



The Sand Creek Massacre

At Sand Creek, November 29, 1864, Colorado volunteers sighted the camps of Chiefs Black Kettle, White Antelope, Yellow Wolf, Bear Tongue, War Bonnet, Lone Bear, and others. Commands of the 1st Colorado Regiment swept to the southeast and west of the village. Between these columns rode Colonel John Chivington and the 3rd Colorado Regiment.

A barrage of fire was leveled against the Cheyenne and Arapaho. Initially, many people gathered around Black Kettle's lodge; others fled, seeking refuge behind sagebrush, driftwood, and grassy underbrush. Women and children dug pits along the bed and banks of Sand Creek. Troops pursued these people, crossing and re-crossing Sand Creek, mounting and dismounting as they followed the chaotic path up the valley.

All told, some 150 to 160 Cheyenne and Arapaho perished here. Survivors included many who fled before the attack, and others, including the wounded, who trekked northward throughout the day and into the night. According to one Cheyenne eyewitness, *"we all stopped in a ravine about 10 miles above the battleground...It was very dark and cold...Of course, no one slept a wink thinking about what had taken place that day. Wounds began to pain [and] Indians kept up hollering all night..."*



The National Park Service would like to thank all the individuals and groups who have provided their guidance, support, and wisdom during the establishment of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. Your time and valuable assistance is, and will always be deeply appreciated. Your mark has been made, and your work is now part of the Sand Creek legacy.

Our special thanks and gratitude to the four individuals below who diligently worked on the Sand Creek project, but are now deceased.

Luke Brady, Northern Cheyenne
Eugene Ridgley Sr., Northern Arapaho
Theresa Horak, National Park Service
William "Lee" Pedro, Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho



Commemorating The Sand Creek Massacre

November 29, 1864




Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site

April 28, 2007



142 years, 216 days of history



Welcome to the dedication of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site – our nation’s 391st National Park Service unit. The Sand Creek Massacre is among America’s most emotional and profound historic events. The National Park Service is privileged to assist in preserving and commemorating this important site and its many legacies for future generations.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

6 a.m. - 9 a.m. – Chuck Wagon Breakfast sponsored by Eads Chamber of Commerce at Kiowa County Fairgrounds. Cost \$5.00 per person.

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. – Vendor and Informational Booths located at the Fairgrounds and downtown Eads. Optional transportation between all vendor booth locations offered at minimal fee.

9 a.m. - 8 p.m. – Artisan Booths located at the Artists of the Plains Art Gallery in Eads.

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Dedication Ceremony at Sand Creek Massacre site - see agenda on the next page.

Afternoon – Ongoing programs at site offered by the National Park Service.


12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. – Free Buffalo BBQ sponsored by Kiowa County and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes at the Fairgrounds.

1 p.m. - 5 p.m. – Sample Town: “The Gateway Community Vision.” This program in downtown Eads will showcase the local high school students’ vision of viable businesses for the currently vacant commercial buildings from business plan to physical appearance.

2:30 p.m. – Preserve America Community Announcement (tentative) Maine Street

6:00 p.m. – Traditional Gathering with honor songs and dances presented by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes at the Kiowa County Fairgrounds.

For additional information about the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, please contact the park at 719-438-5916 or write the park at 910 Wansted, P.O. Box 249, Eads, CO 81036. You may also visit our website at www.nps.gov/sand/



SAND CREEK MASSACRE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DEDICATION CEREMONY 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer

Opening Ceremony

- ◆ Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Color Guard and Drum Group
- ◆ Northern Cheyenne Color Guard and Drum Group
- ◆ Northern Arapaho Color Guard and Drum Group
- ◆ National Park Service Color Guard

Local Dignitaries

- ◆ Donald Oswald, Chairman, Kiowa County Commissioners

State Dignitaries

- ◆ Colorado Lieutenant Governor Barbara O’Brien
- ◆ Colorado Governor Bill Ritter

Federal Congressional Dignitaries

- ◆ Kansas Senator Sam Brownback
- ◆ Colorado Representative Marilyn Musgrave, 4th Congressional District
- ◆ Former Colorado Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell

Tribal Dignitaries

- ◆ **Northern Cheyenne**
 - Eugene Little Coyote, President
 - Steve Brady, Sr., Co-Chairman, Northern Cheyenne Sand Creek Massacre Historic Site Project
 - William Walks Along, Executive Administrator, Northern Cheyenne Tribe
 - Richard Little Bear, Ed.D., President, Chief Dull Knife College
- ◆ **Northern Arapaho**
 - Gail Ridgley, Northern Arapaho Sand Creek Representative
 - Anthony (Al) Addison, Former Chairman, Northern Arapaho Business Council and Sand Creek Representative
 - Nelson White, Sr., Business Council Member, Northern Arapaho Tribe
 - Richard Brannan, Chairman, Northern Arapaho Business Council
- ◆ **Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho**
 - Johnny Whiteshirt, Arapaho Elder
 - Richard Williams, Arapaho Legislator
 - Nelson Clark, Arapaho Legislator
 - Joyce Martinez, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Elder Care Program Coordinator
 - Gordon Yellowman, Cheyenne Chief
 - Edwin Pewo, Cheyenne Chief
 - Laird Cometsevah, Cheyenne Chief and Sand Creek Representative
 - Darrell Flyingman, Governor, Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma

Department of the Interior

- ◆ Mary Bomar, Director, National Park Service

Closing Prayer

Spiritual Healing Run

