

Spring 2024



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Winter 2023 Recap

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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/>

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!





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 programming.

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 programming, 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.

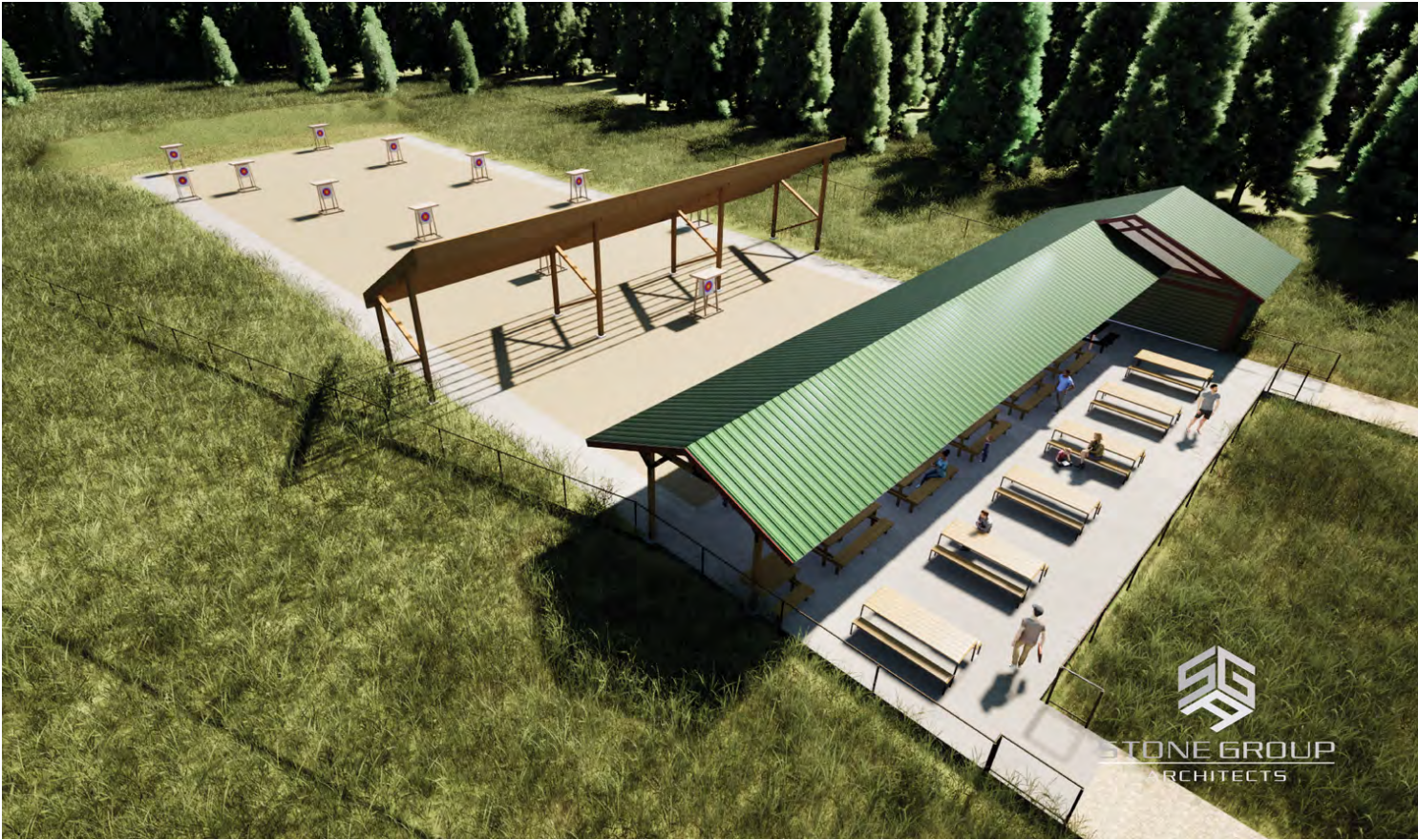
For more information, contact:

Jason Nelson

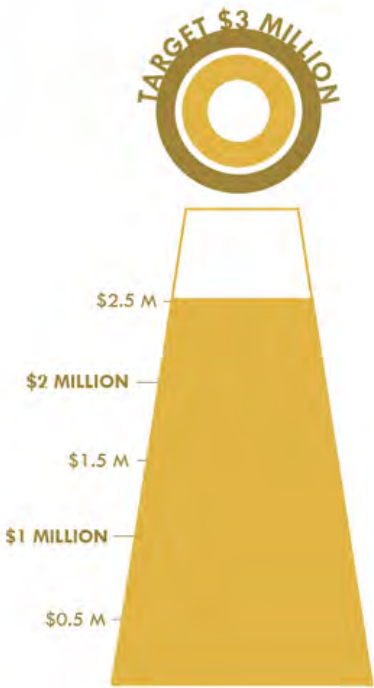
605-940-8486

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.

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.

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

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.



Summer 2024



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Region 3

Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

As we turn the calendar page into the summer months, we're fortunate to look back on the springtime as a season of much-needed rain! The southeast area of the state is no longer on the drought monitor, which is good news for our lake and rivers. Although some lakes are still lower than normal, we're heading in the right direction toward filling them up. The spring rains are also good news for wildlife, especially pheasants, as those rains help grow vegetation that will serve as beneficial nesting and brood rearing cover. This all gives us a lot to look forward to as another memorable hunting season draws closer! Until then, there will be plenty of camping, fishing, and hiking to enjoy throughout the summer. As always, we're going to stay busy doing our best to connecting people to the great outdoors of South Dakota!

Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

It is Summer and that means kids out from school! This probably also means that if you are a parent, you are probably looking for some fun activities for you and your family. Our summer booklet is already out and is packed with some very fun and accessible classes for your family!

Another exciting thing about summer is our no-registration required Super Summer Saturdays! These are Saturdays we dedicate to summer fun with no registration required, these are great for folks of all ages and is open to anyone who would like to attend. No experience or gear required.

A final note of excitement is how close we are getting to construction on our expansion. Be looking for more details on our social media over the summer.





Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

As summer approaches we encourage you to take advantage of the various programming available at the Outdoor Campus. It is a great way to experience the outdoors right in the middle of Sioux Falls. Don't miss the opportunity to learn a new skill or start a new hobby.

We continue to work with the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation to complete the capital campaign to expand the facility. This will provide the additional space needed for expanded education and programming opportunities.

The first phase of our expansion, the outdoor archery range, will start mid-summer. Watch for groundbreaking details and we encourage you to join our celebration.

Board Members

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Emmett Keyser - Vice Chair
Amanda Oines - Member
Eric Olson - Member
Derek Maassen - Member

Royce Meritt - Member
Jeff Scherschligt - Member
Cheryl Ulvestad - Member
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Jamie Simko - Member
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Kristina Coby - Ex Officio
Kip Rounds - Ex Officio
David Parker - Ex Officio

A Look Back at Spring 2024



One thing we love, is being able to partner with local entities. One partnership is with the Harrisburg Parks, Recreation and Forestry. On April 13th, we partnered to offer a Community Fishing Program at Lake Ole. Lake Ole is a quality community fishery in Harrisburg, that is used quite a bit by the public. During the 2 hour community event, about 40 kids and 40 adults participated.

On March 28th, the group formerly called the Fall Flyrodders Club held its inaugural meeting. The purpose of this GFP Outdoor Campus Club is to help connect adults interested in fly fishing and broaden their skills.

Since this inaugural meeting with 15 participants, the group has met at a variety of other times locally to fly fish. The group has also started partnering with the Friends of the Big Sioux River and changed its name to the Big Sioux Fishing Club.

If you are interested in joining or learning more, email Jason at Jason.Nelson@state.sd.us



Campus Updates - Update to Life Jacket Loaner Program

The Outdoor Campus/Region 3 Wildlife Office was recently awarded life jackets from the Sea Tow Foundation. These #yellowlifejackets are located at our facility and are able to be checked out for free to anyone in the public for boating, fishing, or swimming.

We encourage anyone who is planning a summer trip to come and check these out! They are available from May 1 - September 30 every year.



Campus Updates - HuntSAFE in the Schools



Photo by Michael G. Brown

Spring 2024 marked the 2nd HuntSAFE in the Schools Program here in Sioux Falls. This program is a unique partnership between the Sioux Falls YMCA Afterschool Program, the Sioux Falls School District, and the GFP Outdoor Campus. The program was held April 8-11 and April 15-18 during the afterschool program. Students spent the first week in the classroom learning about hunter safety and the second week was spent at the Izaak Walton League in Sioux Falls practicing safe firearm handling.

Campus Updates - Expansion



Notes from the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation Director

by Kristina Coby

By now you know that we are in the home stretch of the Outdoor Campus - Sioux Falls Expansion campaign. This campaign creates more space to learn more outdoor skills for our participants like YOU. With indoor and outdoor archery/bb gun ranges, additional classroom space, a teaching kitchen, and a game processing space, participants can continue to take advantage of our FREE programs throughout the year. We hope you are as excited as we are!

As we have been on the road to raising \$3,000,000, we know for sure that it takes a true team effort. We hope you can help. Have you been waiting for the perfect time to give? THAT TIME IS NOW!

Campus Updates - Expansion

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Field Day Only

June 15

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



To Register:

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

Summer 2024 Programming

Our Summer 2024 Program Booklets came out April 24th! You can swing by the Campus to pick up a hardcopy or you can check them out online.

Registration for Summer Programming is unique:

- June Classes opened May 8
- July Classes opens June 5
- August Classes opens July 3

Scan to Register for Classes:



Summer 2024 Programming Highlights

Introduction to Turkey Hunting

Thursday, June 13 from 10am-12pm

This class will focus on learning how to turkey hunt. We will go over turkey calling, setting up decoys and blinds, scouting and more!



Ted Ellenbecker Summer Seminars!

Catching Channel Catfish

June 22 from 1-2pm

Locating summer channel catfish, understanding baits, and more!

Fishing for Walleye

June 22 from 2:10-3:10pm

Gain confidence with high percentage presentations without the fuss! Baits and locations.

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



Women's Try It Night

This event is a fun ladies night out! The program includes a short presentation and a rotation of fire starting, fishing, archery, and paddling activities.

Registration is required for this event and fills up fast!

Participants must be 8 and up, youth with adult.

Date: Thursday, June 20, 5:30-9:00pm

Gear Swap and Giveaway

The 3rd Annual Gear Swap and Giveaway Event will be held on August 10 from 10am-12pm at the Outdoor Campus. No registration is required for this free event.

If you have found the cost of gear to be a challenge for getting into an outdoor activity, this event will help jump start your next hunting or fishing trip. Come take a variety of clothing, gear, rods/reels, etc. that you can use in the field. We will also have Open House Style Archery that day from 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm.



Programming Highlights - Open House Style

Open House Style Programming does not require any registration to attend.

Super Summer Saturdays

10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm

June 1	Fishing
June 15	Paddling
June 29	Archery
July 13	Fishing
July 27	Paddling
August 10	Archery



Fishing at Lake Lorraine

6:00pm-7:30pm

June 13, July 18, August 15

Note: this is an exclusive opportunity, that is first come, first serve. Fishing will be held on the Cars for Sale side of the lake. Fishing is not open to the public at Lake Lorraine, this is only allowed through a joint partnership of GFP and Lake Lorraine.

