giving visitors additional time in the early evening to visit the facility. Visitors are welcome to tour the Museum and visit the Heritage Store from 4:30-8 p.m. during the extended evening hours leading up to and during the featured program. There will be no fee to view the program, but standard admission fees will apply for visitors wanting to go into the museum galleries.

The South Dakota State Historical Society became a Smithsonian Affiliate in January 2013 and is the only affiliate in South Dakota.

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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>.