



SD Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus - SF

# NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Update: Spring 2023



SD GFP Mission: We serve and connect people and families to the outdoor through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife resources

## Newsletter Content:

- Note From the Director
- Note from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls
- Note on Region 3 Wildlife
- A Look Back...at the Winter of 2022
- Campus Updates
- Programming Highlights
- Winter Program Booklet
- Upcoming Special Events
- Volunteering
- Concluding Notes



**OUTDOOR CAMPUS**  
— SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

# David Parker

SF Campus Director



“Hey Folks, I cannot believe that 2022 is already done. If you are interested in learning more about the Campus program efforts, you can check out our Year End Review Document located on our Webpage.”

## Spring: What's Coming Up?

Spring is always a toss up when it comes to programming. We never know if we are going to still have tons of snow and ice or if things will be melted. Either way, we have our Spring Booklet out and registration opened on February 15th!

On another note, we are excited to announce that we are participating in the GFP State Parks "The Trails are Calling" Program! To learn more, go to: <https://gfp.sd.gov/hike2023/>





# Notes from The Friends of The Outdoor Campus SF

The Friends Board is thrilled to see the number of people who have enjoyed one of the many winter outdoor activities at the Campus. More families enjoyed cross country skiing and snow shoeing. At times more participants than we had equipment and staff to help. A good problem to have!!! Kids fished, caught and cleaned their fish, cooked them and then ate them. Lots of smiles!!! Staff and Board will be looking at how we can improve winter activities for next year. Friends Board continues to work on plans for expansion of the campus. This winter demonstrated the need for the expansion. Hope to see everyone return for spring programs.

Members of the Board are:

Jan Nicolay  
Brian Klatt  
Tim Kromminga  
Amanda Oines  
Ryan Brown  
Royce Merritt  
Cheryl Ulvestad

Jeff Scherschligt  
Kathy Anderson  
Eric Olson  
Derek Maassen  
Eric Kurtz  
Kristina Coby  
Emmett Keyser  
David Parker



Board Chair

**Jan Nicolay**

FRIENDS OF THE



**OUTDOOR  
CAMPUS**

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —



# SD GFP Region 3 Wildlife Division

Often times wildlife biologists will refer to the winter months as a 'bottleneck', meaning a very difficult time, for wildlife and this winter has certainly born this out. Although wildlife generally put on sufficient fat reserves in the fall to help them survive South Dakota winters, the winter of 2022-2023 has posed a real challenge for wildlife across our state. Heavy snows that arrived late in December and early January covered waste grain, weeds, grass, browse and other available food sources that in many winters provide valuable food for pheasants, deer and other wildlife. In particular, deer have congregated in large groups across most of eastern South Dakota with some groups of deer numbering in the hundreds. Some of these groups of deer began to eat stored livestock feed supplies that ag producers were feeding to their livestock and as a result, GFP wildlife damage specialists and many other department staff have been helping livestock producers protect their hay, silage, corn and other livestock feed supplies by providing livestock panels and netting. In some situations, GFP has had to provide alternate feed, like alfalfa and corn, to 'short-stop' deer and keep them from coming into farms and other livestock feeding areas. While we were hoping for a February thaw, the latest round of snow will continue to pose a challenge for wildlife, livestock producers and GFP staff.

## Emmett Keyser

Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor



Photo by Jim Thompson



# A Look Back at Winter 2022



## Dark House Spearing

This was a unique course we offered for the first time in Campus history. Dark house spearing is similar to ice fishing, but you utilize a decoy and a spear to target specific fish (instead of lures and a rod).

Due to the unique nature of the class, only being able to fit 4 people in an ice shack, and this year being the pilot, we chose to limit our offerings. This year we were able to take 12 people out dark house spearing, but look forward to offering more of these classes in the coming years!

## Snow and Go's!



One of the joys of winter is getting to snowshoe and cross country ski! With the amount of snow we got this winter, we were able to offer a variety of "Snow and Go" classes. These are open house, no registration required classes for skiing and snowshoeing that we offer!

## Ice Fishing



With the winter weather 2022-2023 has afforded us, we have gotten the opportunity to offer quite a few ice fishing classes, and the trout were definitely biting this season!

# Campus Updates

## Loaner Equipment



### 2 New Waterfowl Loaner Trailers!

- 1 Located at the SF Campus
- 1 Located at the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center

### Contains:

- Full Body Decoys
- Shell Decoys
- Silhouette Decoys
- Flags
- Layout Blinds

Go to our website and click on

"Loaner Equipment"

<https://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/>

Made possible by generous donations from:

- Jan Nicolay
- Delta Waterfowl

LEARN MORE



Did you know, that the Campus and the Wildlife Region 3 Office offers a variety of loaner equipment?!? In our efforts to help folks of all ages get out, enjoy the outdoors, and learn new things, we offer the following items for folks to check out and use!

### The Outdoor Campus:

- Critter Crates
- Snowshoes
- Decoy Trailers

NEW

### The Region 3 Office:

- Life Jackets
- Livetraps
- Decoy bags



# Campus Updates

Over the Winter of 2022-2023, GFP Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls and the City of Sioux Falls partnered to record an [Ice Safety Video](https://youtu.be/6M7vkif1Otc). The video, which is located on the GFP Education Channel (<https://youtu.be/6M7vkif1Otc>) goes over safety tips and tricks for what to do if you fall through the ice. Remember that no ice is safe ice, but this video gives you a better understanding of what best practice is for being on the ice.



## RECOMMENDED MINIMUM ICE THICKNESS

**3" OR LESS**  
STAY OFF THE  
ICE

**STAY  
OFF!**

**4"**  
SAFE TO WALK  
ON, ICE FISH  
OR SKATE



**5-6"**  
SNOWMOBILES  
AND ATVs



**8-12"**  
CARS AND  
OTHER SMALL  
VEHICLES



**12-15"**  
MEDIUM  
TRUCKS



# Campus Updates

## Raptor Rendezvous



On February 3rd, 2023 the Campus hosted Raptor Rendezvous! This is an annual special event that we host raising awareness about raptors (birds of prey), their importance to our local environment, and their adaptations. During the event we had the University of Minnesota Raptor Center do two presentations featuring live birds, a variety of crafts for kids, owl pellet dissection, and presentations by Lynn (our nights and weekends manager) with her educational bird, Ollie the Screech Owl.