Fishing at Family Park

9:00am-11:00am

Saturdays, June 1-July 27

Come join us and the Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation at Family Park (300 North Ellis Road) for some free family fishing.



Hunting 101 - Fall Deer Hunts



This unique opportunity will walk students through safety, how to purchase a deer tag, how to shoot a rifle, time in the field, and if a successful harvest, time processing the deer.

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. Applications will be available starting June 15th.

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

Volunteer Highlight



On March 5th, Masako G. was awarded the President's Lifetime Achievement Award! This recognition is awarded to volunteers who exceed 4,000 hours of service to an organization. Masako has been a volunteer at the Outdoor Campus for 20 years and in January of 2024 surpassed 5,000 hours of service. This is the highest number of hours of any volunteers throughout the years at the Outdoor Campus! Masako has helped with everything from fly-tying and fishing classes to special events and the front desk. Masako is a friendly and familiar fact at the Outdoor Campus with a contagious smile, kindness, and generosity to all she meets.

Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Summer is here! Our volunteer program is gearing up for a busy summer of classes. Our volunteer coordinator intern, Sammie, started at the end of May. She's a great addition to our team, and I'm excited to see all she accomplishes this summer! We have our annual summer kickoff party on Thursday, June 6. At the party, we'll train volunteers how to help with classes like fishing, archery, and kayaking. At the end of the night, staff and volunteers join teams to play a fun kickball game.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your continued help at the Outdoor Campus! Your guys' help is essential for a successful summer of programming. Thank you, all, for continuing to inspire new outdoorsmen and women!



Fall 2024



Photo by 605 Video Co.



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

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



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P. 12-13



Region 3

Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

Fall is upon us and what a special season to spend in South Dakota! This is the time of year that so many look forward to making memories with family and friends in the great outdoors. Those memories might be walking the fields for roosters, camping in our state parks, or enjoying the cool, crisp air on the lake chasing walleye. We're fortunate here in South Dakota to have such a variety of incredible outdoor opportunities throughout the state. There's no better time than now to get outside and enjoy those opportunities! Archery big game seasons are already underway, and it won't be long until folks are hitting the fields of South Dakota to enjoy the best pheasant hunting in the world! So get outside, make some memories, and enjoy everything our great state has to offer this fall!

Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

It's Fall! Which means school is back in session and hunting season is almost upon us. Both of these will be keeping the Outdoor Campus busy this season.

Our Fall, Winter, and Spring is always busy with a variety of schools coming to the Campus for a field trip or the Campus coming to schools for a program. We greatly encourage these programs. These programs can be so beneficial to traditional classroom education because they: (1) reinforce classroom learning, (2) create connections between the theoretical and applicability in life, and (3) empower students to learn about career paths they may not have considered.

With hunting season, the Campus offers a Hunting 101 Program. To learn more about this unique and comprehensive program, see page 14.





Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

We celebrated the groundbreaking of the outdoor archery range on Friday, July 12th. What an exciting event to kick off the expansion of The Outdoor Campus (p. 7). This was made possible by the generous support of the community, and we want to thank our donors for their generous support to make our dreams come to fruition. Provided the weather cooperates, we anticipate completion this fall so if you are new to archery plan to sign up for an introductory class or if you are an experienced archer, stop by to shoot your bow on the range later this fall.

The Friends of the Outdoor Campus board was instrumental in raising the funds to support the current expansion efforts and I want to personally thank them for their efforts to make this happen. We are pleased to welcome the following new members of the Friends Board, Josh Johnson with Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation, Ritchie Hutchison with the Sioux Falls Public Schools and Drew Woelfel with First National Bank.

The Outdoor Campus building expansion continues to make progress. The design and plans have been reviewed and we are currently waiting for the approval of a matching grant. Once that is received, we will be ready to bid on the project and our hope is that will occur yet this year with construction beginning early next spring.

As the summer transitions to fall, come out to The Outdoor Campus to watch that transition take place in nature. Be sure to check out the web site for various classes and experiences to expose you to a new adventure in the outdoors.

Board Members

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

A Look Back at Summer 2024



Hunting is more than just getting into the field and having a successful harvest. It also includes the time preparing and cooking your quarry.

On August 9, the Outdoor Campus hosted a “Kids Cooking with Wild Game” class. This class taught students (age 8-15): knife skills, keeping workspace clean, safety with hot appliances, reading recipes, and how to properly cook wild game.

The class had 15 students and was led by a Campus volunteer family.

In July we hosted a “Wet and Wild” Class. The focus of this class is to help students, age 5 and up to learn more about aquatic habitats.

During the 2 classes we hosted in July, 21 students learned about aquatic habitats through reviewing what a Benthic Macroinvertebrate is and how they can be an indicator of water quality. Students got to dawn rubber boots and go searching for these critters in our local pond.



Campus Updates - AIS Curriculum Training



Over the past year, the Game, Fish and Parks, South Dakota State University, and South Dakota State University Extension Office have been collaborating to create a Middle School level Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Curriculum. The goal of this curriculum is to help students across the state better understand what AIS is, what role state level managers play in slowing the spread of AIS, and what they as students can do to slow the spread.

In conjunction with these efforts, a \$34,820 grant was awarded this group to print the curriculum, develop video aids, create loaner kits, and host a 2 day training for teachers to learn about how to use the curriculum. On May 29 and May 30, 9 teachers attended this pilot training and were given resources to be able to take home to their classrooms.

