

News Release

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

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Christmas Bird Count for Kids to Be Held at DeSoto NWR on Tuesday, December 29

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is excited to announce our first Christmas Bird Count for Kids which will be held on Tuesday, December 29, 2015 from 9 am-12 pm. The Christmas Bird Count, which began over 100 years ago, is one of the oldest wildlife surveys in the world. Kids and families will have a chance to become citizen scientists by taking part in this old tradition with a new twist, the Christmas Bird Count for Kids.

A binocular boot camp will kick-off the event, after which kids will divide into teams and head out into the field with volunteer experts to count and record the species of birds they locate. Teams will meet back at the visitor center after the count for snacks and hot chocolate and to tally their results.

This event is designed as a way for families to have fun outdoors and learn more about local birds. Kids of all birding abilities are encouraged to participate. Participants should come dressed for spending time outdoors. You may bring your own binoculars or borrow some from the Refuge. Registration is encouraged but not required.

An entrance permit is required for all vehicles on days other than fee free days. The regular daily entrance fee for private vehicles is \$3.00. Permits may be obtained at the pay stations near the entrances or at the Visitor Center. The charge for commercial vans and buses is \$20, or \$30 if 21 or more people are aboard. Annual permits, including the \$15 DeSoto Refuge Pass, can be obtained at the visitor center.

The nation's 563 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts welcomes over 45 million visitors each year. Visitors participate in activities such as fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, birding, interpretive hikes, and photographing iconic wildlife in their natural setting.

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges are located north of Omaha, Nebraska. DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is located south of U.S. Highway 30 between Missouri Valley, Iowa and Blair, Nebraska. Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge, managed by staff at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, is located east of U.S. Highway 75 near Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska. Check our websites, www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/ or www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer_chute/, for refuge updates. Like us on Facebook - search for DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges. For more information please contact 712/388-4800 or email the refuge at desoto@fws.gov.

The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

