



GOOD EARTH

state park Oct 2025

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH, AND PARKS

Oct. Programs

Oct 3 — 1 pm F.I.S.H. Orienteering Learn how to navigate with a compass then use your new skills to navigate a course.

**Oct 16—7 pm—
Thursday Talk—Meet
the Critters of Good
Earth**

Trail Hours

6:00 am—11:00 pm

Visitor Center Hours:

Monday—Closed

Tuesday—Saturday

9 am-4 pm

Sunday 1pm—4 pm



Fall is a beautiful time at Good Earth State Park. Make sure you stop out to enjoy the last of the flowers and the changing leaves. Please do not pick or disturb the flowers as they are the last food for pollinators and migrating monarchs.



VOLUNTEERS



If you enjoy Good Earth State Park, then you must
thank a volunteer.

We are looking for more folks to add to the
Good Earth Volunteer Family!

Contact the park for more information or sign up
below.

<https://www.volgistics.com/appform/23131216>

Follow us on Facebook for all the details!

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

OCT 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1 pm FISH Orienteering	2	3	4 FESTIFALL at Newton Hills
5	6 VC Closed	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 VC Closed	14	15	16 7 pm Thurs Talk Critters of Good Earth	17	18
19	20 VC Closed	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 VC Closed	28	29	30	31	

Oct 1—1 pm—F.I.S.H.—Friendly Interactive Senio Hour will be about orienteering. Dennis Skadsen will teach how to use a compass then you can try your new skills with a fun outdoor course.

Oct 4—12—5 pm FESTIFALL at Newton Hills State Park in Canton

7—9 pm Candlelight Hike at Newton Hills State Park in Canton

Oct 16—7 pm—Thursday Talk, meet the educational animals of Good Earth State Park. With snakes, turtles, spiders and more!

GOOD EARTH STATE PARK

LITTLE ACORNS

2025/2026

Ages 3-5

First Wednesday

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Sorry Oct is full,
Please check out the
other months!

Registration is
required at

<https://gfp.sd.gov>
Starting Aug 15th

~~Sept. 3 - Bees~~

~~Oct 1 - Owls~~

Nov 5 - Turkeys

Dec 3 - Predators

Jan 7 - Opossums

Feb 4 - Insects

March 4 - Turtles

April 1 - Deer

Story
Activities
Game
Craft



Contact Good Earth State Park 605-213-1036 www.gfp.sd.gov

FESTIFALL



Newton Hills State Park

Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 12:00 - 5:00 pm

Arts & Crafts Show:

Many Craft Vendors will have booths set up during the afternoon activities. Please pay them a visit and see the many things they have to show or sell you. In lieu of booth fees, vendors have provided many **DOOR PRIZES** so please grab a ticket from the information table located at the craft event entrance. (SGT. Creek Road)

Arts & Crafts Activities:

We encourage kids of all ages to participate in the FREE "make & take" arts & craft activities put on by park staff and volunteers. All supplies and materials are provided. Please stop at the staffed picnic tables located in the middle of the event site.

Activities & Demonstrations:

- Pumpkin catapulting by park staff and volunteers
- Kids decorate and take pumpkins
- Candle making
- Monster popcorn hands



Food:

Food vendors will be on site. Some vendors may continue to serve during supper time, between the FestiFall and Candlelight Walk events, so please stick around for the evening walk starting at dusk!



Musical Entertainment:

Musical entertainment will be playing at the stage during the afternoon:

12:00-5:00 p.m.

Music will be provided by local artists **Laurel Laubach and Friends**



Campsite Decorating Contest:

Some of the Newton Hills Campers are involved in a campsite decorating contest. Check them out and cast your vote at the Hay Wagon Ride tables! Winner will be announced around 4:30.

Hay Wagon Rides:

Hop on the Hay Wagon pulled by a tractor for a fun ride and get a different perspective of Newton Hills. Bring along your ballots to judge your favorite decorated campsite as you ride through the park!



Contests:

- Pumpkin Judging – bring in your own carved or decorated pumpkin to be judged.
- Pumpkin Seed Guessing
- Register for these contests at the entrance information tables. Winners announced

Special THANK YOU to our Vendors for donating items for door prizes. Thank you to the Curt Aasheim and Becky Dorr families for providing FestiFall decorations and Gail Harmelink for providing hay bales. Also a big thank you to our multiple dedicated volunteers and staff for helping with this event!

CandleLight Walk

Newton Hills State Park

**Saturday, October 4, 2025
from 7:30 - 9 pm**

Enjoy a self-guided candlelit journey through the deep woods of Newton Hills. The trail will be solely lit up by candles and carved pumpkins. People may begin walking the approximate 1 hour hike anytime between 7:30 —9pm. We ask you not use your flashlight unless absolutely necessary and keep your voices to a minimum. Dogs on the hike are not recommended. Take as long as you wish and enjoy the wonders of nature!

ADVISORY: The walk is approximately 2.2 miles in length traveling on paved roads with vertical declines and inclines so please be prepared. If you need assistance during the walk, park employees will be scattered along the trail tending to the candles. One hill along the back stretch of the trail is rather steep, so park employees will be nearby with a golf cart dressed in glow sticks if you need help getting up the hill.

- **Bagpipes by Dave Kull**

You may only catch a glimpse, but you will certainly hear the captivating sounds of bagpipes as you stroll along the trail.

- **Jaded Theories**

Original/cover band based in Marion, SD. They will give an acoustic performance of country and light rock music including some original songs

- **Music by Steve Peterson**

Enjoy some originals and classic rock.

- **Blue Moon Rhythm**

Enjoy some classic folk and country music.

- **Bob Feekes**

Guitar music and vocals.

- **Silver Creek Mavericks**

The Silver Creek Mavericks invite you to stop by their cowboy camp to listen to some cowboy tunes and sample their good 'ol homemade chili.

- **Magician**

Stop by and see what tricks Greg Omodt has up his sleeve

- **Music by Ellyn Donahoe**

Acoustic guitar and vocals

- **Music by Samantha Mckenny**

Guitar music and vocals

- **Night Pumpkin Bowling**

At the last stop along the walk, stop to see if you can bowl a strike at our night pumpkin bowling station.



Last month to submit!

Good Earth State Park

Photography Contest 2025

Submit your photos until Oct 31, 2025

Categories

Forest Landscape

Insects

Anything goes



Photo by Ryan Kerkvliet

- All photos must be taken at Good Earth State Park anytime throughout the year.
- Email your photos to goodearth@state.sd.us
- Please include name, category, phone number
- All ages, skill levels and cameras are encouraged to participate
- Photos submitted can/may be used in Good Earth social media or park flyers, credit given to photographer

Prizes for

Best over all &

Top 2 in each category





ANNUAL STATE PARK ENTRANCE LICENSES SOLD HERE



Annual Park Entrance License	\$40
Annual Park Entrance License Double	\$60
Annual Park Entrance License Transferable	\$90



Nonresident Annual Park Entrance License	\$60
Nonresident Annual Park Entrance License Double	\$90

GFP.SD.GOV