To learn more about this curriculum or view the videos, go to:

gfp.sd.gov/fishsd/

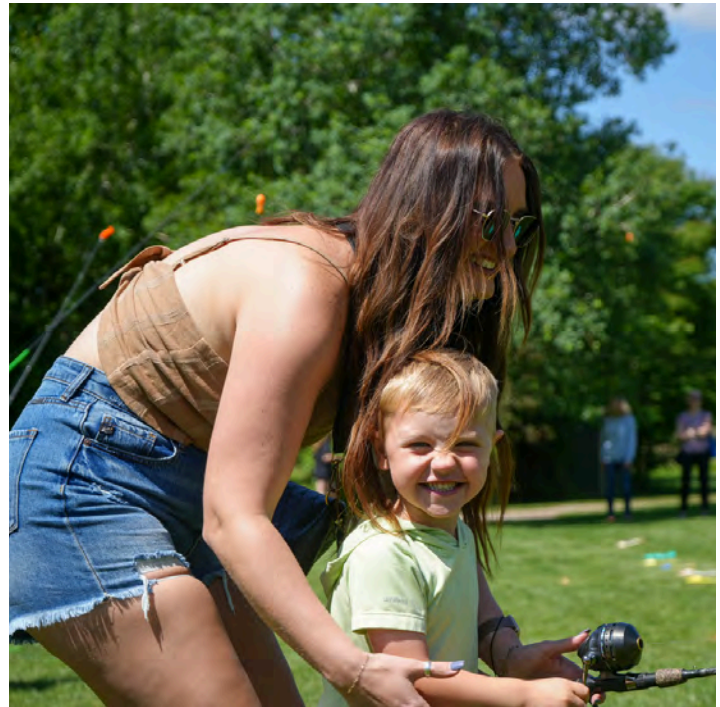
Campus Updates - 'hood's Familyfest Fun Cruise

On June 1st, The Outdoor Campus hosted the Familyfest Fun Cruise “Swag Bag” Stop. 'hood Magazine puts together this event as a way for the public to get to know the variety of opportunities in Sioux Falls for family based fun.

The Outdoor Campus was one stop on this adventure where participants could pick up a goody bag filled with items from the local stops.

Aside from being the “Swag Bag” stop, the Campus held its Super Summer Saturday Fishing Program. This is a no-registration required, free fishing program.

Through the course of the event all 500 bags were given away and 1,177 individuals came through our facility.



Campus Updates - Groundbreaking

On July 12th at 11:30am, The Outdoor Campus held its Golden Shovel Groundbreaking. This event marked the beginning of construction for Phase 1 of the Expansion. Phase 1 is the 60-yard Outdoor Range (see page 10), which will be completed this Fall.

At the Golden Shovel, GFP Secretary Kevin Robling, Lieutenant Governor Larry Rhoden, Friends of the Outdoor Campus Board Chair Tim Kromminga, Executive Director of the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation Krsitina Coby, Director of the Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Don Kearney, and the Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce member Jason Herboldt all spoke at the event.

A huge thank you to the Sioux Falls Development Foundation for hosting this event and helping to make it such a success!



Campus Updates - 3rd Annual Gear Giveaway



On August 10th, the Campus hosted its 3rd Annual Gear Giveaway Program. Since it's inception in 2022, the goal of this program has stayed the same: provide an opportunity for the public to recycle their outdoor gear they no longer use, and give it to the next generation of outdoorsmen and women.

This year, we had over 53 donors that gave over 1,000 items such as lures, fishing poles, hunting clothes and boots, canoes, decoys, and cross-country skis. We are so very thankful to each and everyone of these donors who brought gear out to be repurposed.

This event started at 10am and ended at 12pm. We also hosted open house archery from 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm along with open house fishing from 1pm-3pm. By the end of the day, we had 980 different individuals come out to enjoy the event!

Campus Updates - Expansion



Notes from the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation Director

by Kristina Coby

July 12th was a VERY exciting day at the Outdoor Campus – Sioux Falls as we broke ground for the outdoor archery range. Phase One of the greatest expansion project since the doors were opened in 1997 is underway!

The SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation, along with the Friends of the Outdoor Campus set a goal to raise \$3,000,000 and we have reached 92% of our goal and we couldn't have gotten this far without generous donors from the community and surrounding area. Can YOU help us cross the finish line?

As you know, all programs offered to the public are free of charge and for all ages. If you've ever taken a class or participated in programming, you surely have fond memories of your experience. Help us keep building memories for future generations of outdoor enthusiasts by giving a gift today. Any gift, large or small, can help us reach our goal. Please stop into the Outdoor Campus to donate or visit us online by scanning the qr code below and visiting our website today.



Campus Updates - Expansion Construction

Construction on the outdoor archery range is in full swing!

As you can tell from the photos, the work is moving quite quickly going from July 24th with preparation of the construction site, to leveling and foundation work (photo on August 9th), to framing of the range storage building (photo on August 28th).

Still to come will be work on the shooting line, preparation of the range area, creation of a baffle, installation of a security fence, and finally seeding.

A big thank you to all the donors who have given to help make this project a reality and the contractors doing the construction!



2024 Sioux Falls Area HuntSAFE

Traditional Classes

September 10, 12, 14

September 24, 26, 28

October 1, 3, 5

Field Day Only

September 14

September 28

October 5

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

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



Fall 2024 Programming

Our Fall 2024 Program Registration is live and ongoing.

If you are looking to learn more about hunting, fishing, trapping, outdoor skills, or conservation, The Campus has a class that is right for you!

