For Immediate Release: 4/30/2020

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## PRESS RELEASE

# Lancaster Event Center expands & opens extended-stay campgrounds May 1

Lancaster Event Center fairgrounds is proud to announce the grand opening of its improved and expanded Year-round Campground after self-performing construction work for the last two years. Campers can now choose from 320 gravel or grass, 30 or 50 amp electric service sites with newly added seasonal water service at each site. The fairgrounds has also added free access to laundry machines, high-speed WiFi service and discounted sewer pump and/or winter water fill services in addition to the existing shower room, single dump station and vehicle washing area among other amenities.

The Year-round Campground was designed to serve the fairgrounds' many horse and livestock events (which sometimes sold out the previous 200-site campground), as well as offer an attractive option for extended stays for traveling workers needing a place to stay for a month or longer. The improved campground has already attracted workers employed by the ADM factory remodel, the Black Hills pipeline and the South Beltway projects, hail damage work crews, FEMA workers as well as traveling nurses and other medical workers. Shorter stays up to two weeks are also available without an application. The campground isn't designed for long-term residents because of periodic black-out dates where facility-wide events will need all the spaces.

The campgrounds will grow to a total of 1,284 campsites with 964 sites being completed by July at the back of the 160-acre fairgrounds making Lancaster County now home to the 10th largest event center campground in the country. These additional 964 sites on the eastern side of the fairgrounds will be run as a National Event Campground for facility-wide events such as the National High School Finals Rodeo contracted to visit in July 2020, 2021, 2026 and 2027 and also the Family Motor Coach Association International Convention that was scheduled for August 2020 but is now in discussions to move to a new date after the COVID pandemic. The National Event Campground will also provide

much needed backup parking for year-round events like the annual Lancaster County Super Fair or Nebraska Ag Expo now that this former field has been graded for vehicle access.

This new National Event Campground is attracting a lot of attention from RV rally associations among other national groups who are asking for bookings years out before the fairgrounds had a chance to officially begin marketing. Attracting new visitors to Lancaster County was exactly why these campground improvements were funded by a Lancaster County Visitors Improvement (lodging tax) grant approved by the Lancaster County Board upon winning the National High School Finals Rodeo contract in 2017. All campground rentals will generate payments into the Lancaster County lodging tax fund to support future attractions/facility grants throughout the county as well as bring thousands of outside of county visitors annually to drive significant economic impact at local restaurants, retail stores, gas stations, attractions and to local sales/lodging taxes, etc.

The campground has updated its health-related procedures after consulting with the local public health department to ensure safety for campers and staff during the COVID pandemic and may be an attractive option for medical workers that would like to self-quarantine during this time to protect their families. Any medical workers interested in staying in the campground but are in need of an RV, should contact Lancaster Event Center Campground Manager, Sue Morrison, as we are aware of community offers for medical workers to borrow RVs at low/no cost. She can be reached at <a href="mailto:SMorrison@LancasterEventCenter.org">SMorrison@LancasterEventCenter.org</a> or 402.441.1823 M-F, 9-5 or after hours at 402-429-4536 if urgent.

Anyone interested in staying at the campground can reserve online at <a href="LancasterEventCenter.org"><u>LancasterEventCenter.org</u></a>><u>Plan Visit</u>><u>Camping</u> and choose their options including daily, weekly and monthly rates. A full list of amenities is available online as well as convenient online application, camping payment and ordering of sewer pump and winter water services.



Managing Director, Amy Dickerson said, "We are very excited to have this new revenue opportunity as it's been a tough spring without events. Lancaster Event Center is a non-profit fairgrounds now attracting regional/national events since our relaunch started in 2015. With no year-round operating subsidy, we depend on renting out the facility all year long to pay our uniquely expert core staff and maintain the fairgrounds. And I'm proud to say we hear all the time we have friendliest event center staff so folks will enjoy their stay!"

The campgrounds are definitely a convenient location for temporary long-term workers in Lincoln and the Omaha area and other travelers. And, starting at just \$375 per month, it's really a great value. With walking and biking trail next door and lots of grassy dog walking area, it's also a quiet place to relax. To kick off the camping season there is a \$25 **referral** camping credit for each new month-long camper and a weekend camping giveaway being offered on social media. The campground also offers a football season rate of \$900 from Labor Day to Thanksgiving for weekend-only campers.

Lancaster Event Center CAN'T WAIT to host their next event but until then, they are inviting you and your camper out to visit!

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#### ABOUT LANCASTER EVENT CENTER FAIRGROUNDS

The Lancaster Event Center (LEC) is the county fairgrounds located on the east side of Lincoln, Nebraska and known as the Midwest's premier multi-use facility and home of the Lancaster County Super Fair with over 320 other events annually, contributing over \$40M in economic impact to the area. Key features of LEC fairgrounds include 400,000 square feet across five inter-connected buildings, full catering and food/beverage service, multiple advertising/naming sponsorship opportunities, 320-site year-round campground with water/electric hookups (additional 964 large event campsites), a new 3,300-person covered grandstand with 400x600' outdoor multi-use arena, ample outdoor livestock pens & horse stalls all set on 160-acre grassy fairgrounds with ample, convenient parking adjacent to natural and retail amenities. LEC is located minutes from I-80 Waverly exit and other major highways while being just 15 minutes from downtown Lincoln attractions. Opened in 2001 by the Lancaster County Agricultural Society, LEC operates as a public, independent county-level political subdivision and 501(c)(3) non-profit. The Agricultural Society is celebrating 150 years for its county fair in 2020 in its mission under Nebraska State Law to be a key contributor to Lancaster County's youth, culture and economy by providing a professional, friendly and fun experience at the LEC while striving to engage the community in the unique agricultural heritage of Lancaster County for years to come. For additional information, visit LancasterEventCenter.org or contact the media contact above.

# Extended Stay Available at Newly Upgraded Campgrounds!





Three month or longer stays approved with copy of your work contract



### **Key Features:**

- Affordable rates from \$25/day or \$375/month
- Convenient location for workers in both Lincoln and Omaha areas
- Superior one-on-one customer service
- Quiet but near shopping & restaurants
- Hi-speed WiFi from \$1.95
- Shower room & NEW free laundry machine use
- Walking & biking trail
- Ample grassy dog walking area
- 15 minutes from downtown and close to I-80

Apply online today at  $\textbf{LancasterEventCenter.org} \rightarrow \textbf{Plan Visit} \rightarrow \textbf{Camping}$ 

**Questions?** Contact Sue Morrison, Campground Manager, at **SMorrison@LancasterEventCenter.org** or M-F 9am-5pm at **402.441.1823** 

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A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to growing Lancaster County's youth, culture and economy through events like yours, and the Super Fair.