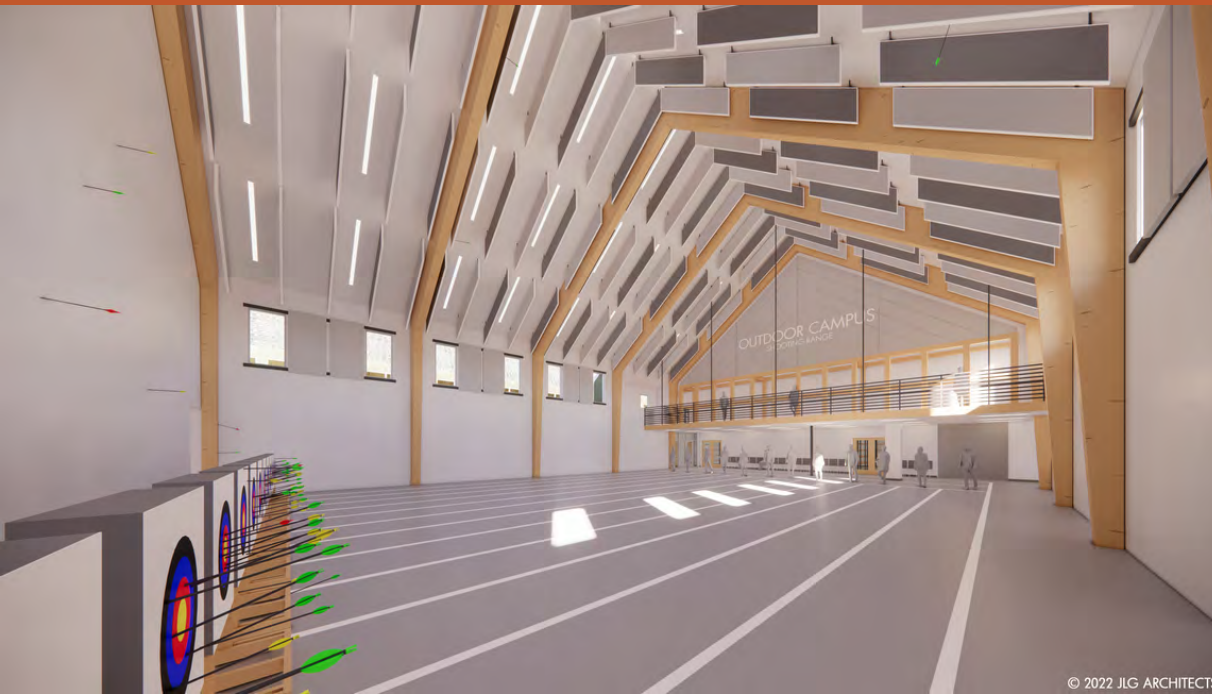
# Campus Updates

## 2023 GFP Education Conference



**On February 7-9th, 2023 the Game, Fish and Parks Education Team came together in Chamberlain, SD for our annual Education Conference. This conference provides staff with the opportunity to learn about educational efforts of both the Parks and Wildlife Divisions, hear from GFP leadership, and review our educational initiatives. As you can guess, with a bunch of educators in a room it lends itself to quite a fun time discussing and acting out winter adaptations!**

# Campus Expansion Update



We currently have  
**\$727,785** of our  
**\$3 Million** goal!



As many of you are aware, we are expanding! With Sioux Falls growing so quickly, we are work to grow our programming too. This has meant relooking at our building and how we can improve it to meet the communities needs. This includes updated classrooms, updated exhibits, restroom expansions, the addition of a nursing mothers room, the addition of a family restroom, an indoor archery range, and more!



Campus Spring 2023 Programming

# HIGHLIGHTS



## Learn to Fish!

On March 18th, 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  
1:15 - 2:15 PM Catching Channel Catfish  
2:30 - 3:30 PM Walleye Fishing with Lure Color Techniques

Register for one or all three presentations. All ages welcome, recommended 16 and up, youth with an adult.

## Gear Swap and Giveaway!



Last year we piloted our first ever "Gear Swap and Giveaway" Event! The goal of this event was to take donated, used hunting and fishing gear, clean it up, and get it out to the next generation of hunters and anglers.

Given the interest in this event, we are going to host it again this year! We are also going to expand the event by taking donations for not only hunting and fishing gear, but also trapping and other outdoor recreation gear.

Like last year, the event date won't be until late summer, but we are now taking 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.

Learn more about our Programming <https://gfp.sd.gov/east-programs/>

# Hunting 101: Spring Turkey Hunts



Application due:  
March 18 by 5 pm

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/](http://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.



# Spring 2023 Programming Booklets



## Shot Gun Basics

Saturday, May 13, 10-11:30 AM

This class will give hands-on learning in a safe environment with skilled instructors. All equipment provided. Program held off site.



Check out these Classes!

Our Spring 2023 Program Booklets came out February 1! You can swing by the Campus to pick up a hard copy or you can check them out online:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/east-programs/>

Registration for Spring Programs is open and ongoing.



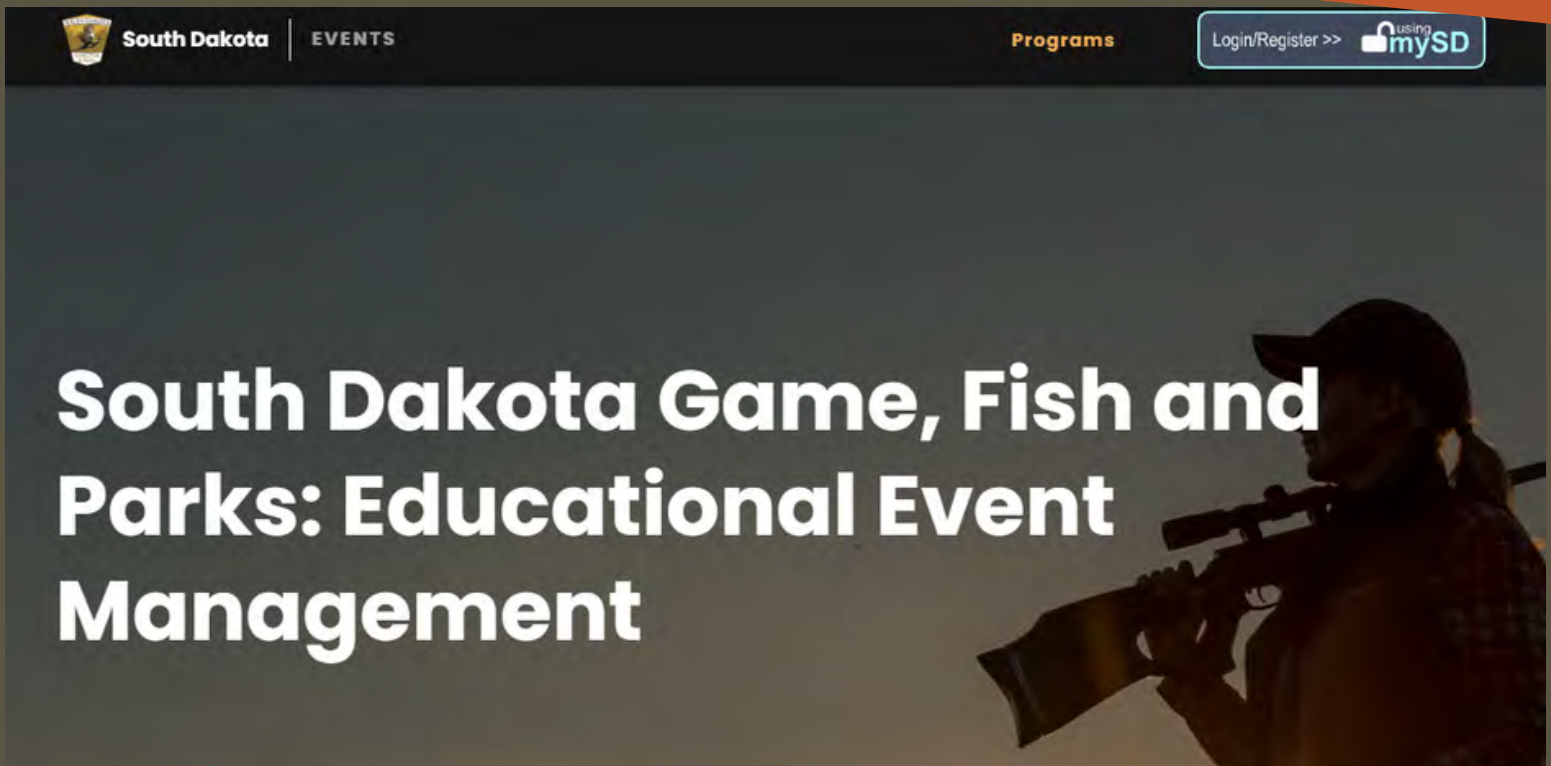
Need Help? Give us a call at 605-362-2777  
Or  
Give the Kalkomey Help Desk a call at 1-800-684-9541

## Incorporating Pollinator Plots in Your Garden

Thursday, March 23, 6:00-7:30 PM

Learn how to include healthy pollinator plants and where to start in your vegetable garden! Add a pop of color and have beneficial insect activity for this years plants.