Scan to Register:



Fall 2024 Programming Highlights

Waterfowl Management

Overview

Thursday, October 10 from 1pm-2:30pm

Join Senior Waterfowl Biologist, Rocco Murano, to learn about harvest and habitat management as it relates to waterfowl. The class will also discuss: the Central Flyway Council, federal frameworks, and more!



Fishing from a Kayak

Saturday, September 21
from 10am-11:30am

Learn the tips and tricks of paddling and fishing at the same time on our pond. Instruction for both fishing and kayaking will be provided with an emphasis on safety.

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

Fall 2024 Programming Highlights



Big Sioux Fly Fishing Club

This club is an ongoing partnership between the Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus and the Friends of the Big Sioux River.

The purpose of the club is to gather together anyone who wants to learn about or share their passion for fly fishing. The club also focuses on making fly fishing fun and approachable.

No registration is required. To learn more contact Jason Nelson:

Jason.Nelson@state.sd.us
605-940-8486

Our Living Prairie

Thursday, September 19

10am-11:30am

Jeff Zimprich from Pasque Hill on Beaver Creek will be presenting on how soil is alive, the importance of grasslands, and prairie plant root systems.

The program will be packed with hands-on activities and will wrap up with a hike exploring the Outdoor Campus prairie while learning about the animal diversity that call the prairie habitat home.

Register today for this class!



Hunting 101 - Fall Deer Hunts



Every fall, the Outdoor Campus offers the Hunting 101 Program. This program walks students through the process of learning:

1. How to purchase a Youth, Mentored, or Apprentice Deer Tag.
2. How to site in a gun at the range.
3. Spends time in the field attempting to harvest a deer.
4. If successful, how to field dress and process the deer.

Applications opened in June, and are open until the program fills. To learn more, go to: <https://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/> and click on “programming” or check out this video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEazROSVfxo>) to learn more.

Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Happy fall! I can't believe summer is already over. We had an amazing summer of classes, interns, and volunteers. Our volunteers worked hard this summer and donated over 1,500 hours to the Outdoor Campus. I loved seeing the friendships and camaraderie flourish among volunteers all summer long.

In early July, we had the honor of presenting Cheryl Ulvestad with the Helpline Center's Volunteer of the Month Award. We are incredibly lucky to have her at the Outdoor Campus. Cheryl is a critical team member, so much so that the interns rightfully awarded her the "Backbone of TOC" award at our end-of-summer volunteer party.

I'm excited to see what fall brings us. Hunting mentors will be busy with the Hunting 101 program. School and homeschool programs will be in full swing and need lots of help from volunteers.

We are so lucky to have such knowledgeable and insightful volunteers. Thank you, volunteers, for all that you do! We love having you at the Outdoor Campus!

Winter 2024



Photo by 605 Video Co.

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



Fall 2024 Recap

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

Campus Updates

Learn about what new things are happening at the Outdoor Campus
P. 5-13

2025 Program Highlights

Find out what exciting classes are coming up for Fall 2024 and
P. 15-17



Photo by 605 Video Co

Region 3

Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

Winter is my favorite time to reflect on the year and be thankful for the memories made in the great outdoors of South Dakota. Looking back on 2024, it was a year to remember here at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls. We experienced near-record flooding that submerged our parking lot and brought the Big Sioux River within feet of our building. We celebrated a groundbreaking event to mark the beginning of our Outdoor Campus expansion project and completed Phase 1 of the project, a brand-new outdoor archery range! Perhaps most importantly, our staff once again had the honor of introducing the outdoors to hundreds of individuals throughout the year and starting them on a life-long journey of outdoor adventures. As we make plans for a busy 2025, we hope you can join us here at the Outdoor Campus to make more memories in the outdoors!

Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

Winter is almost here, but the fun outside does not end! From cross country skiing and snowshoeing to ice fishing, the opportunities to get outside in the winter abound. This fall we were lucky enough to be stocked with Trout, Atlantic Salmon, and Coho Salmon! We are looking forward to some great ice fishing classes!

As a reminder, the trails here in Sertoma Park are groomed by the city. They are groomed for skate skiing, traditional cross country skiing, and for folks to walk on. Remember if you are walking or snow shoeing to stay off the main groomed area. Trails are only groomed a few times per week, so please be respectful of all of our trail users (p. 14).

We are once again checking out snowshoes to anyone who would like to use them in the park. We just ask that you have them back to the Campus 30 minutes prior to close.





Photo by Travel South Dakota

Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

As we are entering the holiday season, the Friends of the Outdoor Campus are grateful for your support of our facility expansion and programming. The outdoor archery range is nearly complete, and we hope it will be available for you in the very near future so you can take advantage of one more beautiful fall day and shoot your bow at our new range.

We recently learned that our application for matching funds received final approval and the expansion of additional classrooms, and an indoor archery range will begin next spring. This expansion will provide the space for additional outdoor education and indoor shooting experiences no matter what the weather brings.

Don't let the changes in seasons force you indoors. Enjoy the Outdoor Campus for a brisk walk or when that first snow flies take advantage of the snowshoes that are available to check out free of charge or take part in a cross-country skiing or ice fishing class. There are no better activities to keep you active or to shed those few extra holiday pounds during these next few wintery months.

We wish you a special Holiday season and thank you for your support. As you consider your year end contributions, please consider supporting the Outdoor Campus.

