
News Release

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Dennis Hood

605-594-6547

hood@usgs.gov

Dave Ozman

720-244-4543

dozman@usgs.gov

Senators Daschle and Johnson, and Lt. Governor Daugaard to Speak at Event

EROS Data Center 30th Anniversary Open House Expected to Draw 12,000 Citizens

More than 12,000 South Dakotans are expected at the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) EROS Data Center 30th Anniversary Celebration to be held on Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Data Center Campus North of Sioux Falls. The 30th Anniversary Open House, which is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will celebrate three decades of discovery and follow the theme, "Continuing the Legacy of Lewis and Clark."

U.S. Senators Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson, South Dakota Lt. Governor Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Bennett Raley, USGS Director Chip Groat and other honored guests will speak at the EROS Data Center Re-dedication Ceremony at 11:00 am. Featured activities include a Native American village and cultural activities, Lewis and Clark re-enactors, Astronaut Frank Culbertson and numerous science and educational booths and demonstrations.

"We're excited to invite the community to EROS," said EROS Chief R.J. Thompson. "The thrust of what we do is mapping, like Lewis and Clark. We have a direct heritage with them, and we have a great story to tell about the past, present and future of the EROS Center. We're very proud of what we do and want people to be able to see what we do and be able to ask questions."

Educational exhibits at the open house will highlight activities that offer a learning opportunity for middle school students. A brochure will be given to students as they arrive at the Center on September 20. The brochure will contain several educational "themes" that students can explore during their visit. Students who visit four or more of the educational exhibits may claim a prize recognizing their accomplishment and commemorating their visit to EDC.

More than 10,000 people visit EROS (Earth Resources Observation Systems) each year. Visitors from around the world come to Sioux Falls to learn from the scientists and technicians who work at EROS. The Center's 600-person workforce operates within a \$62 million budget, which contributes over \$45 million in salaries to the regional economy.

For more information about EROS Data Center or its 30th Anniversary Celebration, contact Dennis Hood at (605) 594-6547, or look on-line at edc.usgs.gov/30th

The USGS serves the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

DIRECTIONS TO THE EROS DATA CENTER: From Sioux Falls, take Interstate 90 east to Exit 402, proceed 8 miles north on Minnehaha County Road 121 (478th Avenue), then go one mile east on 252nd St.

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