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#### **(S.D.)-Rushmore Mascots Heading Out On Midwest Tour Of 14 Cities**

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 05/07/2013 09:43 AM

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - The Mount Rushmore presidential mascots are heading out on a 14-city Midwest tour.

Tourism Secretary Jim Hagen says the cities along the route are filled with people who have a high propensity to travel to South Dakota. He says the goal of the bus tour is to build awareness about South Dakota, create excitement and plant the seed of a South Dakota vacation.

The people-sized George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln have previously made appearances at Major League Baseball games and the Macy's Day parade.

The bus will visit Omaha and Lincoln, Neb.; Kansas City, Mo.; Des Moines, Iowa; Chicago; Milwaukee, Madison, and Eau Claire, Wis.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Fargo, N.D.; and Rapid City, Pierre, Watertown, and Sioux Falls, S.D., starting May 23.