Board Members

Tim Kromminga - Chair

Emmett Keyser - Vice Chair

Amanda Oines - Member

Eric Olson - Member

Derek Maassen - Member

Drew Woelfel - Member

Royce Meritt - Member

Jeff Scherschligt - Member

Cheryl Ulvestad - Member

Eric Kurtz - Member

Kathy Anderson - Member

Ritchie Hutchinson - Member

Jamie Simko - Member

Brian Klatt - Member

Josh Johnson - Ex Officio

Kristina Coby - Ex Officio

Kip Rounds - Ex Officio

David Parker - Ex Officio

A Look Back at Fall 2024



Wild game cooking is a favorite class we get to hold. This Fall we taught how to make Venison Egg Rolls, Pheasant Tortellini (showcased in picture), and Goose Poppers. It is fun to be able to show that wild game doesn't just have to be turned into ground meat, there are so many recipes available to change the way you view wild game cooking.

Be on the look out this winter for more wild game cooking classes!

Hunting 101 - Deer

This Fall Hunting 101 season was off to a slow start, but is now moving smoother with the cooler weather. To date, we have had 39 successful hunts. Of these 39, 2 were part of our Disabled Veteran Program that is in partnership with the Grey Ghost Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation.

This program would not be possible without the generous help of 8 landowners and 7 volunteer mentors!



Campus Updates - Registration Platform Change

On November 5th, we sent out exciting news about our event registration system. Officially on November 15th we had completely transitioned over our event registration system to the Go Outdoors South Dakota System. This system is what the Game, Fish and Parks Department has been using as the platform for purchasing a hunting and fishing license, a state park pass, and a camping reservation. This system now also houses the event registration system.

We want to remind folks, if you already have an account with Go Outdoors South Dakota, you do not need to do anything, unless you need to link kids or others to your account (see step 3). If you do need to create an account for yourself, start at step 1 below to make the switch to our new registration system.



To Create an Account

1.) You can follow the directions in this short video on how to set up an account ([Click here to watch](#)) or log onto <https://gooutdoorssouthdakota.com/> and click through the steps that the Go Outdoors System prompts you to complete to set up your account.

2.) Once you have created an account, you should be able to log on to Go Outdoors. If you are not planning to use your account to register anyone else up (such as your child), then you are now complete and ready to sign up for classes that are posted or future ones that will be posted.

3.) *If you are a parent or caregiver*** - There is an additional step needed to register for programming for your student. Each student will need an account. There are two options for creating your student an account:**

- a. If your student has an email address or you would like to get your student an email address, follow the same process you did for yourself to set up an account but do so for each of your students. This will allow you to link their accounts to yours (see step 4 for linking accounts).
- b. If your child does not have an email address and you do not desire them to obtain one at this point, you will need to visit the Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls or give us a call at 605-362-2777 so we can create your child an account that does not have an email address connected to it. You can also call 1-800-238-4168 number and a Go Outdoors employee can help.

Campus Updates - Casting for Recovery

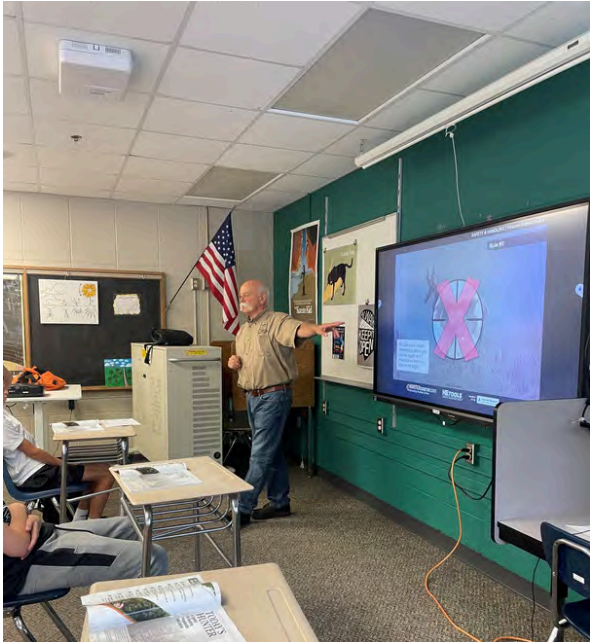


On October 4-6, the second ever Casting for Recovery South Dakota was held at NeSoDak Bible Camp in Waubay. This program focuses on providing a retreat for breast cancer survivors. Throughout the weekend, participants spend time getting to know each other, learning about fly fishing skills, and also meeting with medical professionals about breast cancer. The capstone of the program is a fly fishing experience where participants are matched with a guide to spend time fishing.



Applications are currently open for the 2025 retreat which will be held at Outlaw Ranch in Custer, SD on September 12-14. To learn more or apply, go to: <https://castingforrecovery.org/>

Campus Updates - HuntSAFE in the Schools



HuntSAFE in the Schools

This Fall marked the 3rd ever HuntSAFE in the Schools program offered in the Sioux Falls area. This year we expanded the program to include both Ben Reiffel Middle School and Patrick Henry Middle School. The program involves 2 weeks of training. Week 1 is in the classroom and is learning about laws, regulations, and safety. Week 2 is hands on time including understanding how to safely handle a firearm, cross a fence, and finally a live fire opportunity. We had 27 total participants take part in this experience.

We want to give a huge thank you to: the Sioux Falls School District, the Sioux Falls YMCA, and the Izaak Walton League for their support in this program!

