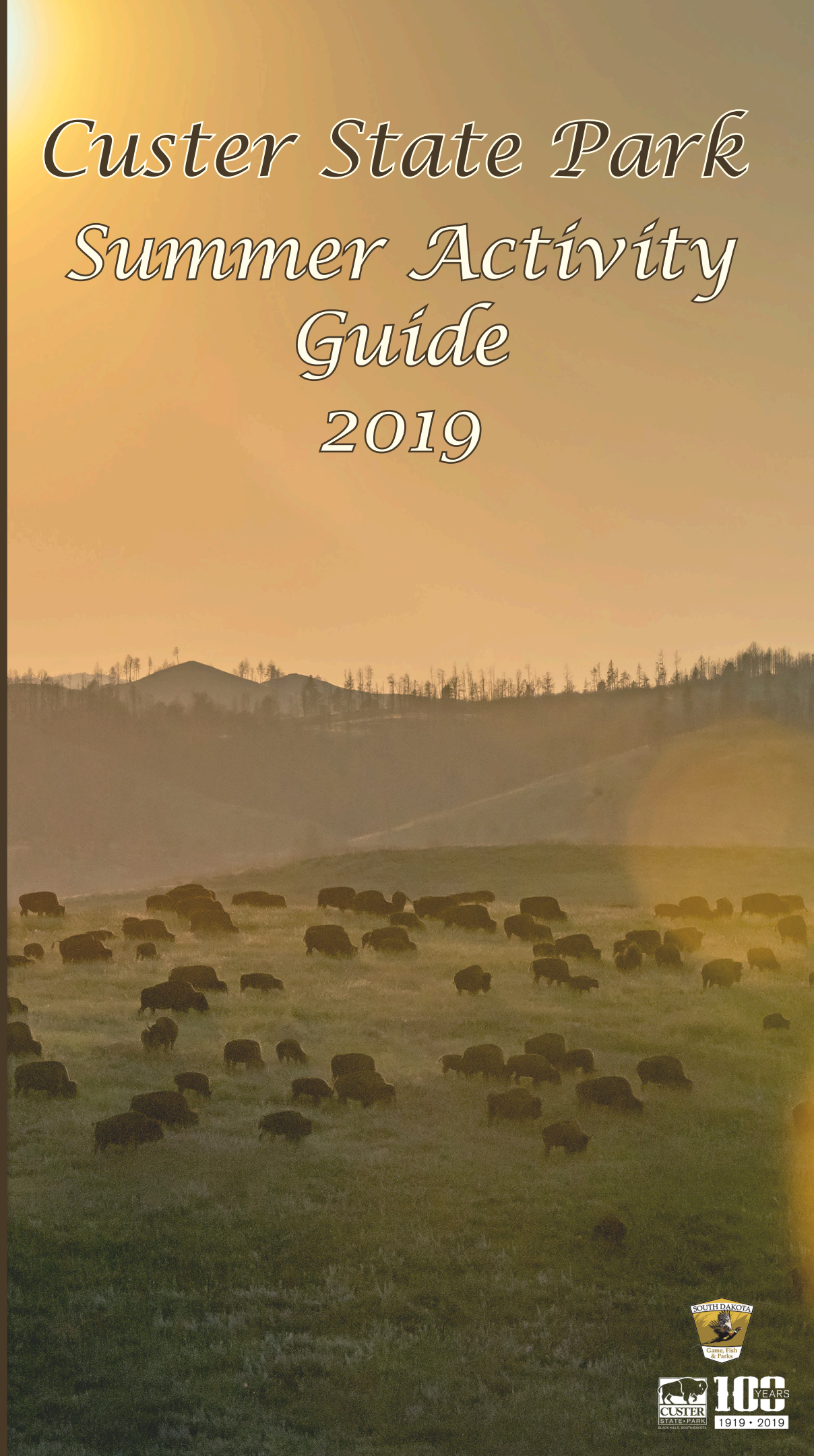




Custer State Park *Summer Activity* *Guide* 2019



COME JOIN US...