Program meant for adults ages 16 and up.



# South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks: Educational Event Management

Have you registered through our new Kalkomey registration system?  
To register, go to: <https://southdakota.storefront.kalkomey.com/em/programs>

# Campus Volunteers

Volunteers were busy this winter assisting with Hunting 101, rod building, ice fishing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing programs. Staff would not have been able to host so many Snow & Go open houses without the help of our dedicated volunteers! Thank you for helping us get the people of Sioux Falls outside this winter!

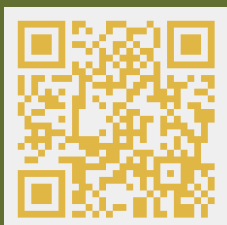
While it's been fun having the chance to host so many winter programs, staff and volunteers are eagerly awaiting the return of our spring and summer programming. Between November 2022 and March 2023, volunteers donated over 1,000 hours of service to the Outdoor Campus-Sioux Falls. Thank you, volunteers, for all your help throughout the winter months! Our open house events, Raptor Rendezvous, Hunting 101, and numerous other program would not be possible without your continued assistance.

## Paige O'Farrell

SDGFP Outdoor Campus SF



Want to become a  
Volunteer Mentor?







# OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

## 25 Years of Programming 25 Years of Growing



If you want to give to the Campus Expansion, to help us continue growing in the next 25 years go to:

<https://www.parkswildlifefoundation.org/projects/outdoor-campus-sioux-falls-expansion>





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**OUTDOOR CAMPUS**  
— SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —



# David Parker

SF Campus Director



“

Hey Folks, It is summer which means camping and time on the lake! Remember when you are out and about, the importance of a life jacket. The Region 3 Office, located in the same building as The Campus does lend out life jackets for free! ”

## Summer: What's Coming Up?

Summer is traditionally our busiest season of the year! Because of this, we break our registration into three dates:

- May 10 registration for June classes
- June 7 registration for July classes
- July 5 registration for August classes

Registration for classes is 8 am and our summer programming fills fast, so make sure that you plug these dates into your calendar!





# Notes from The Friends of The Outdoor Campus SF

The Outdoor Campus Board is sad to see Emmett Keyser retire but the good news is he will continue to be involved with the Board and the expansion project. His years with GFP and the original Outdoor Campus are invaluable to the project's success. We wish him the best but are pleased he will remain involved with us.

Our fundraising for the project continues to move forward. There is still much to do but the Board is dedicated to the project. If you can help in any way, we would appreciate the help.

David can share the unbelievable numbers of folks enjoying the Campus. Our addition can't be done soon enough.

**Come visit the Campus. Enjoy all the activities at no cost**

Members of the Board are:

Jan Nicolay  
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Amanda Oines  
Ryan Brown  
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Kathy Anderson  
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Eric Kurtz  
Kristina Coby  
Emmett Keyser  
Kip Rounds  
David Parker



Board Chair

**Jan Nicolay**

FRIENDS OF THE



**OUTDOOR  
CAMPUS**

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —



# SD GFP Region 3 Wildlife Division

It's hard to believe, but 45 years does go by quickly. Those Game, Fish and Parks staff whose retirements I had the chance to celebrate early in my career all said it would. From starting out as a conservation officer (still the best job I ever had), to serving as a regional habitat manager, senior biologist, assistant division director and regional supervisor, I've enjoyed a great career with GFP....really the best I could have imagined. And probably the best thing about it was getting to work side by side with some of the most dedicated, knowledgeable, professional, and hardest working employees and agency leaders and supervisors you could ever hope to meet. I'm going to miss them all. And I'm going to miss the sportsmen and women, farmers and ranchers, GFP commissioners and Legislators and everyone else I've come to know who were advocates for our fish and wildlife resources too.

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't leaving the department a little sad. I am.

But I'm also retiring very hopeful and confident that our current 'Team GFP' will ensure all South Dakotans will have the same chances I did to catch walleyes and shoot pheasants, see memorable sunrises over duck sloughs, or watch mule deer make their way back to their beds in the Slim Buttes at daybreak. I hope our paths cross again, soon.

## Emmett Keyser

Former Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor



# SD GFP Region 3 Wildlife Division

After 45 years of incredibly impactful work with GFP, Emmett Keyser's recent retirement has left some big shoes to fill. As I begin the transition to fill Emmett's role as Regional Supervisor, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself to folks I haven't met.

I was born and raised here in southeast South Dakota enjoying all the outdoor resources this state has to offer. Hunting, fishing, and trapping were a big part of my childhood and instilled in me a passion and respect for nature that remains today.

My outdoor career began at South Dakota State University, where I earned a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Right after college, I attended Ball State University for my MS degree while conducting fisheries research on Lake Michigan. After graduate school, I spent some time working for the state natural resources agencies of Montana, Wyoming, and Minnesota. In 2017, I began my career with GFP as the Aquatic Habitat and Access Biologist here at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls. Today, my wife and I have four kids, ages 7, 5, 3, and 1 that keep us busy. We enjoy taking every opportunity to introduce our kids to the great outdoors to pass on the South Dakota tradition!