Campus Updates - Action Trackchair[®]

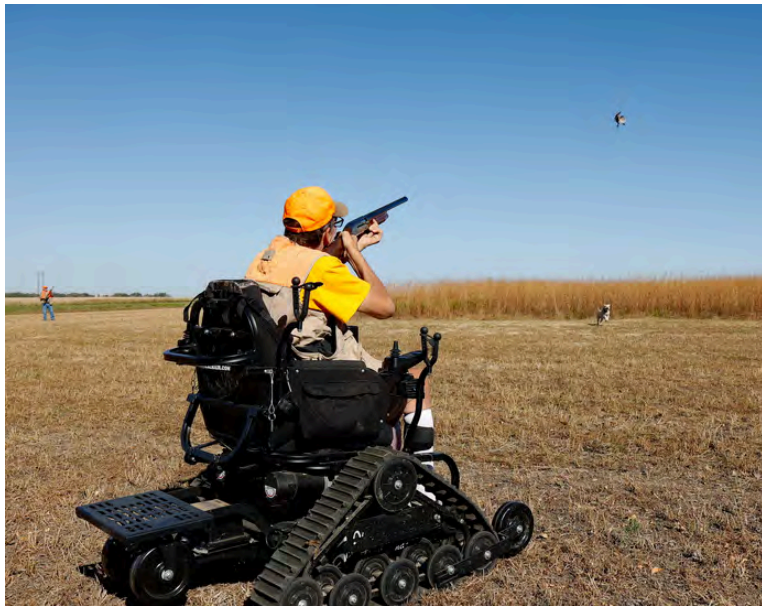


Photo by Michael G. Brown



Photo by 605 Video Co.

Action TrackChair[®]

The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls has joined the ranks of Game, Fish and Parks locations that offer an Action Trackchair[®] for check out. These chairs are all-terrain, rugged wheelchairs that are on tracks. They are built so that folks of all abilities can enjoy the outdoors through hunting, fishing, and recreation.

The Sioux Falls Action Trackchair[®] can be checked out for FREE and taken anywhere in the state. The chair comes with a trailer for hauling, as well as attachments for the chair for hunting as well as fishing.

To learn more or to reserve the chair, call 605-362-2700 or visit our webpage at gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/

Campus Updates - Expansion



This Holiday Season, Help Us Transform the Outdoor Campus!

by Elena Dagit (Exec. Assist.)

We're so close to an exciting milestone! Thanks to generous donors, we're nearing our goal to expand the Outdoor Campus and create even more opportunities to connect with nature. But we need your help to cross the finish line.

This \$7 million project will bring amazing new features, including indoor and outdoor archery ranges, classrooms, a teaching kitchen, a game processing area, and more. These additions will allow us to offer programs like HuntSAFE courses, outdoor cooking, shooting sports, fishing, kayaking, and snowshoeing—helping people of all ages learn, grow, and connect with the outdoors.

We're less than \$200,000 away from hitting our \$3 million fundraising target. This season of giving is the perfect time to make a difference. Every gift matters—whether it's \$25 or \$25,000!

Your support will help us create a space where screen time is replaced by hands-on experiences and families can build lasting memories. Let's come together to preserve our outdoor heritage and inspire the next generation of nature lovers.

Give the gift of the outdoors this holiday season!



Campus Updates - Expansion Construction

The Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus Archery Range is near completion!

As you can tell from the photos, all concrete is poured, the archery shed is complete, the firing line structures are complete, and safety fences are up. The final piece we are waiting on is the metal roofing and signage. Once that is complete, Phase 1 of the Campus Expansion Project will be complete.

Our plan with this range is that anyone in the public will be able to bring their own bow and use it during normal Sertoma Park hours (5:00 am - 10:00 pm).

Keep looking toward our social media page for an official opening day once the project is fully complete!



Campus Updates - Outdoor Range Targets



The Outdoor Campus Archery Range is near completion. Meaning that folks in the public will be able to come to Sertoma Park and target shoot their Bows.

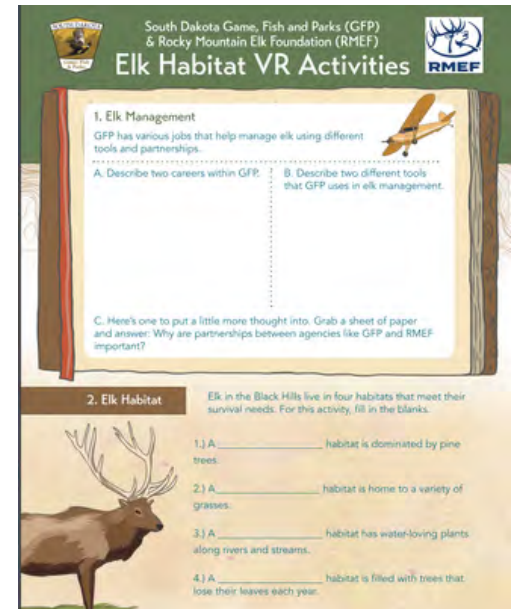
In preparation of opening, the Outdoor Campus has partnered with the Harrisburg School District CTE Program.



The Harrisburg CTE program has worked extremely hard to create a total of 12 target holders that will be placed on the outdoor archery range.

A huge thank you to the CTE Program for creating these target holders to exact specs as well as in such a quick fashion!

GFP Update - Elk Virtual Reality Tour



Over the last year, Game, Fish and Parks Education staff have worked to create a unique educational opportunity. Through a generous grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the “Elk of the Black Hills Virtual Reality Tour” was created. This program immerses the user in a manipulative, digital environment allowing learning through video, text, and more.

The program walks students through what elk are, the habitats they can be found in, as well as jobs and organizations that work to help maintain elk populations.

Along with the immersive video, a 2-sided worksheet can be downloaded and used to gauge student retention of information. If a student completes the program, they are eligible to request a ELK VR Program sticker.



To learn more, go to: gfp.sd.gov/elk-vr/

GFP Update - BOW

BOW or Becoming an Outdoor Woman, is a national education program that strives to make women more comfortable in and more aware of the outdoor world around them. Game, Fish and Parks hosts this event every Fall.



This year, BOW was held at Outlaw Ranch in September. Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls staff helped in teaching a variety of classes including: wild game cooking (pictured below), game processing, outdoor cooking, and shotgun shooting.

