

The spirit of the American West is embodied in the story of the pioneers who crossed the country in the 1840s and 50s heading for Oregon, California and Utah. With the eternal dream of finding a better life, the pioneers left home and everything they knew for a six month wagon ride across the country to lands they had never seen.

“Wandrin’ Star”—this year’s performance at the Ash Hollow Historical Pageant tells the tale of those pioneers using their own words with diary entries that weave a story of fun, boredom, fear, hardship and endurance.

Guests at the Ash Hollow Pageant relive a little of trail life with the chuck wagon supper—trail beans, roast beef and fry bread—and spending the evening on the trail next to the spring where pioneers enjoyed their first clean spring water in weeks. The Ash Hollow Historical Pageant, is part musical, part historical documentary performed by a regional cast of 30 members and a trail band.

The pageant will be held Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16, at Ash Hollow State Historical Park near Lewellen.

Schedule

10 a.m.–6 p.m.: Self-drive tour of Ash Hollow State Historical Park

10 a.m.–4 p.m.: Quilt Show at the Most Unlikely Place in Lewellen

12–6 p.m.: Art Show at Ash Hollow State Park

5–6:30 p.m.: Chuck wagon supper

6:30 p.m.: Performance

7 a.m. SATURDAY ONLY – 5K walk/run at park, bike ride starting in Lewellen.

Park stickers are required for all vehicles. All events are free except for the supper. Proceeds from the dinner and program sales support Volunteers of America—Western Nebraska services including the preschool, food pantry and health center.

People attending the pageant provide their own seating such as a lawn chair or blanket and will want to be prepared for the temperatures from hot to chilly in the evening. Bug repellent is also a good idea. Golf carts will be available for people who need a ride from their vehicles to the chuck wagon supper and the performance site. Handicap parking will also be available close to the performance site.

The Ash Hollow pageant will be performed near the picnic area at Ash Hollow State Historical Park, three miles southeast of Lewellen. In case of rain, the chuck wagon dinner and performance will be held on Sunday starting at 11:30 a.m.

For people who love history and nature, the Ash Hollow Pageant is a must. For more information, contact Volunteers of America at 778-5548 or check www.gardencounty.org.