



NEWS RELEASE

Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site
3403 West 53rd • Fairway KS 66205-2654

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Contact: Alisha Cole • 913-262-0867 • shawneemission@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2008

**FIBER FESTIVAL – “LIVE WOOLIES TO WOOLENS”
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 10**

FAIRWAY, KS— Enjoy a fun family weekend at the 10th Annual Fiber Fest, “Live Woolies to Woolens,” at Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, 3403 West 53rd Street in Fairway. The event will take place on the mission grounds 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 10.

Members of the Osage Spinners Guild, the Fiber Guild of Greater Kansas City, area lace makers, the Grinter House Quilters, and mission volunteers will demonstrate carding, spinning, dying wool with natural materials, weaving, felting, quilting, and lace making. Sheep shearing demonstrations will be presented on the hour. Fleeces, yarn, and other hand made items will be available to buy or trade. The public is invited to visit with participants and watch their demonstrations. Bring a blanket and picnic lunch if you like. There will be no food or drinks for sale. Fiber Festival is sponsored by the Friends of the Mission and the Kansas Historical Society. There is no charge for the event.

The Shawnee Indian Mission is one of 16 state historic sites operated by the Kansas Historical Society, a state agency. The mission was opened in 1839 to serve Indian children from 15 different tribes. Students learned basic academics, manual arts, and agriculture. At the height of its activity the mission was an establishment of more than 2,000 acres with 16 buildings, including the three large brick structures that still stand, and an enrollment of nearly 200 Indian boys and girls. During its history as a school, Kansas Territorial Governor Andrew Reeder had his offices at the mission and the first territorial legislature met there. It was during this legislative session that the so-called "bogus laws" were passed in an attempt to perpetuate slavery in Kansas. While the manual training portion of the school ceased in 1854, the mission continued to operate until 1862. The state of Kansas acquired the mission in 1927. For more information visit kshs.org/places/shawnee.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.