

PRESS RELEASE



*Doug Burgum, Governor
Jesse Hanson, Interim Director*

*1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649*

*Phone 701-328-5357
Fax 701-328-5363
E-mail parkrec@state.nd.us
www.parkrec.nd.gov*

For immediate release

For more information, contact Lake Metigoshe State Park 701-263-4514

ND State Parks Seeking Artist in Residency Program Applicants

The North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department and the North Dakota Council on the Arts are again partnering for the Artist in Residency program within the North Dakota state parks. The Artist in Residency program offers artists the opportunity to stay and work in unique environments for one week where they'll have the opportunity to draw inspiration from a park, demonstrate their skills and assist park visitors of all ages in discovering their artistic side.

Through the 2017 Artist in Residency program, three artists will be invited to stay one week at either Beaver Lake State Park (July 16-23), Cross Ranch State Park (July 30-August 6), or Lewis & Clark State Park (August 6-13), as a collaborative effort to incorporate arts into the interpretive and educational activities presented by North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department.

“The North Dakota Council on the Arts is pleased to partner with the North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department on this wonderful residency. This partnership has existed for years and has resulted in bringing exceptional artists to our state parks to share the beauty of their work and the beauty of nature with park visitors,” said Beth Gigante Klingenstein, the Executive Director of the North Dakota Council on the Arts. “We are happy that artists from performing, literary, or visual arts are all welcome to participate in the residency.”

The program's goal is to continue creating works of art that showcase, document and celebrate our North Dakota state parks while providing opportunities for visitors to become stewards, with a deeper appreciation of artistic works inspired by the state parks. It is hoped the artworks generated from this program will characterize the state's beauty for present and future generations, giving park visitors an opportunity to see North Dakota through the eyes and ears of contributing artists.

Participating artists must be willing to provide a minimum of two onsite presentations, one of them being a hands-on workshop providing park visitors of all ages an opportunity to try out the artist's skills, methods and/or tools. Grant funding is available to purchase materials for the workshops. Artists will be provided with either a cabin or modern campsite for the duration of their residency, depending upon the state park and/or availability. A \$1,500 stipend will be awarded to the selected

artists upon the completion of the residency program. Applicants must be current North Dakota residents. Participating artists are required to donate a piece of art representing their style and reflecting their residency to the park's collection.

Amy Schimetz, full-time Interpreter at Lake Metigoshe State Park, has been coordinating the program for several years and looks forward to seeing additional artworks that have been inspired by the North Dakota state parks in addition to hearing about the artists' overall residency experiences.

Applications can be downloaded at www.parkrec.nd.gov. Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before May 5, 2017. Applications can be emailed to aschimetz@nd.gov on or before the May 5 deadline. Selected candidates will be notified by phone or email by May 17, 2017.

The mission of North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is to provide and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities through diverse parks and programs that conserve the state's natural diversity.

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