## Kip Rounds

Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor

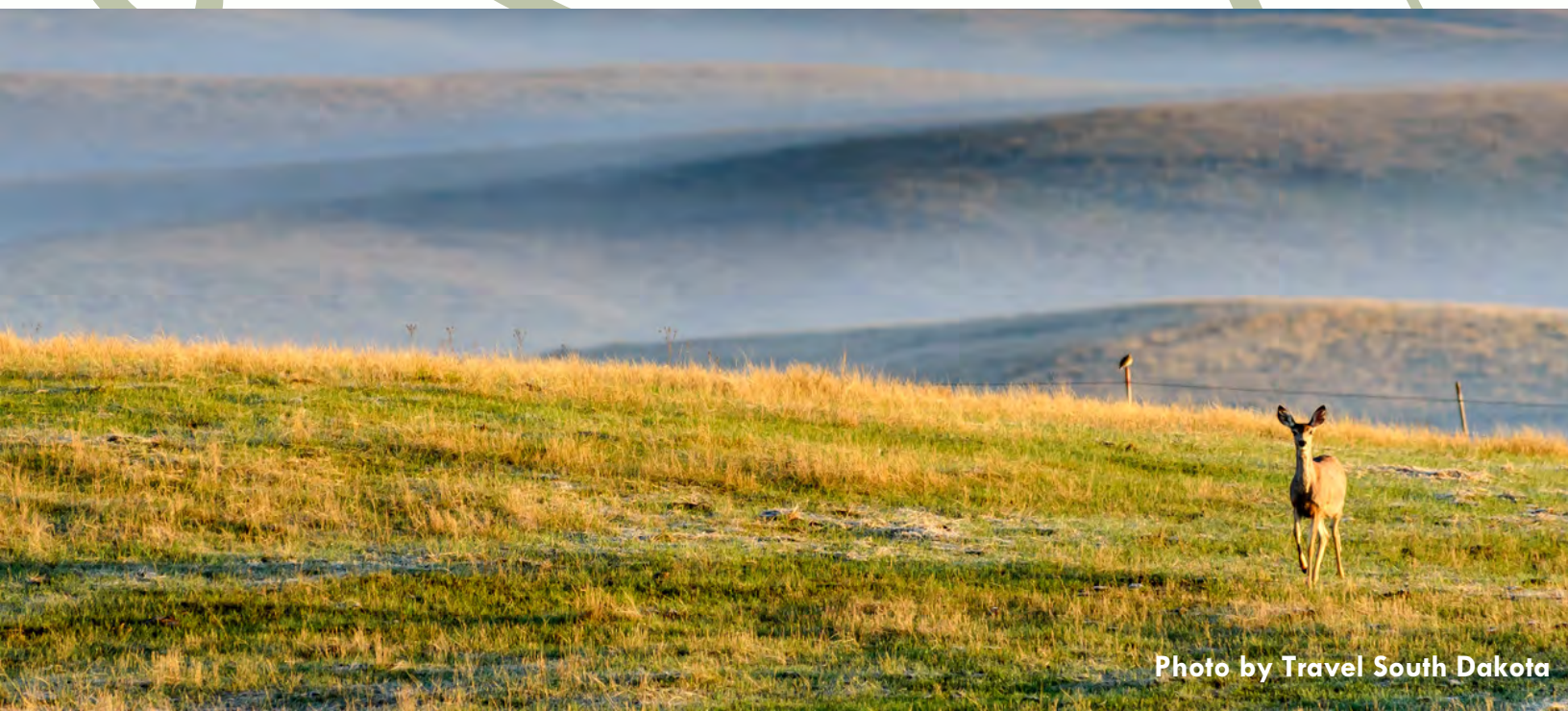


Photo by Travel South Dakota



# A Look Back at Spring 2023

## Spring 2023 Turkey Season

Every year, the Campus offers Hunting 101. This program is a comprehensive hunting class that teaches students the full process of hunting. This Spring we held our Hunting 101 - Turkey program. This year, we took out 20 hunters (3 adults and 17 youth). Of those 20, 13 harvested a turkey!



**2023 Prescribed Burn!**



# Campus Updates

## Summer Interns



**Every Summer, the GFP Outdoor Campus hires 11 interns to educate, help with our butterfly garden, take the Campus on the road to surrounding areas, and also to help with our volunteer program.**

**This summer we have another rock start group! Interns have finished summer training and are ready for you to visit the Campus for programming!**



# Campus Updates

## 2nd Annual Gear Swap and Giveaway!

- When: August 12, 2023 from 9:00am-12:00pm
- Where: GFP Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls
- What: Is the cost of gear a constraint to getting started hunting or fishing? Stop by this event to pick out some gently used hunting, fishing, trapping, and other outdoor gear for your closet!



Want to partner with us on this event?  
We are accepting gently used gear at The  
Campus for this event between now and the  
event.

# Campus Updates

## Kid's In Parks Sign!

Starting later this summer, The Campus will be getting a Kids In Parks Track Trail Sign!

The sign will be located at the entrance to our inner loop trail, the Riparian Trail and will have a variety of different self-led flyers you can take to enjoy on the trail!

Check out the [kidsinparks.com](http://kidsinparks.com) webpage to learn more!

**TRACK** your hike at  
[kidsinparks.com](http://kidsinparks.com)  
and get **FREE** prizes!

Thanks for joining us today!

Visit our website to find more TRACK Trail™ adventures near you!

**Follow us!**

- @KidsInParks
- @KidsInParks
- @KidsInParksBRPF



# Campus Updates

## Casting for Recovery

South Dakota will be hosting their first Casting for Recovery retreat September 15 to 17 at Outlaw Ranch in Custer, South Dakota. The retreat is open to women of all ages and in all stages of breast cancer treatment and recovery and is offered at no cost to participants. The number of participants is limited. The deadline for submitting an application for random selection to attend the retreat is July 6, 2023.

The seed was planted over four years ago at a Dakota Trout Unlimited meeting when the president of the group stated that their group was not a fly-fishing group but rather a conservation group that along with many other things also helps with fly fishing programs including Casting for Recovery. After observing and helping at the Nebraska chapter's retreat in Ponca, Nebraska, I knew South Dakota needed to have a chapter of their own.



# Campus Updates

## Casting for Recovery (Continued)

Casting for Recovery (CfR) is a nonprofit organization offering support and educational retreats for women with breast cancer. Since 1996, CfR has served more than 10,000 breast cancer survivors nationwide with the help of more than 1,800 volunteers, including medical and psychosocial professionals, fly fishing instructors and program alumnae. The mission of Casting for Recovery is to enhance the quality of life of women with breast cancer through a unique program that combines breast cancer education and peer support with the therapeutic sport of fly fishing.

Casting for Recovery (<https://castingforrecovery.org/>) retreats are supported by fundraising from many local individuals and organizations and need continued support. We are grateful for all the help and support we have received so far. The Nebraska chapter is supporting and mentoring us in the formation of our South Dakota chapter. Mudhole Rod Building and Tackle Crafting donated 15 fly rod blanks. Our friends at the Sioux Falls Vet Center built the rods for us. Dakota Trout Unlimited has purchased fly reels and line for the rods. Just recently we received a \$2000 grant from the Midco Foundation to purchase fly-fishing lanyards and carrying cases for the fly rods.

In addition to building our inventory of equipment we are also accepting monetary donations. To provide this weekend retreat it costs about \$1700 per participant. This covers the cost of the lodging, food, equipment, and supplies. Ultimately, the goal is to host an annual retreat alternating on the east and west of the side of the state, providing access and opportunity to women throughout South Dakota.

