

Nebraska Tourism is accepting applications for its 2013 Passport program, which encourages travelers to visit attractions across the state, collect stamps at participating stops and earn prizes.

Last year, the 80 stops included in the program were divided into special-interest tours such as wineries, restaurants, festivals, culture, parks, family fun and unique accommodations.

The number of stops for 2013 and the tour categories will be determined later.

Attractions, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, museums and other tourism-related businesses can apply for a spot on the 2013 Nebraska Passport by completing the application at industry.visitnebraska.org and emailing it to Shannon Peterson at shannon.j.peterson@nebraska.gov by Nov. 30 at 5 p.m.

Applications also can be faxed to 402-471-3026 or mailed to Nebraska Tourism Commission, Passport Program, 301 Centennial Mall South, 1st Floor, Lincoln, NE 68509-8907.

Being part of the Nebraska Passport program provides businesses and attractions with exposure to new visitors. In a follow-up survey, 98 percent of 2012 participants said they visited at least one Nebraska attraction they wouldn't have otherwise visited because it was a Passport stop.

More than 19,976 households participated in the Passport program this year, and 192 Passports were submitted for prizes.