

# Custer State Park

## Summer Activity Guide

### 2020





## 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 engaging learning experiences while you "LET YOURSELF RUN WILD" at Custer State Park.

### ACTIVITIES

Please see park staff for specific information on the program schedule for locations, times, and topic during your visit.

#### PUPS PROWL NATURALIST PROGRAM PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Activity based nature exploration for ages 3-6, 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 3-6. 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 NATURALISTS!

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!



#### NATURALIST 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 Talk**  
**Wildlife Station Visitor Center Talk**  
**Amphitheater Campground Talk**  
**Legion Lake Talks near the fishing dock**  
**Badger Tales @ Badger Hole Historic Site**

#### STORIES IN THE SHADE PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Enjoy a relaxing story in the shade of the majestic bur oak trees. Listen to a park naturalist read a story and then use our story stones to create something new.

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 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

### **TRAIL CHALLENGE FEATURE HIKES** **MEETS AT THE DESIGNATED TRAILHEAD** **OLDER CHILDREN AND ADULTS**

Interested in tackling The Lost Trails, 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 from this years Trail Challenge 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 a naturalist questions. Kids are encouraged to use their senses to explore the world around them.

*NOTE: Creekside Trail is stroller and wheelchair friendly.*

### **STORY TRAILS** **MEETS AT THE DESIGNATED TRAILHEAD** **ALL AGES**

A good story can paint pictures in our minds and take us to far away and magical places. Story Trails are a combination of a trail hike and a children's story book paired together to promote reading and physical movement. Pages from a book are positioned along the trail so as participants hike, they read the book.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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



### **HOOK 'EM AND COOK 'EM FISHING PROGRAM** **@CENTER LAKE DAY USE AREA (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.

*NOTE: This program fills quickly, so please plan to arrive by the scheduled time or all equipment may be in use.*

### **CANOEING BASICS** **@ CENTER LAKE DAY USE AREA (MEET AT THE BOAT RAMP)**

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.*



### **ART IN THE PARK AFTERNOONS** **PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER**

Express you 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.*





## HISTORY AT THE STOCKADE

GORDON STOCKADE HISTORIC SITE - LOCATED NEAR WEST ENTRANCE OF PARK



### STOCKADE HISTORY

Would you have survived the trek from Sioux City to the Black Hills? This program explores what the Gordon Party would have packed for supplies for their trek and stay in the Hills. Then see if you made the right choices in your supplies...or not.

### GOLD PANNING AT THE STOCKADE

Meet at the Gordon Stockade to learn how the early gold miners found placer deposits and see how lucky you might have been.

## AFTER THE SUN GOES DOWN

### MONDAY NIGHT SPEAKER SERIES

#### VISITOR CENTER

*MOST MONDAYS MEMORIAL DAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER*

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.

### CAMPGROUND PROGRAMS

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

Each evening our naturalist staff will offer a variety of programs near one or more of the park's campgrounds. You might learn the proper way to build and douse a campfire, how to cook over a campfire, what stories the stars tell us, or take a relaxing stroll to learn about the natural history.



### 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

*\*TYPICAL SUMMER HOURS,  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE\**

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

Peter Norbeck  
Outdoor Education  
Center  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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

Badger Hole  
Historic Site  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Gordon Stockade  
Historic Site  
Dawn to Dusk



For more information  
please visit:

[custerstatepark.com](http://custerstatepark.com)

or mail to:

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