



**TO:** SD Historic Preservation Commissions  
**FROM:** Cindy Snow, Historic Preservation Assistant  
SD State Historic Preservation Office  
**DATE:** March 26, 2015  
**RE:** Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month 2015

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RAPID CITY COMMUNITY PLANNING  
& DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

May is South Dakota's Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month. The National Trust for Historic Preservation chose not to embrace a specific theme this year. The South Dakota theme is "Prairie to Pines: Celebrating South Dakota's Cultural Landscapes."

The annual celebration of Historic Preservation Month serves as a showcase for local communities to honor their past and help build their future. It brings historic preservation to the forefront of our daily lives by emphasizing the vital importance of protecting our nation's history and pre-history and heightens public awareness of the destruction to archaeological sites which are rapidly disappearing due to looters, vandals, and forces of nature.

There are many activities a Historic Preservation Commission can host during Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month. To list just a few, you can hold a clean-up day at a local historic site or offer a workshop. The workshop could demonstrate restoration techniques, teach how to choose appropriate paint colors, or inform how to improve energy efficiency in historic homes. Building tours, walking tours, and open houses are also popular events. With this year's theme, you could consider highlighting landscapes or buildings with environmental histories like mines, quarries, farmsteads, ranches, dams, irrigation systems, elevators, nurseries, etc. You could even look at building materials and their sources such as timber, brick, and stone.

To culminate the month, please consider attending the South Dakota State Historical Society 2015 History Conference on May 29 and 30. The theme this year is "Prairie to Pines: People and Their Environment in South Dakota." The environment is more than a mere backdrop. Our interactions with plants, animals, soil, water, and air have helped shape our state's great history. Some wonderful speakers will be providing insights into the impact our forefathers had on transforming the land and communities--from the farms and industry East River, to the ranches, mines, and timber operations West River. More information may be found online at [history.sd.gov](http://history.sd.gov). Click on the conference link.

Once again, as an Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month activity, the State Historic Preservation Office will be hosting a three-day hands-on Archaeology Camp for students going into grades 4 through 6. It is held after school is out. This year's dates are June 9-11.

In late April or early May, we will be receiving a Governor's proclamation announcing May as Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month in South Dakota. If you would like a copy of this proclamation, please contact me.

