

Spring 2024



605-362-2777 TOC@state.sd.us



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —



Winter 2023 Recap

Read about what happened this past winter for Outdoor Campus programming P. 4

Campus Updates

Learn about what new things are happening at the Outdoor Campus P. 5-8

2024 Program Highlights

Find out what exciting classes are coming up for Spring 2024 and where to apply P. 10-11



Region 3

Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

After the brutal winter we experienced last year, this mild winter was a welcomed change of pace! With spring season upon us, we're once again looking forward to another great year of outdoor opportunities here in South Dakota. Before we know it, folks will be outside calling for turkeys, jigging for walleye, and searching for morel mushrooms! Here at the Outdoor Campus, we have plenty to be excited about. We have been busy planning and preparing for our expansion project! Phase 1 of the project is right around the corner and will include the construction of an outdoor archery range. This will be followed up by Phase 2 later in the year, which will include an expansion of the Outdoor Campus building with an indoor archery range. We're excited for all the outdoor learning opportunities that will come with these improvements and we hope you are as well!



Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

Spring 2024 is an exciting time! The Outdoor Campus has recently debuted its new program booklet (see p. for some class highlights). Registration opened on February 14th, but don't worry if you missed registration day, many of our classes still have space!

Spring also means that the Campus Expansion project is drawing closer! The expected construction date is late Spring 2024 to early Summer 2024, and we are eagerly looking forward to it!

The Game, Fish and Park's Department also released the 2024 State Parks Theme: "Reel in the Memories". This year you can earn prizes by participating in fishing throughout South Dakota's State Parks, Recreation Areas, Nature Areas, Lakeside Use Areas, and through Outdoor Campus classes! To learn more, visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/fish2024/>



Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

At our most recent Friends of the Outdoor Campus meeting, we were greeted with all kinds of activity around the campus on a spring-like day in February. It was thrilling to see so many people taking advantage of the 70-degree day and enjoying nature right in the middle of Sioux Falls. We encourage you to share your experiences at the campus with your friends and family and invite them to take advantage of this gem in our community.

We continue to work with the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation to raise funds to complete the capital campaign to expand the facility. The donations will allow us to expand the campus to meet the growing needs of the community and additional programing.

We are excited to see updated plans for the campus expansion and hope to see construction begin on the outdoor archery range in late spring or early summer. The expansion of the building will hopefully begin later this year and enhance the experience of all our guests. Please stop by the lobby to see updated drawings for a sneak peak of future construction.

Thank you to all staff and volunteers for providing outstanding programing, experiences and education. Through their dedication and commitment, our guests are treated to a new appreciation for the outdoors.

Jan Nicolay recently resigned as Chair of the Friends of the Outdoor Campus due to health issues. We want to recognize and thank her for her leadership, dedication, passion and commitment to the Outdoor Campus. Her leadership over 25 years ago led to the creation of the Campus and her continued dedication and passion lead to the formation of Friends board and fundraising efforts to make the current expansion plans possible. Thank you, Jan, for all you have accomplished for the benefit of the Outdoor Campus, job well done!!

Board Members

Tim Kromminga - Chair	Royce Meritt - Member	Jamie Simko - Member
Amanda Oines - Member	Jeff Scherschligt - Member	Brian Klatt - Member
Eric Olson - Member	Cheryl Ulvestad - Member	Kristina Coby - Ex Officio
Derek Maassen - Member	Eric Kurtz - Member	Kip Rounds - Ex Officio
Kathy Anderson - Member	Emmett Keyser - Member	David Parker - Ex Officio

A Look Back at Winter 2023



This year has been quite unique with the weather. We have gone from having lots of snow, to having little snow in a fairly quick time. Because of this, our ice fishing has been both on the ice and also from the dock (for safety). Either way, the fish have been biting and we held a variety of planned classes as well as “Open House” classes that didn’t require any registration.

Winter can sometimes feel limiting if you don’t like the cold. This winter, however, we dove headlong into rod building classes. Participants in these classes were able to come in, build either an ice fishing rod, a spinning rod, or a fly fishing rod from scratch including the decorative wraps found on them.

Aside from these classes, we also offered a course on decorative diamond wraps. This advanced level class, allowed students to try their hand at a more complex and creative form of decorative wrap to adorn fishing rods.



Campus Updates - Accessible Hunting Blind

Every year the Campus has a variety of folks take part in our Hunting 101 Program. This comprehensive hunting program includes learning how to purchase a license, time at the range, time in the field, and time processing with successful harvest. This year, thanks to funds from Pheasants Forever and partnership with Ambush Outdoor Products, the Outdoor Campus was able to add a fully accessible hunting blind with custom ramp for an Action Track Chair.



Campus Updates - Falls Flyrodder Club



This is a brand new club that meets the last Thursday of each month. The club will tie flies in the winter at the Outdoor Campus and then in the summer fish local waters. First meeting is March 28 from 6-7:30pm at the Outdoor Campus.

