

Stories of Roxborough

“The Day the Park Opened”



May 15, 1987, was a very special day at Roxborough State Park. For centuries, the spectacular red rocks attracted people from the earliest hunter-gatherers to modern day nature lovers. While designated a state park in 1975, on this day, it would finally open to the public.

We arrived early to prepare for the many invited guests. Representatives from the Colorado Lottery arrived with refreshments. Arranged through the Denver Indian Center, members of various tribes gathered in their traditional dress. Invitees from local communities, government officials, state parks staff and volunteers, and the public came to celebrate with us.

Susan Trumble, our park manager, welcomed everyone to the newly completed George T. O'Malley Visitor Center. Ron Holliday, Director of Colorado Parks, and several others spoke. A Kiowa tribal elder then burned a small cedar branch and delivered a Kiowa ceremonial prayer, that translates in English to “Touch the Earth”. Drummers beat out a rhythm while the elder sang and dancers stepped to traditional dance steps.

I heard the leader announce that the women would perform the Eagle Dance. Feeling the drumbeat, I was mesmerized by the circular dance. I still remember the smell of the cedar, when a Golden Eagle passed silently overhead disappearing behind the red rocks.

- Doris Cruze, Volunteer since 1982



Touch The Earth

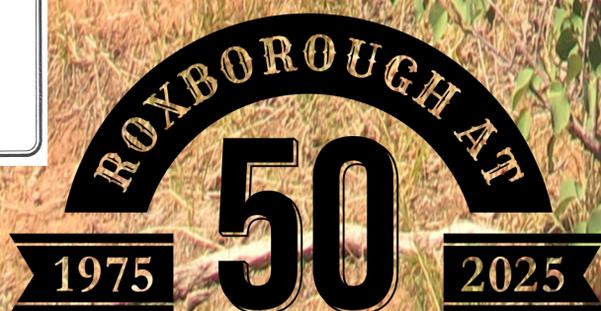
Our great Creator who is in heaven, we are gathered on this day to show our thanks and appreciation for this beautiful land, our Mother Earth.

Because you have created this beautiful formation of stone, rocks, bushes, trees and mountains, we, as people upon this earth, want to preserve it as it was created by the touch of your hand.

We are made more aware of your presence by the beauty of this wonderful park, which is your creation.

Our prayer today is for your continued blessings upon Mother Earth, and the things that abound upon it, for the winged ones, the four-legged creatures, all the people, the rain and the four seasons that touch the earth.

Amen. A-ho!



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