**Do you want to be a part of this? There are lots of ways to help!**

**Save the Date!** Saturday, August 12

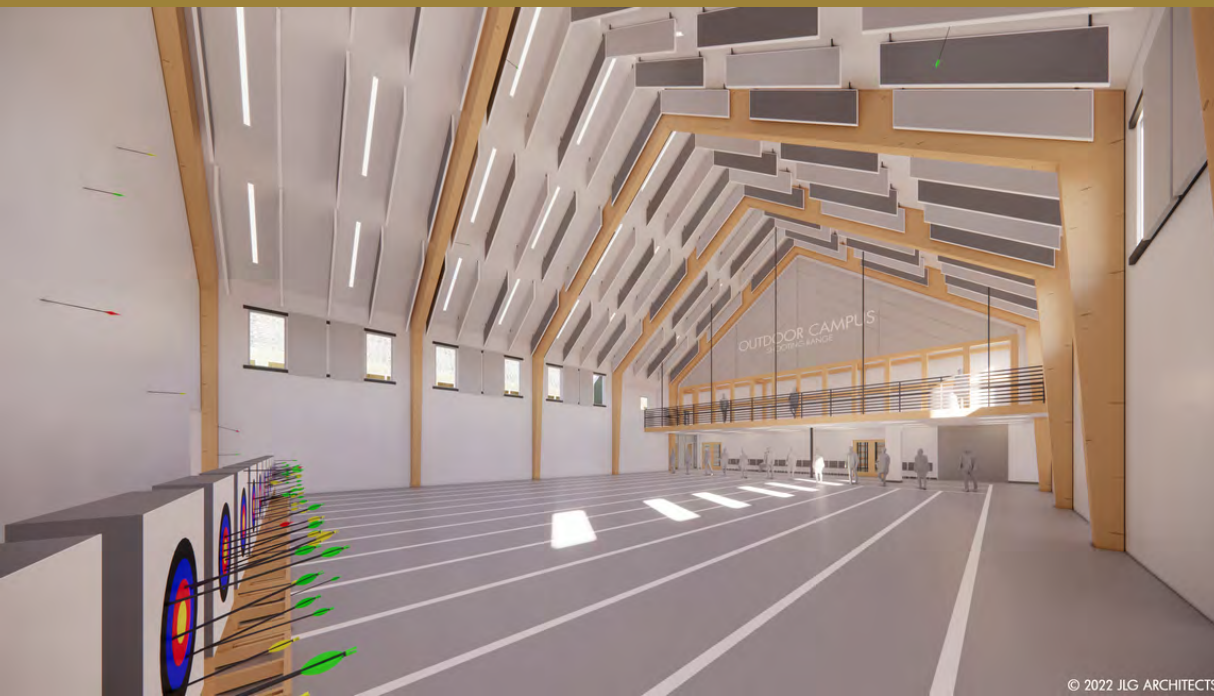
A Homestead Brewery and The Outdoor Campus will be hosting a BINGO fundraiser. Watch our Facebook page for details as they become available.

<https://www.facebook.com/CastingforRecoverySouthDakota/>

For more information on Casting for Recovery or to make an online donation please visit [www.castingforrecovery.org](http://www.castingforrecovery.org).



# Campus Expansion Update



We currently have  
**\$1,727,785** of our  
**\$3 Million** goal!

© 2022 JLG ARCHITECTS



© 2022 JLG ARCHITECTS

As many of you are aware, we are expanding! With Sioux Falls growing so quickly, we are work to grow our programming too. This has meant relooking at our building and how we can improve it to meet the communities needs. This includes updated classrooms, updated exhibits, restroom expansions, the addition of a nursing mothers room, the addition of a family restroom, an indoor archery range, and more!

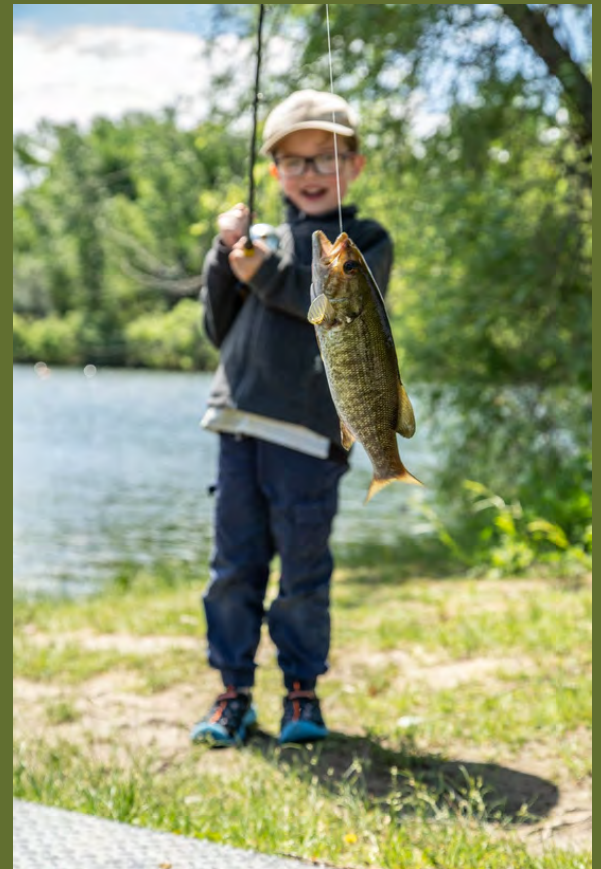
Campus Summer 2023 Programming

# HIGHLIGHTS



## Family Park Fishing

Saturdays only, June 10-July 22, 9am-11am



## Super Summer Saturdays!

June 10 - Fishing

June 24 - Archery

July 8 - Paddling

July 22 - Paddling

August 5 - Archery

August 12 - Fishing and Archery

10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm

At The Outdoor Campus SF

- No Registration Required
- Programming is at Family Park

Learn more about our Programming <https://gfp.sd.gov/east-programs/>



# Hunting 101: Fall Deer Hunts

Applications are  
now open!



This unique opportunity will walk students through purchasing a license, safety, time at the range, time in the field, how to field dress a deer, and processing.

Selection for this educational hunt will be based on an application that can be found online ([gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/](http://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/)) or a hard copy can be picked up at the Campus. A lottery system will be used to choose participants.

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

# Summer 2023 Programming Booklets

## Explore Bow Hunting Camp

August 10, 9am-12pm

Learn the skills to become a successful bow hunter through a variety of hands on activities that will teach you about hunter ethics, shot placement, and technique.



Check out these Classes!

### Fly Fishing

August 5, 1-2:30pm

Fly fishing is a fun way to change up your regular fishing routine. We'll start with a basic introduction to a fly rod and the equipment and gear needed. We will discuss safety, then learn the finesse of presenting a fly and how to land a fish.

Program meant for adults.

Our Summer 2023 Program Booklets came out April 26! You can swing by the Campus to pick up a hard copy or you can check them out online:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/east-programs/>

Registration for Spring Programs is open and ongoing.



Need Help? Give us a call at 605-362-2777  
Or

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

South Dakota | EVENTS Programs Login/Register >> using mySD

# South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks: Educational Event Management

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks website. It includes the state logo, 'South Dakota | EVENTS', a 'Programs' link, and a 'Login/Register >>' button with a 'using mySD' logo. The main content area features a large title 'South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks: Educational Event Management' overlaid on a background image of a person in silhouette holding a rifle and binoculars.

Have you registered through our new Kalkomey registration system?

To register, go to: <https://southdakota.storefront.kalkomey.com/em/programs>



# Campus Volunteers

Classes are in full swing at the Outdoor Campus, and our volunteers are eager to help! We kicked off the summer with our annual Summer Kickoff Party on June 1. Volunteers had the opportunity to receive training in archery, fishing, and kayaking. We ended the evening with a competitive kickball game played by staff and volunteers. The event is also a fun bonding time and a great way to refresh everyone's skills in some of our classes.

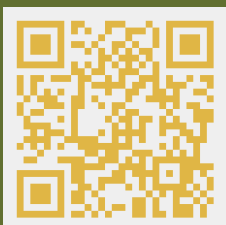
We're excited for another great summer with our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who dedicates their time and talents to assist others at the Outdoor Campus. We would not be able to host the high quantity of classes in the summer without the dedication of our amazing volunteers. As always, thank you for all you do!

## Paige O'Farrell

SDGFP Outdoor Campus SF



Want to become a  
Volunteer Mentor?