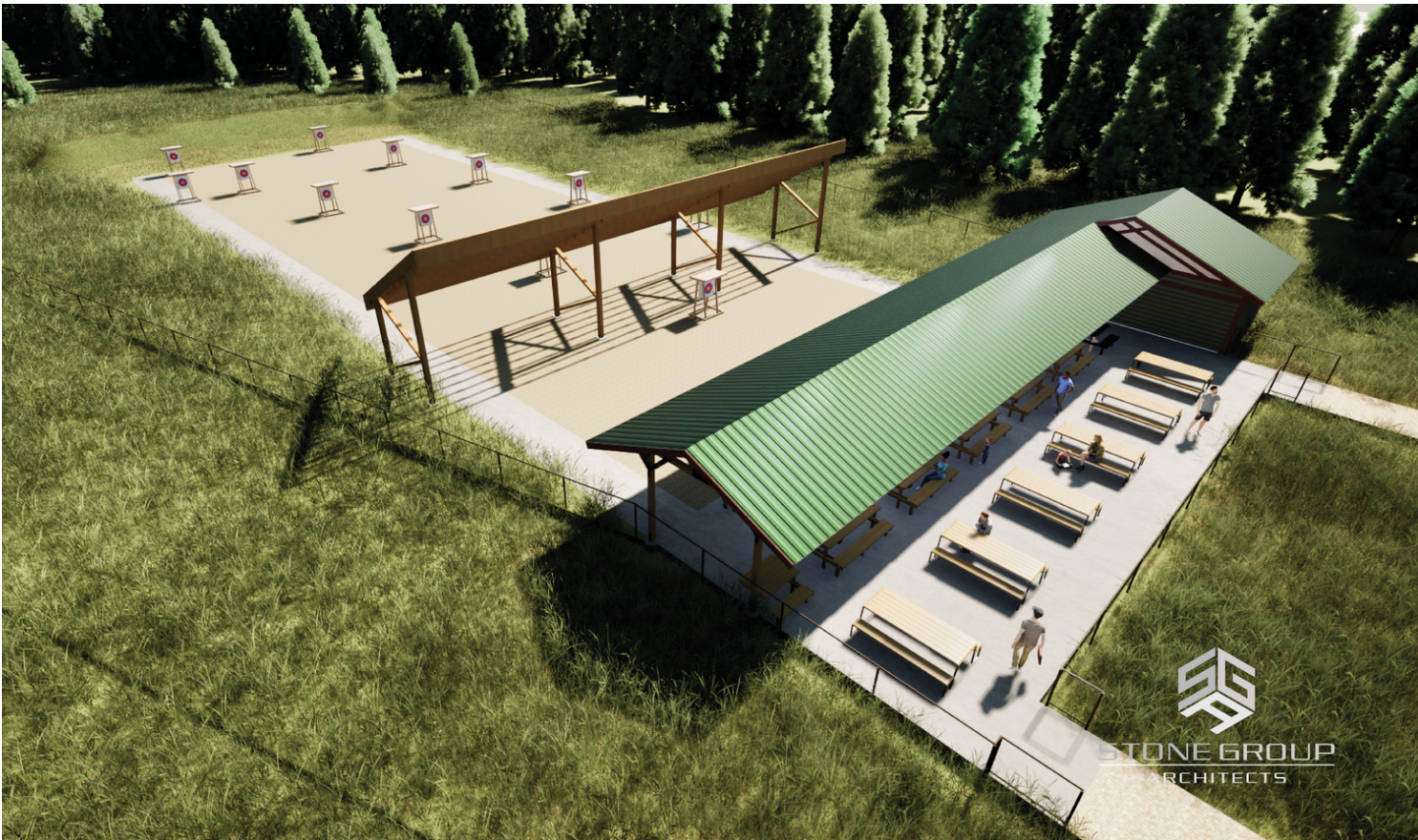
For more information, contact:

Jason Nelson

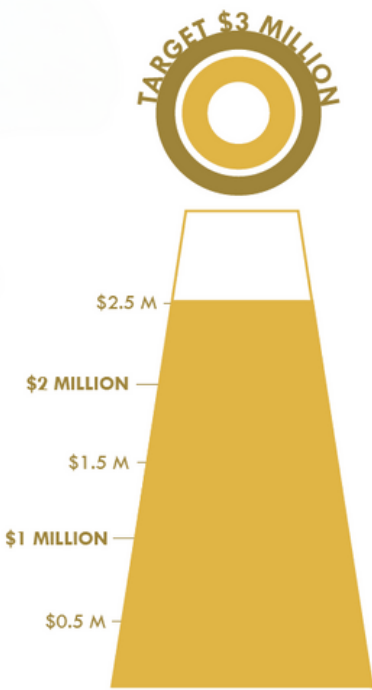
605-940-8486

Jason.Nelson@state.sd.us

Campus Updates - Expansion



The GFP Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls expansion project is moving on track! Plans have been drawn up for the outdoor range and we expect to begin construction in either the late spring or early summer! We are currently in the process of planning the indoor expansion, so be on the look out for updated photos on that piece of the project. Construction on the indoor expansion is tentatively set for Fall of 2024.



Campus Updates - Expansion

The South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation's Mission is to enhance outdoor recreation for future generations and preserve our parks and wildlife. They do this through partnering with the SD Game, Fish and Parks to expand outdoor recreational opportunities.

