

Program Sub-Committee: Tours

Scope: A stevne feature that has been well received is a tour activity. In 2003, a tour visited three churches with Trøndelag heritage near Sioux Falls and concluded with a catered picnic meal. At this stevne, the stevne concluded with a Heritage walking tour at Augustana College and a visit to the Center for Western Studies. In 2004 at the Rochester stevne, an area tour to a lefse factory, art gallery, local museum, and a drama troupe, also concluded with a meal.

Responsibilities:

1. One or two individuals should be designated to have primary responsibilities for recommending possible tours to the Program committee and implementing the tour arrangements. The tour should be confirmed as far in advance as is possible. Maintain regular communication with TLSSC Committee.
2. Secure transportation bids from more than one bus company. Identify services needed and time schedules.
 - If the group is larger than one bus, plan for a stevne participant to act as host/guide for each bus.
 - A script appropriate to the tour sites or general history of the area may be provided the hosts to share with participants as the bus drives to the various sites.
3. Provide maps with clear directions if stevne participants are expected to drive their own vehicles to another location. Make sure that parking areas are clearly identified. If it is a self-directed walking tour, be sure to emphasize that in the publicity about the tour.
4. The sites visited should be invited to provide several volunteers that can assist tour participants, answer questions, and provide hospitality. If the tour group is large and the facilities small, it might be best to arrange for a busload to visit one area and another bus to visit a second site and then reverse the visits before returning to the larger group.
5. Invite sites visited to have books, historical materials, and souvenirs for sale to visitors at tour site, if such is available.
6. Determine with sites to be visited if refreshments are expected or to be provided. If the weather is especially warm, water, lemonade, iced tea, etc., would be appreciated. Determine cost to be included in tour price.
7. Tour cost would include transportation; meals, if any; refreshments, admission fees, etc.