Summer Kickoff Party 2023





# OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

## 25 Years of Programming 25 Years of Growing



If you want to give to the Campus Expansion, to help us continue growing in the next 25 years go to:

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**OUTDOOR CAMPUS**  
— SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

# David Parker

SF Campus Director



“Well Folks, we wrapped up another summer! Summer is always fast paced for us, with a variety of programs for the general public as well as groups!”

## What is coming next?

Fall 2023 is on the horizon, meaning a transition for us to hunting season classes!

A crucial program for hunting, is HuntSAFE.

There is still space in our upcoming classes in September and October.

For more information go to:

[gfp.sd.gov/hunter-education/](https://gfp.sd.gov/hunter-education/)





# Notes from The Friends of The Outdoor Campus SF

Greetings from the Friends of the Outdoor Campus Board. Summer is over and school has started. What a busy summer the Campus has had. Over 10,483 children and adults enjoyed programs at the Campus. Saturday, August 12 was the 2nd annual outdoor equipment/supplies giveaway. Everything from canoe/kayaks to water bottles to giveaway. Over 600 folks participated in this event. Thanks to all who donated items.

The expansion continues on track. We still need \$600,000 to meet our financial goal. Any amount will help us reach our goal. Please donate if you can.

We look forward to a busy fall and meeting the needs of the community.

Members of the Board are:

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— SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

# SD GFP Region 3 Wildlife Division

As we flip the calendar month to September, the excitement for fall in South Dakota is continuing to build! To many South Dakotans such as myself, the fall season brings thoughts of combines in the field, great walleye fishing, and some of the best camping weather of the year. Of course, it wouldn't be fall in South Dakota without hunting. As I write this, many fall hunting seasons are already opening, including archery pronghorn, deer, and elk seasons, as well as seasons for rabbit, squirrel, and Canada goose. In October, South Dakota's most well-known hunting season kicks off – pheasant season! With many reports of brood sightings throughout the summer months, we're looking forward to another great year of pheasant hunting in our great state. As the temperature drops and the leaves change color, staff here at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls wishes everyone a happy, safe, and outdoor-filled fall season!

**Kip Rounds**

Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor





# A Look Back at Summer 2023

## 2023 Interns



Every summer, the Campus hires 11 interns to help fill programming needs for the Campus. These interns help with our butterfly gardens, maintenance, customer service, work with our volunteers, and of course educate!

The interns, each summer, also create their own class to teach! A couple of the ones from this summer include Atl-Atl, European Mounts, and Conservation Science with a focus on The Lorax.

## European Mounts



This unique class focused on how to create your own mount. Jason, a summer intern, taught students what a European Mount is and the steps to take to be able to create your own European Mount.

## Fishing



Another beloved class at the Campus is Fishing! Summer is prime time for fishing at the Campus. These classes included those at the Campus Pond. As well as partnership classes at Family Park with the City of Sioux Falls and at Lake Lorraine (Lake Lorraine is a private pond, and not generally open to fishing by the public).



# Campus Updates

## George H. W. Bush Vamos a Pescar



George H. W Bush Vamos a Pescar is a grant program administered by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. The grant awards funds to groups who offer programming for boating and fishing. This year Augustana University in cooperation with The GFP Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls received funds for a 5-part programming. This year's program ran through the month of June and offered opportunity for fishing, fish cleaning, boating, fishing from a boat, and then boating on moving water!



# Campus Updates

## Kids in Parks Signage



**The Outdoor Campus and Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation partnered together to install a Kids in Parks sign! The sign offers a variety of flyers that can lead to new experiences on the trails!**

**National Wild Turkey Federation and Friends of the Big Sioux River joined the partnership to help create a unique flyer specific to the oxbow lake that encircles Sertoma Park.**

**For more information, check out:**

**<https://www.kidsinparks.com/sertoma-park>**



# Campus Updates

## Decoy Loaner Trailer



Thanks to generous donations from Jan Nicolay, in memory of her husband Jerry Nicolay who was an avid goose hunter, and from Delta Waterfowl Sioux Falls, there are now 2 Loaner Field Goose Decoy Trailers. One of these trailers is located at The Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus and one is located at the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center. These trailers along with the contents of them are able to be checked out by the public, FREE of charge. For more information go to: [gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/](http://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/) and click on "Loaner Equipment".



# Campus Updates

## 2nd Annual Gear Giveaway



One time is an anomaly, but twice is the beginning of a pattern, making the Campus Gear Giveaway program an event that The Campus plans to have annually! Thanks to all the generation donations from the public, the Campus was able to host another successful Gear Giveaway Event. Folks of all ages and backgrounds were welcomed to the Campus on August 12 to pick out items for FREE that they needed for their next outdoor adventure. By 9:45 am we had 372 people walk through our doors for the event! Thank you to everyone who made this program a success!



# Campus Updates

## Big Sioux Buck



Photo by Jim Thompson

Pictured above is the "Big Sioux Buck" also known to locals in Sioux Falls as "YouTube". This buck, which resided on the North East Side of Sioux Falls in the early 2000s, quickly gained popularity with its antlers scoring a 236 on the Boone and Crockett Scale. The deer was last seen alive in early 2013 and was thought to have lived to be 12-13 years old (the average lifespan for a deer is 4-6 years). Though this deer has passed, you can learn more about it, local artistry created of it, and see a replica of it in the Region 3 Wildlife Office/Outdoor Campus with our new exhibit.



# Campus Updates

## Women's Try It Night



Every year the Campus hosts its "Women's Try It Night" Event. The goal of this event is to give women a space to try a variety of outdoor activities like archery, fishing, kayaking, and more. This year was unique because we had a special guest speaker/instructor: Callie Russell. Callie, was a participant on the History Channel show *Alone* and spent time sharing about her experience as well as instructing on starting a fire from a ferro rod.

# Campus Expansion Updates

## Expanding The Outdoor Campus!

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM SPACE



INTERN AREA



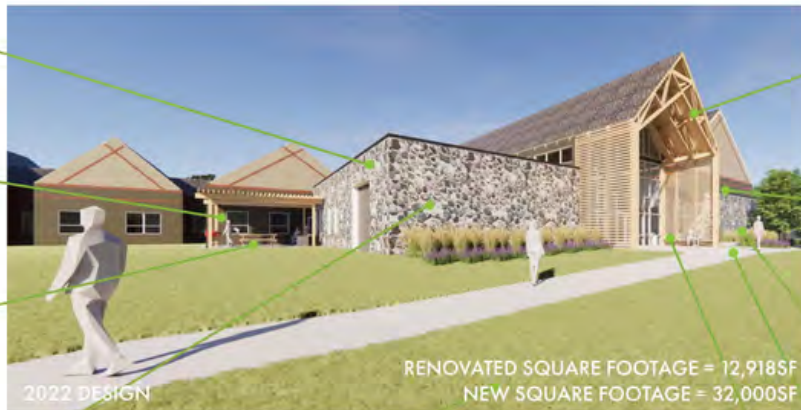
GRILLING & MEAT SMOKING PATIO



ADDITIONAL GENERAL STORAGE



LARGER FACILITY TO INCREASE PROGRAM CAPABILITY



2022 DESIGN

RENOVATED SQUARE FOOTAGE = 12,918SF  
NEW SQUARE FOOTAGE = 32,000SF

EXPANDED LOBBY/  
EXHIBIT SPACE



SEPARATED GAME PROCESSING FROM THE RANGE



WILDLIFE AREA



"AT GRADE" PATH



OUTDOOR GATHERING SPACE



2019 DESIGN

RENOVATED SQUARE FOOTAGE = 5,000SF  
NEW SQUARE FOOTAGE = 23,200SF

## OUTDOOR CAMPUS

2019/2022 COMPARISON

7/19/22 | JLG 18169 | © 2022 JLG ARCHITECTS



The Campus has been around for over 25 years, and it is time to grow!

