



Oahe Dam 50th Anniversary Commemoration Events August 17-18, 2012 Pierre/Fort Pierre Area

Friday, August 17

11:00 a.m. - Commemoration Program

Oahe Visitor Center (above the Dam near the Oahe Chapel)

Seating is limited. Lawn chairs encouraged.

Oahe Chapel

Built in 1877, the Chapel was originally located on the Oahe Mission located at Peoria Flats, 5 miles north of the dam. The site flooded when the Dam was built.

- Unveiling and dedication of Oahe Chapel interpretive sign following Commemoration program
 - Paul Porter, Vice-President of the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society Board of Directors, will give a brief history of the Chapel.
 - Mayor Laurie Gill will unveil the sign.
- Following the dedication, the Chapel will be open for guided tours until 5:00 p.m.

Power Plant and Intake Structure Tours — (people are encouraged to stop at the Visitor Center prior to taking these tours to get information about the tours and other events)

- **1:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Intake Structure tours:** Walk out on the upper structure platform. Those who want will be guided down the stairs into the structure. Parking available outside the intake chain link fence gates and on the mowed grass.
- **1:00 – 4:00 p.m. - Extended Power Plant tours:** Tours are similar to the way they were given “in the old days.” Last tour begins at 4:00 p.m. with building being locked at 5:00 p.m. Gate will be open at the Power Plant. Visitors can park and walk right into the Power Plant exhibit area for the tour.

Adults are required to show a form of identification. No cameras, cell phones, packs, purses, or weapons allowed on tours. Strong magnetic field warning to individuals with pacemakers or defibrillators.

Cultural Heritage Center

- **4:00 p.m.** - State Historical Society staff will offer a presentation of Oahe Dam construction images. Visitors are invited to share stories.

Oahe Marina

- **4:00 p.m.** - Owner, Steve Rounds, will have live music, food, silent auction and a fireworks display. Proceeds will go to local flood relief efforts.
- **7:15 p.m.** - Short program to recognize and thank key people from the two communities for their efforts during the flood.
- **9:00 p.m.** - Approximate time for fireworks display.

Saturday, August 18

Cultural Heritage Center

- **9:00 a.m.** - Reception for those who worked during the construction of the Oahe Dam, their spouses and children. Sponsored by the South Dakota State Historical Society Foundation.

Power Plant Tours

- **10:00 a.m.** - Extended Power Plant tours similar to the way the tours were given "in the old days." Last tour begins at 4:00 p.m. with the building being locked at 5:00 p.m. Gate will be open at the Power Plant. Visitors can park and walk right into the Power Plant exhibit area for the tour. Adults are required to show a form of identification. No cameras, cell phones, weapons, pacemakers or defibrillators.

Oahe Visitor Center (above the Dam near Oahe Chapel)

- **10:00 a.m.** - **"Oahe Talk Back"** session will be held at the Visitor Center hosted by Great Lakes Tourism Association staff. Please bring lawn chairs as seating is limited
- Participants include:
 - **Matt Sutton**, who will have available the book he wrote which gives the history of the Sutton Ranches. He will be signing the book. Sutton will talk about the flooding of the land belonging to the ranches when the gates were opened.
 - **Jamie Damon**, who wrote the letter to President John F. Kennedy inviting him to the dedication.
 - **Dottie Howe**, mother of Jamie Damon, who remembers the dam being built, the river being closed off, the bulldozers lined up to close off the river and how the surge tanks were lifted.

Each person will give a short talk about their relationship to the Oahe Dam project and then will answer questions.

Oahe Chapel Tours

- **10:00 – 4:00 p.m.** - Built in 1877, the Chapel was originally located on the Oahe Mission located at Peoria Flats, 5 miles north of the Dam. The site flooded when the Dam was built.
- The Chapel will be open for self-guided tours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

State 123 Theatre in Pierre

- **11:00 a.m.** - Film footage of the Missouri River closing operations, Oahe Dam construction and visit by President Kennedy from the State Archive's Collection. Sponsored by the South Dakota State Historical Society.