Through their fundraising efforts, the Outdoor Campus Expansion project is almost fully funded. However, we still have need of \$500,000 to reach our goal of \$3,000,000. You can help us hit a bullseye on fundraising by scanning the QR code and donating.

Help us continue an over 25 year tradition of helping the public fall in love with the outdoors!



2024 Sioux Falls Area HuntSAFE

Traditional Classes

April 9, 11, 13

May 14, 16, 18

June 11, 13, 15

June 25, 27, 29

July 16, 18, 20

July 23, 25, 27

August 6, 8, 10

August 20, 22, 24

September 10, 12, 14

September 24, 26, 28

October 1, 3, 5

Field Day Only

April 13

May 18

June 15

June 29

July 20

July 27

August 10

August 24

September 14

September 28

October 5

***Requires successful completion
of the online course.**

To Register:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/hunter-education/>

Spring 2024 Programming

Our Spring 2023 Program

Booklets came out February 1! You can swing by the Campus to pick up a hardcopy or you can check them out online.

Registration for Spring Programs is open and ongoing.

Scan to Register for Classes:



Spring 2024 Programming Highlights

Introduction to Firearms

Tuesday, March 12 from 6-8:30pm

This class will familiarize you with safe firearm use and handling skills. It will cover rifles, shotguns, and handguns. The class is informational but may include a range day to be scheduled at a later day.



Fly Tying for Beginners With Lauren and Mikayla

Part 1 - Saturday, March 23, 1-2:30pm
Part 2 - Saturday, March 23, 2:30-4pm

Get prepared for summer fly fishing with these two classes. Part 1 covers tools needed for fly tying and then students will tie the Wolly Bugger. Part 2 covers tying the Clauser Minnow and the Lefty Deciever.

Need Help with Registering?

Give us a call at 605-362-2777

or

Give the Kalkomey Help Desk a call at 1-800-684-9541

Spring 2024 Programming Highlights



Guest Speaker Classes

This April, we are going to have Ted Ellenbecker, a multi-species angler, multiple world record holder, nationally renowned speaker, and developer of "The Theory of Three" present at the Campus!

12:00-1:00 PM	Locating Fish! Any Fish...on Any Water
1:10 - 2:10 PM	Catching Channel Catfish
2:20 - 3:20 PM	Walleye Fishing with Lure Color Techniques

Register for one or all three presentations. Be watching our social media for the official date in April (TBA).

Gear Swap and Giveaway

We are once again planning to offer our Gear Swap and Giveaway program!

We are currently accepting donations. If you have any old and gently used gear that you no longer use, we will gladly take it and get it out to new outdoor users!

Reminder: we do not take firearms or ammunition.

The date of the Gear Swap and Giveaway is still to be determined, but will be some time at the end of the summer.



Hunting 101 - Spring Turkey Hunts



**Applications are due:
March 23 by 4pm**



This unique opportunity will walk students through safety, turkey hunting tactics, how to use turkey calls and decoys, how to properly care for and process a harvested turkey, and the hunt.

Selection for this educational hunt will be based on an application that can be found online (gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/) or a hard copy can be picked up at the Campus.

Students will only be allowed to hunt with a GFP Employee or GFP sanctioned Volunteer Mentor. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.



Brookings Happenings

by Alex Johnson(Outdoor Campus
Brookings Intern)

This Spring Semester the Brookings Community has engaged in quite a few classes with us! Archery has been a big hit with both families and college students attending. Ice fishing has been a bit of challenge with the weather, but pivoting to fishing off the dock has been successful for catching trout that were stocked in the ponds.

Spring 2024 Classes!

- 3/7 Archery at Outdoor Adventure Center
- 3/21 Archery at Outdoor Adventure Center
- 4/4 Archery at Outdoor Adventure Center
- 4/11 Fishing at Dakota Nature Park
- 4/18 Archery at Outdoor Adventure Center

GFP in Brookings

Since the fall of 2022, the Outdoor Campus in collaboration with the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center and the Dakota Nature Park, has placed 2 Outreach Interns in Brookings. These interns offer programming, free to the public, at both locations and work to garner participation from both local families and college students.

Coming soon will be an orienteering course at the Dakota Nature Park and possibly another Series Trapping Class!



Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Can you believe it's already spring? With our unseasonably warm winter, volunteers did not have much time to help with ice fishing, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing. Instead, they've been busy fishing off the dock, hiking with the littles, building fishing rods, and helping with hunting classes.

Spring brings one of my favorite months of the year, April, also known as Volunteer Appreciation Month! We will celebrate three of our volunteers at the Helpline Center's Spirit of Volunteerism Awards- Masako Gould, Mike Gould, and Maddie Neuschwanger. Volunteer Appreciation Week takes place April 21-April 27. We'll celebrate the week with a Bingo party, volunteer spotlights on social media, and other fun surprises!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with classes this winter! We appreciate your flexibility in adapting to the changing weather conditions and your willingness to help with all the classes! I'm looking forward to a fun spring and summer with our volunteers.