- Spring 2024 - Expected beginning of construction on the Outdoor Range
- Fall 2024 - Expected beginning of construction on the Indoor Expansion

We have \$2.4 Million dollars raised to date! Putting us on target for these construction dates.





# HIGHLIGHTS



## Hunting 101 - Disabled Veteran Hunts

Fall of 2022, The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls piloted a Disabled Veteran Hunt program. This first year, The Campus had 3 Veterans take part in these hunts.

This year, Fall of 2023, The Campus is partnering with the Grey Ghost Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation to offer this program again. If interested in participating or for more details, contact Derek >>>

## Hunting 101



This course is a unique opportunity to learn the full process of deer hunting from purchasing a license, going to the gun range, going into the field for a deer hunt, and learning how to process a deer.

The goal of this class is to introduce and help families become more comfortable hunting in hopes of building a lifelong passion for hunting.

Parents/guardians are required to attend. This is available to anyone 10 years and up. Adults are to sign up as well.

If you think this is something that may interest you, please contact Derek at:  
605-362-2732  
derek.klawitter@state.sd.us



# Fall 2023 Programming Booklets

## Pheasant Hunting Basics

Saturday, September 30, 10AM-12PM or 1pm-3pm

A South Dakota hunting tradition, pheasant hunting is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in the fall! Learn about pheasants and hunting safety with hands on activities.

This class will also include learning how to clean and cook pheasant.



Our Fall 2023 Program Booklets are out! You can swing by the Campus to pick up a hard copy or you can check them out online:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/east-programs/>

Check out these Classes!

## Fly Tying for Beginners

September 7, October 11, or November 2, 6pm-7:30pm

This intro to fly tying class will teach you a few tips and tricks for getting started in the exciting world of fly tying. Each month will feature different flies that will keep the fish biting for more!



Registration is open for all fall classes!



Need Help? Give us a call at 605-362-2777

Or

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

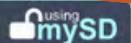


South Dakota

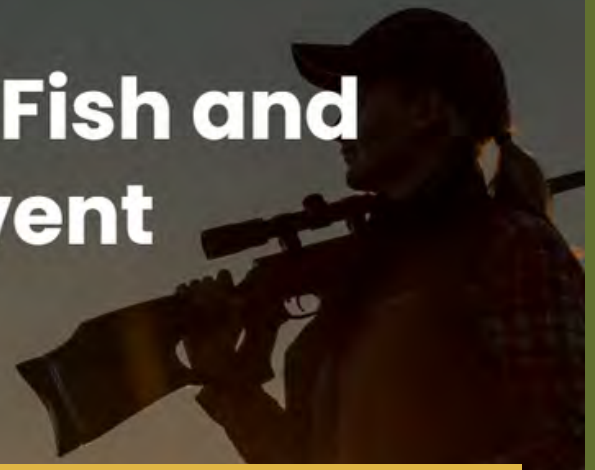
EVENTS

Programs

Login/Register >>



# South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks: Educational Event Management



Have you registered through our new Kalkomey registration system?

To register, go to: <https://southdakota.storefront.kalkomey.com/em/programs>



# Campus Volunteers

Thank you, all, for an awesome summer, filled with fun classes. We had a phenomenal crew of volunteers and interns this summer. Sixty-eight volunteers donated over 1,700 hours to the Outdoor Campus this summer. The Outdoor Campus staff are so grateful for everything our volunteers do for the organization. You all are what make this such a special place to work. Staff recognized the following volunteers at the bowling party for all their hard work this summer.

## Top Hours:

- Cheryl U. (adult) 141:16 hours
- Bobby M. (adult) 61:40 hours
- Levi B. (youth) 43:48 hours
- Maddie N. (youth) 34:30 hours

Certificates of Amazingness: Steve M.— Master Fisherman; Bill F.—Dock Fishing Master; Thulin Family—Running the Outdoor Campus Zoo; Rowan S. —Being the Most Excited to Volunteer; Hadass N.—SD Animal Master; Holly L.—Dutch Oven Master; Shawna L.— Jack of All Trades; Bobby M.— Best Boat Hauler; Jaci B.—Jack of All Trades; Maddie N.—Having the Most Contagious Personality and Smile; Kelly B.—Being the Most Resourceful.

With classes beginning to settle down, volunteers will shift their efforts to helping with more school programming and Hunting 101. I'm looking forward to an exciting fall with our volunteers!

## Paige O'Farrell

SDGFP Outdoor Campus SF







# OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

## 25 Years of Programming 25 Years of Growing



If you want to give to the Campus Expansion, to help us continue growing in the next 25 years go to:

<https://www.parkswildlifefoundation.org/projects/outdoor-campus-sioux-falls-expansion>







SD Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus - SF

# NEWSLETTER

**Quarterly Update: Winter 2023**



**SD GFP Mission:** We serve and connect people and families to the outdoor through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife resources

## Newsletter Content:

- Note From the Director
- Note from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls
- Note on Region 3 Wildlife
- A Look Back...at the Fall of 2023
- Campus Updates
- Programming Highlights
- Winter Program Booklet
- Upcoming Special Events
- Volunteering
- Concluding Notes



**OUTDOOR CAMPUS**  
— SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

# David Parker

SF Campus Director



“We love that the Campus/Sertoma Park groomed trails got so much use because of the amount of snow we got this last year. With that, we did want to remind the public about trail etiquette with groomed trails. Check out the visual below to see where foot traffic versus skiing traffic should be. Thanks for being respectful of all users!”

## Etiquette on Trails



**FOOT  
AND  
SNOWSHOE  
TRAFFIC**  
AVOID GROOMED  
CLASSIC LANES.

**SKATE  
SKIING**  
STAY IN THE  
MIDDLE. AVOID  
GROOMED  
CLASSIC LANES.

**CLASSIC  
SKIING**  
GROOMED  
CLASSIC  
LANES



# Notes from The Friends of The Outdoor Campus SF

WOW! What a year for the Outdoor Campus.

First, Dave Parker, director, and staff plus the interns deserve a big thank you for all they did.

- They offered 815 classes to over 18,337 participants.
- They offered a give away of outdoor equipment. Over 637 people attended and got free items. All items were donated by outdoor enthusiasts.
- They expanded mentoring by adding another volunteer mentor, continued the Hunting 101 Deer program, and added a mentored youth pheasant hunt.

Second, 2 people joined the Friends of the Outdoor Campus Board, bringing the board to 13. We welcome Jamie Simko and Emmett Keyser and are grateful they are willing to give of their time and expertise.

Third, the Friends Board in cooperation with the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation are just shy of raising 3 million dollars for our match to complete the addition.

Finally, the Friends of the Outdoor Campus Board hopes to finalize the process to establish an endowment with the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation by the end of the year.

Thanks to all who helped the Outdoor Campus this year.

