

Custer State Park

Summer Activity Guide

2021



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 burr oak trees and then join one of our naturalist for a story driven activity.

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, also all programs are dependent on weather.)



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. 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 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.

ARCHERY INSTRUCTION**

PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

This is an instruction course for you to learn about the NASP technique of how to shoot archery. This will teach you about the 11 steps to archery success and give you a chance to test your new skill. We provide bows, arrows, targets, and other archery equipment.

NOTE: Children must be 7 years or older and be accompanied by an adult.

ROCK-CLIMBING**

PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Get hands-on rock-climbing experience at Custer State Park's rock-climbing wall. This program that will give visitors a chance to learn an introduction to bouldering, rock-climbing, and a chance to use an auto belay device. Harnesses and other equipment needed for rock climbing will be provided.

NOTE: Children must be 4 years or older, weigh at least 25 lbs. and be accompanied by an adult. Children 4-6 years old will not use the auto belay device, they will only be taught bouldering techniques

****PLEASE NOTE:**

These programs require preregistration. You can preregister up to one week before the program at the Peter Norbeck Outdoor Education Center.

HISTORY AT THE STOCKADE

GORDON STOCKADE HISTORIC SITE - LOCATED NEAR WEST ENTRANCE OF PARK



STOCKADE ADVENTURE

Would you have survived the trek from Sioux City to the Black Hills? This program explores what challenges the Gordon Party would have faced on trek to Hills from Sioux City, Iowa.

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

or mail to:

Custer State Park
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