The Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site near Cooperstown ND announces the “Cold War Film Contest”. The contest will allow (and require) regional, independent filmmakers to use the historic, underground missile alert facility as a background for independently produced short-length films.

Between now and September 15, 2010, filmmakers can determine if they are up to the challenge of this on-site shooting. If they are, they can contact the site to obtain an application and to schedule a date (or dates) to film at the site. On-site filming dates will be scheduled for dates between September 15 and February 15, 2011. Once the filmmakers have finished their filming, they must submit the film to the site for judging by February 15, 2011. Films will be judged by a multi-disciplinary team for their cinematic and historical merits. Prizes will be awarded to makers of the winning films.

One goal of the project is to link creative independent filmmakers in the region to one of many historic sites in the state to help bring attention to the richness of North Dakota’s history, culture, and people. Additionally, it is hoped that these films will enrich the experience of this site by presenting aspects of the tense and complex interplay of military preparedness and politics during the Cold War period. Finally it is the goal of the project coordinators that area students develop a deeper interest in both the area’s history as well as in creative cultural projects.

There is no fee to participate in the contest (but filmmakers must provide their own equipment and supplies).

The project is supported by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the Friends of Oscar-Zero, and the Griggs County Historical Society.

For more information on the contest, to make a filming appointment, or to simply visit the site, please contact Mark Sundlov, the supervisor of the Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site at 701-797-3691 or msundlov@nd.gov.

Contest Deadlines:

September 15, 2010 – Last date to establish filming appointments at the site

September 15 through February 15, 2011 – Onsite filming appointments available

February 15, 2011 – Films must be submitted to the site for judging

March 5, 2011 – Announcement of the contest and prize winners