Hope you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and have a joyous Christmas and New Year.

## Members of the Board are:

Jan Nicolay  
Brian Klatt  
Tim Kromminga  
Amanda Oines  
Ryan Brown  
Royce Merritt  
Cheryl Ulvestad  
Eric Kurtz

Jeff Scherschligt  
Kathy Anderson  
Eric Olson  
Derek Maassen  
Emmett Keyser  
Jamie Simko  
Kristina Coby  
Kip Rounds  
David Parker



Board Chair

**Jan Nicolay**

FRIENDS OF THE



**OUTDOOR  
CAMPUS**

— SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —





# SD GFP Region 3 Wildlife Division

With winter almost upon us, staff at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls are reminiscing about the memorable year we had. We experienced world-class upland bird opportunities, phenomenal big game hunting, and record-breaking walleye fishing! We are incredibly fortunate to live in a state with so many folks as passionate about the outdoors as we are. This past year was filled with many first-time outdoor experiences, memories, successes, and challenges. As we look forward to another changing season here in South Dakota, we also look forward to another year of spending time in the outdoors with some really great people. We hope to see you soon here at the Outdoor Campus to help us enjoy the next outdoor adventure! Here's to wishing everyone a great winter and happy holidays!

**Kip Rounds**

Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor



Photo by Travel South Dakota



# A Look Back at Fall 2023



During the month of August on Thursdays, the Campus partnered with South Dakota Trapping Association (SDTA) to offer a 4-part comprehensive trapping class. Each Thursday in August students came to learn from SDTA staff about the how-to's of ethical trapping. Classes included: Trap and Snare ID/Rules and regulations, Trap Preparation, reading signs and landowner permission, and fur handling.

## Youth Pheasant Hunt



The Outdoor Campus led a youth pheasant hunt on November 5, 2023! The hunt was a huge success with lots of wild birds being seen and plenty of shots taken!



## Hunting 101



Each fall the Campus is busy with not only classes, but also with supported hunts via our Hunting 101 program. This year we were able to partner with the Dakota Grey Ghost Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation to offer 10 Disabled Veteran Hunts!

# Campus Updates

New Staff Member!



**Jeff Merkle**  

---

**Nights and Weekends  
Manager**

Hello, my name is Jeff Merkle, and I am the new Nights and Weekends Manager at The Outdoor Campus. I love being at the Campus, helping people learn to love the outdoors. When not at the Outdoor Campus, I am at Augustana University, where I work as the Director of Accessibility Services, and as the Internship and Employment Coordinator for the Augie Access program. I live in Sioux Falls with my wife Jean, and our rowdy Labradoodle, Macey. All 3 of our children live and work in Sioux Falls, and I am very excited about my new role at The Outdoor Campus. I look forward to seeing you soon!



# Campus Updates

#GivingTuesday



## Giving Tuesday

The South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation is participating in Giving Tuesday this year. The focus of their efforts is to raise funds for the Campus Expansion project. Their goal is to raise \$2,500 through donations from the public for Giving Tuesday.

If you are interested in supporting this effort, start following them @sdparkswildlife to learn all about this effort and how you can give!



# Campus Updates

## Casting for Recovery

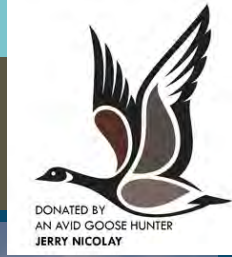


Over the weekend of September 15-17th, several GFP Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls staff helped partner with Casting for Recovery to put on the first ever retreat in South Dakota. The purpose of Casting for Recovery is to “provide healing outdoor retreats for women with breast cancer, at no cost to the participant.” The event was a huge success and the Campus was honored to be able to help with this initiative.





# Campus Updates



## Goose Trailer



In our Fall 2023 Newsletter we mentioned the addition 2 Loaner Field Goose Decoy Trailers, 1 in Sioux Falls at The Campus and 1 in Brookings at the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center.

Check out these great shots from folks who have gotten to take these out and use them in the field! Just a reminder, these are FREE To check out, just call either location to reserve the trailer and get out hunting!



# Campus Updates

## Campus Expansion Update



The Campus Expansion project is poised to start in the Spring of 2024 with groundbreaking on the 60-yard outdoor archery range. This range will be open to for both Campus Programming as well as public use at no charge to the user. It will include targets at fixed locations as well as accessible lanes with adjustable distance targets.



# HIGHLIGHTS



## Predator Calling

This program is hosted via Zoom, host by the Campus and features some of the Departments Wildlife Damage Specialists. Come prepared to learn from the best about tips and tricks for calling and hunting predators with a focus on coyote hunting. The date for this program has yet to be determined, so watch our Facebook Page to learn when the program will be.



## Conservation Special Event!

February 15, 7:00-8:30 PM

The Campus is hosting the screening of Green Fire - Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time.

After viewing the film, there will be reading and reflection on one of Leopold's essays led by Kenna Hammons, an Aldo Leopold Foundation alumnus.

# Winter 2023 Programming Booklets

## Deer Processing - Hind Quarter Break-Down

December 9 from 1:00-3:00 PM

Learn about what cuts of meat make the best steaks, roasts, burger, and how to use and package as much of the animal as possible without waste.



Check out these Classes!



## Ice Fishing with the Littles

January 16 from 10:00-11:00 AM

This shortened class is perfect for parents, grandparents, and babysitters with younger kids. We keep to the basics and fun!

Our Winter 2023 Program Booklets is out! You can swing by the Campus to pick up a hard copy or you can check them out online:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/east-programs/>

Registration is open and spaces are filling fast!



Need Help? Give us a call at 605-362-2777  
Or  
Give the Kalkomey Help Desk a call at 1-800-684-9541



South Dakota

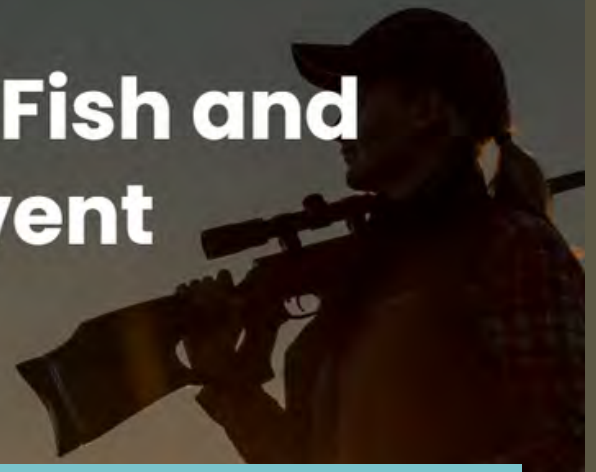
EVENTS

Programs

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using  
mySD

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Have you registered through our new Kalkomey registration system?

To register, go to: <https://southdakota.storefront.kalkomey.com/em/programs>



# Campus Volunteers

**Thank you! Those are the first words that come to mind when I think about the volunteers who work at the Campus! We have volunteers who help with our front desk, creating giveaway items, helping with programming, teaching, and mentoring new hunters! Each one of our volunteers give so much to the Campus and are such a crucial part of our work! Even prior to the Campus starting in 1997, volunteers were busy helping get the facility ready to open!**

**So again, I want to echo a hug thank you to the folks who give so much, our volunteers!**

**David Parker**

SDGFP Outdoor Campus SF







# OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

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