To learn more about this program, visit gfp.sd.gov/bow/



Reminder on Trail Usage:

WELCOME TO SERTOMA PARK MULTI-USE TRAILS



FOR THE SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT OF OTHERS PLEASE RESPECT THE TRAIL ETIQUETTE



FOOT AND SNOWSHOE TRAFFIC
AVOID GROOMED CLASSIC LANES.

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

CLASSIC SKIING
GROOMED CLASSIC LANES

Photo by Missouri Department of Conservation

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Ski in control and always yield to slower-moving recreationalists.
- When passing, slow your speed and politely call out, "On your left."
- Avoid skate skiing on or over the groomed classic lanes.
- Be respectful of wildlife and private property.
- Keep the trails litter free.
- Be courteous to other trail users.



Yield to grooming equipment at all times. For your safety, and the groomers safety, always move to the opposite side of the trail from the machine.



Dogs are allowed. Please keep them off the groomed classic lanes and scoop your poop.



Bicycles are not allowed on Sertoma Park's groomed trails.

Winter 2024 Programming

Our Winter 2024 Program

Registration is live and ongoing.

If you are looking to learn more about hunting, fishing, trapping, outdoor skills, or conservation, The Campus has a class that is right for you!

Scan to Register:



Winter 2024 Programming Highlights

Ice Rod Building

Wednesday, December 18 and Thursday,
December 19 from 6pm-8pm

While you wait for the ice to thicken on the pond, get ready by building your own ice fishing rod. Participants will need to make sure they attend both classes. So if you have ever been interested in catching a fish with your own hand-built rod, this is the class for you!



Rabbit Hunting

Saturday, January 4
10am-11:30am

Cottontail rabbit hunting season continues through the end of March giving hunters the opportunity to enjoy the briskness of winter. This class will walk you through the basics of rabbit hunting, cleaning, and preparing

Need Help with Registering?

Give us a call at 605-362-2777

or

Give the Brandt Help Desk a call at 1-800-238-4168

Winter 2024 Programming Highlights



Duck Camp - Jr. Duck Stamp

Saturday, January 25

1pm-3pm

The Outdoor Campus is thrilled to partner with USFWS to create Duck Camp! The camp will include a rotation of activities including learning duck ID and markers for classification, a nature hike with duck calling, and time to create your entry for the 2025 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Kindergarten through 12th grade are eligible to participate and all the supplies will be provided.

Shotgun and Rifle Cleaning

Thursday, January 9

6pm-7:30pm

Join HuntSAFE instructors Hunter Cole and Steve Gaspar to learn about proper maintenance of firearms. Participants will learn proper cleaning and storage of shotguns and rifles through detailed instruction, demonstration, and hands-on opportunities. All materials will be provided.

Participants must be 14 and up. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.



Winter 2024 - Special Event

Raptor Rendezvous

Friday February 7 from 5pm-8pm

Raptor Rendezvous is back in 2025!

This year's event will feature two opportunities to watch a presentation by Tanya McCarlson, a South Dakota licensed falconer and leader of the F.A.R.E Group. Each presentation will feature live birds!

In between the presentations, participants can enjoy various raptor-themed open-house activities. Those attending the second presentation are encouraged to come early to participate in the open-house activities.

Registration is required for this event.

Order of events:

- **5pm-6pm** Presentation
- **6pm-7pm** Activities
- **7pm-8pm** Presentation



Hunting 101 - Spring Turkey Hunts



Every Fall the Outdoor Campus hosts Deer Hunting 101. This program takes students of all ages through a comprehensive how to hunt and process a deer. Every Spring we work to offer a similar opportunity with Turkey Hunting. To learn more about this program, visit: gfp.sd.gov/toc-east and click on “Programming”.

The Outdoor Campus Internal Application for this program will open in February 2025. Candidates chosen for the program will need to purchase a Spring Mentor Tag or successful draw a turkey tag.

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.

The 2024-2025 season in Brookings has started off with a bang. They took advantage of the mild weather and offered numerous kayaking, hiking, and fishing classes around the Dakota Nature Park. These opportunities are split between the greater Brookings community, as well as the students of SDSU to ensure all have access to programming. With the recent stocking of trout and salmon, more classes including ice fishing will certainly be on the horizon.

Our interns have also set up a permanent orienteering course throughout the hiking trails of the nature park and they have seen quite a few people take on that fun challenge. Keep an eye out for winter programs including archery, animals of South Dakota, and trapping.



Brookings Happenings:

SD Mammals 1/13 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
SD Herps 1/27 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
SD Waterfowl 2/10 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
SD Upland Birds 2/24 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
SD Fish 3/10 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
Leave It To Beaver 3/24 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park

Be on the look out for Open Archery Days this Winter/Spring!



Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Winter is just around the corner! A heartfelt thank you to all our incredible volunteers who dedicated so much time this fall. Since September, our volunteer hunting mentors have worked tirelessly, with no plans to slow down until the season's close. Your dedication over these past weeks has been invaluable, and both staff and Hunting 101 participants are deeply grateful. You've helped create cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

This November, we celebrated some of our outstanding volunteers with a special fishing rod-building class. Six dedicated fishing mentors had the chance to craft their own ice, fly, casting, or spinning rods—a small token of our appreciation for their ongoing contributions.

As we transition into winter programming, we're excited for weeks filled with ice fishing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Here's hoping for enough snow to bring back our Snow & Go events! Thank you once more to all our volunteers for sharing your passion for the outdoors with us. We're fortunate to have such a dedicated team!



Interested in Volunteering?

Scan the
QR Code:

