

One of the longest running natural resource management camps in the country is celebrating its 50th anniversary this summer. The camp's anniversary will be celebrated with a Nebraska Range Camp Reunion on Saturday, Aug. 24 at Halsey State 4-H Camp.

The NRCR (Nebraska Range Camp Reunion) will feature a ranch tour, speakers from each decade of the camp and an evening barbeque. Speakers include Sid Salzman, Ken Noonan, Mary Reece and Pat Peterson. Past crew bosses, speakers, sponsors and campers are invited to join the celebration. For more information, contact Mary Reece at mary.reece@ne.usda.gov. The deadline for registering for the event is Aug. 10.

Nebraska Range Youth Camp was created to provide training to young people in the art and science of range management and to encourage and develop future leadership in the range management field.

Today, the focus is range management, but conservation, ecology, animal science, and wildlife are important components of the week-long camp. The camp provides a balance of educational and recreational activities for the participants.

The camp started in 1963 under the leadership of Dr. John F. Vallentine. The camp has been held every year at the State 4-H Camp in Halsey, except 1968 when it was held at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA), in Curtis and in 1969 when it was not held.

Attendance at the camp has ranged from 27 the first year of the camp to more than 60. Over the years, many future ranchers, educators and other range professionals have attended Range Youth Camp.

The camp is sponsored by the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management. A number of Natural Resource Districts, FFA Chapters, banks and private individuals support the camp by providing scholarships to students attending the camp.

Several Nebraska ranches have also sponsored the camp with donations and the use of their brands.

For more information about the camp see the Nebraska Section SRM website: <http://nesrm.org/index.html>.