

Global Sandhill Crane Journey with Lincoln Nebraska Friendship Force Club

March 9-12, 2026

March 9, 2026 club members Christine Allen, Lynda Bordwell, Judy Frascht-Miner, John Miner and Marty Novak along with Jane Escobar and Elese Johnson from Des Moines and David Motherwell, Judy Neary and Doris Yohe from St Louis traveled to Lincoln Nebraska. There we joined the local FF club on a Journey to the Sandhill Crane Capital of the world.



Cranes talking off

We started out by touring the Nebraska Educational Television studios and saw a "NET produced documentary film Crane Song".

The Welcome was at a Lincoln favorite chicken restaurant, Lee's Chicken. Guest speaker a NU professor gave a presentation of the history of the Sandhill Cranes and why the Platte River and Nebraska are so important to the migration of these majestic birds.



Viewing Nebraska Educational Television studios for *Crane Song*



Visiting a Sandhill Educational Center

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The Lincoln club planned for us to have viewing blinds at the Crane Trust. We saw the cranes come in to roost on Tuesday evening at Rowe Sanctuary. On Wednesday morning we watched the cranes wake up and fly off to the surrounding fields to feed during their stay in Nebraska.

Between and around these breath-taking events we toured some outstanding local museums that highlighted Nebraska and its history. They included the Stuhr Museum, Archway, Museum of Nebraska Art and the Edgerton Explorit Center. We also toured and had lunch at the Mennonite Village in Henderson, NE. It was interesting to see how this Mennonite Village compared to what we show visiting groups when we take them to Kalona.

Special thanks to Christine Allen for being the CR/IC Journey leader and Arlene Rea, Eloise Hiatt and Judy Keetle from Lincoln who planned and organized this memorable journey.

Although it was a short journey, lasting friendships and memories were made.



Cranes landing in the evening



Viewing from a blind



Raptor masks at the Edgerton Explorit Center

