



NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ND State Parks to Host Artist in Residency Program

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and the North Dakota Council on the Arts are partnering once again for the Artist in Residency program within the ND 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 2016 Artist in Residency program, three artists will be invited to stay one week at either Icelandic State Park (July 10-17), Lake Metigoshe State Park (July 17-24) or Turtle River State Park (July 31-August 7) as a collaborative effort to incorporate arts into the interpretive and educational activities presented by North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.

"The North Dakota Council on the Arts is extremely pleased to partner with the North Dakota Parks & Recreation in this excellent residency program," said Beth Klingenstein, the Executive Director of the North Dakota Council on the Arts. "The arts are a wonderful way to celebrate our North Dakota parks and to serve those who come to enjoy their beauty. Past artists have spoken of the richness of their experience, the meaning they derived from the residency, and the value of what they were able to share with those in the parks. I look forward to this year's residencies with great anticipation."

The program is recruiting writers, composers, visual and performing artists to experience the North Dakota state parks and resources, allowing them to illustrate their experiences through their talents while providing opportunities for our park visitors to do the same by participating in hands-on workshops. Amy Schimetz, the full-time Interpreter at Lake Metigoshe State Park, has been coordinating the program for several years and states, "the program is for serious professionals who deeply care about our state parks, wanting to contribute to them as well as benefit from them."

Our goal is to continue creating works of art that showcase, document and celebrate our North Dakota state parks while providing opportunities for our visitors to become stewards, with a deeper appreciation of artistic works inspired by the state parks. It is hoped that 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.

Applications are now being accepted through Friday, March 25, 2016. Selected candidates will be notified by phone or email by Monday, April 15. 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. In addition, each resident 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 \$1,200 stipend will be awarded to the selected artists upon the completion of the residency program.

Information and applications can be obtained by contacting Amy Schimetz via email at aschimetz@nd.gov or visiting http://www.nd.gov/arts/sites/default/files/PDFs/2016_artist_in_residency_flyer-final.pdf.

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The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.