Custer State Park is pleased to offer an array of interpretive and educational opportunities for our visitors. The following activities and demonstrations complement the rich natural history and cultural heritage of the Black Hills. Join the interpretive naturalist staff for some engaging learning experiences while you “*LET YOURSELF RUN WILD*” at Custer State Park.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

Programs generally run from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Please see park staff for specific information on the program schedule during your visit.

PUPS PROWL NATURALIST PROGRAM

PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Activity based nature exploration for ages 4-6, discover what's wild, or how animals use camouflage, or why spiders spin webs. Occurs at the same time as the Junior Naturalist program for older children. One of the required programs for children working to earn their Junior Naturalist Patch.

NOTE: This activity is available for children ages 4-6. Parent must be present for this program. Each activity session is limited to 15 participants.



JUNIOR NATURALIST PROGRAM

PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

This activity is for ages 7 -12 and focuses on several concepts relating to the natural and cultural history of Custer State Park. Participants interact with staff in hands-on activities relating to wildlife, habitats, nature observation, aquatic insects, fish adaptations, recycling, and Native American history. This activity is one requirement for the overall Junior Naturalist program....please inquire at the Peter Norbeck Outdoor Education Center for more details.

NOTE: This activity is available for children ages 7-12. Each activity session is limited to 15 participants.



CALLING ALL JUNIOR NATURALIST!

THIS PROGRAM IS FOR YOUTH 4-12. STOP BY THE EDUCATION CENTER AND PICK UP YOUR FREE WORKBOOK. COMPLETE THE CORRECT NUMBER OF PAGES AND PROGRAMS TO EARN A PATCH!



PATIO TALKS:

Stop in for an informal chat with a naturalist about Custer State Park's history, nature or geology or ask your most pressing questions. Stay for a minute or stay for an hour.

NOTE: This activity is available for all ages.

Patio Talks @ Peter Norbeck Outdoor Education Center

Custer State Park Visitor Center Talks

Wildlife Station Visitor Center Talks

Legion Lake Talks near the fishing dock

STORIES IN THE SHADE:

PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Attend our new program and enjoy a relaxing story in the shade of the majestic bur oak trees. Listen to the naturalist read a story and then use our story stones to create a new story.

NOTE: This activity is available for all ages.

BISON OLYMPICS:

PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Do You Have What It Takes To Be A Bison? Come learn just how fast a bison can run, how far they can jump and how much food and water they need every day. Then see how you compare.

NOTE: This activity is available for all ages.

GUIDED HIKES

ADVENTURE HIKES

MEETS AT THE DESIGNATED TRAILHEAD

ALL AGES

Interested in tackling Sunday Gulch Trail, but not sure you want to do it alone. Or maybe you'd like to learn as you hike Lovers Leap Trail. Join a naturalist to explore one of the trails in the park and learn about geology, wildlife, history, wildflowers, the Custer area and more. Get ready to discover the wild and beautiful areas for a memorable adventure.

NOTE: *Designed for older children and adults or people who enjoy more strenuous hikes*



FAMILY HIKES

PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

ALL AGES

This is the place for inquiring young minds. Give your kids the chance to ask the naturalist questions. The kids are encouraged to use their senses to explore the world around them. Creekside Trail is stroller and wheelchair friendly.

TAKE A HIKE!

MEETS AT THE DESIGNATED TRAILHEAD

ALL AGES

Enjoy one of the park's less strenuous trails in the early evening with a naturalist and de-stress after a busy vacation day. Spend a moment absorbing the serenity of Custer State Park.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

(Please note the special requirements for each of the following programs)

HOOK 'EM AND COOK 'EM FISHING PROGRAM

@CENTER LAKE (MEET AT THE BOAT RAMP)

Fishing is a popular recreation activity in the Black Hills. This is an opportunity for novices and beginners to try their hand at fishing; it's also an opportunity for avid anglers as well. Bring your own fishing gear or borrow some of ours (pole, hook, bobber, and bait) and match your wits with a rainbow trout. If you're successful, the naturalist will show you how to clean and filet the fish and a quick, easy way to cook it.

Participants in this program DO NOT need a South Dakota fishing license, regardless of age.

CANOEING BASICS

@ CENTER LAKE

This is a basic course to introduce visitors to the basic parts of a canoe, simple paddling techniques, and water safety with a chance to try out your new skills.

Canoes, paddles, and life jackets are provided.

NOTE: *Children must be 7 years or older, weigh at least 50 lbs, and be accompanied by an adult.*



TUESDAY ART IN THE PARK AFTERNOONS

PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

MOST TUESDAYS

Express your appreciation of nature through art with a Custer State Park Volunteer. Activities will vary per session and will range from learning photography tips, paper-making, weaving and more.

NOTE: *This program is designed for older children and adults. Each activity session has a limited number of participants based on the activity offered.*

AFTER THE SUN GOES DOWN

MONDAY NIGHT SPEAKER SERIES

@GAME LODGE CAMPGROUND - TATANKA BARN
MOST MONDAYS MEMORIAL DAY THROUGH LABOR DAY

Features speakers on a variety of topics from Dutch oven cooking to the importance of bats, to the poetry of Badger Clark set to music.



EVENING PROGRAMS VARIOUS CAMPGROUNDS

People remember these classic evening campground programs from when they were younger. Topics range from the history of the bison herd within the park, to the impacts of fire on the Black Hills ecosystem.

Check Campground bulletin boards or weekly schedule for specific locations, times, and topics.



STORIES IN THE STARS

WILDLIFE STATION VISITOR CENTER

ALL AGES

This program allows participants to see the night sky in all its glory. Join a park naturalist to learn about the mysteries of the night sky and the summer constellations. Binoculars are encouraged.

Note: Program will be dependent on weather and sky conditions.

Note: There will be no external light sources at this program, you are encouraged to bring flashlights or headlamps for navigating to and from your vehicle.

FULL MOON EXPLORATIONS

PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

ALL AGES

Hiking at night is a completely different adventure than hiking the same trail by day. That familiar trail is suddenly new and a whole new set of animals come out to play at night. Use your senses to investigate the park by the light of the moon.

Note: There will be no external light sources at this program, you are encouraged to bring flashlights or headlamps for navigating to and from your vehicle.



EXPLORE AND DISCOVER THE PARK

Looking for a bit of adventure on your own? Want to learn more about the Park? Here are a couple ideas...

- **Kids in Parks** is a nation-wide network of family-friendly outdoor adventures called TRACK Trails. Each TRACK Trail features self-guided brochures and signs that turn your visit into a fun and exciting outdoors experience. Best of all, you can earn PRIZES for tracking your adventures!
- The **Custer State Park App** includes self-guided audio tours to help enhance the visitor experience, learn about the diverse wildlife, natural resources, and amazing scenic drives within the park.
- The **Custer State Park Trail Challenge** encourages visitors to get out and explore the many trails of the park. Participants collect medallion rubbings along the way to earn a special pin.

POP-UP INFORMATION STOPS

Look for pop-up tables through out Custer State Park, which are staffed with Custer State Park Volunteers who are ready to answer your questions or give you directions.

Note: There is no set schedule or location for these Pop-up Stops. Locations are subject to staff interest and or animal herd location.

INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

Custer State Park
Visitor Center
8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Peter Norbeck
Outdoor Education
Center
9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Wildlife Station
Visitor Center
8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Badger Hole
Historic Site
10:00 am - 5:00 pm



For more information
please visit:

custerstatepark.com

or mail to:

Custer State Park
Interpretive and
Educational Services
Attn: Interpretive
Programs Manager
13329 US Hwy 16A
Custer, SD 57730

