

Spring 2025



Photo by 605 Video Co.



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

Winter 2024 -2025 Recap

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2025 Program Highlights

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Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

Spring is nearly here after having such a unique winter. We were blessed to have some snow in February, so we could break out the Snowshoes and offer a few opportunities to the public prior to things warming up.

This Spring we are excited that we will be able to open our new Archery Range. The Range will be fully completed this spring, so be watching our social media for an official open date! This space will be free for anyone in the public to use during normal hours for Sertoma Park.

This Spring will also mark the beginning of construction on the Outdoor Campus building. Check out p. 7 to learn more about this exciting Phase 2 project.

One final item you may see changing at the Outdoor Campus is the move of our butterfly garden. We are shifting it further south, so there will be lots of work on the garden this spring and summer!

Region 3

Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

As much as we enjoy the wonderful outdoor opportunities that a South Dakota winter provides, the spring season is always a welcome change of scenery! Soon we'll experience the annual smell of lilacs blooming, the sound of turkeys gobbling, and the sight of waves on the lakes that were ice-covered all winter. It's a refreshing time of year that is filled with endless outdoor opportunities and excitement. Game, Fish and Parks staff couldn't be more excited to share those outdoor experiences with others! At the Outdoor Campus, we have a busy season planned with outdoor learning classes in full swing, as well as getting started with Phase 2 of our expansion project! We hope to see you soon to join the excitement!





Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

We are excited that The Outdoor Campus expansion continues to make progress. We have completed the bidding process and expect construction to begin as soon as the weather permits this spring. The addition of an indoor archery and BB gun range, additional classrooms, expanded kitchen facilities and additional space to process game will permit the staff to enhance and offer additional outdoor programs to introduce children and adults to the great outdoors.

The outdoor archery range is almost finished. An announcement will be made once it's open to the public. Bring your bow or join an introductory class if you're new to archery and enjoy a fantastic outdoor activity.

We extend our gratitude for your support. These campus improvements are made possible by your generosity and financial contributions. With your continued support, we can provide a range of complimentary outdoor introductory educational programs to thousands of children and adults from across the region. As spring approaches, we invite you to visit the campus and enjoy the outdoors or enroll in a class to enhance your outdoor experience.

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 Winter 2024/2025



Raptor Rendezvous

On February 7th, the Outdoor Campus hosted its annual Raptor Rendezvous event. This year featured the F.A.R.E Group which brought a variety of birds including a Great Horned Owl, Peale's Peregrine Falcon, Swainson's Hawk, N. American Kestrel, Western Screech Owl, Harris's Hawk, and a Red-Tailed Hawk.

Along with these two presentations, hands on activities such as SD Owl ID and owl pellet dissection were included with the event.

Ice Fishing

Despite the odd winter weather this year and the overall lack of snow, the ice held up well for numerous fishing classes. Thanks to the efforts of the Fisheries Department, both trout and salmon were stocked in the Campus Pond, leading to a lot of opportunity for ice fishing classes.

A couple of the homeschool ice fishing classes also involved an element of cleaning and cooking the fish that were taken from the pond.



Photo by 605 Video Co.

Campus Updates - Hunting 101



Traditional Hunting 101

This past Fall/Winter, the Outdoor Campus completed another successful Hunting 101 Program. This year we took out 74 hunters with 58 of these being youth and 16 being adults. On top of this, 51 of the 74 were first-time hunters.

During the course of the program 72 deer were harvested allowing many participants the opportunity to harvest a deer, learn to field dress it, and then learn how to process the deer into meat for the table.

Disabled Veteran Hunting 101

Another unique opportunity the Outdoor Campus gets to help with is a Disabled Deer Veteran Hunt.

Once again, the Grey Ghost Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation sponsored the tags for 10 disabled veterans. Along with sponsoring the tags, a couple of the chapters members helped out as Volunteer Mentors for the program to help with the hunts.

8 out 10 of these folks were able to successfully harvest a deer.



Campus Updates - Hunting 101 Blind



Brendan Peterson

Brendan Peterson was a Wildlife Damage Specialist for the SD Game, Fish and Parks from 2009-2024, tragically passing away in 2024.

Brendan worked hard serving the people of South Dakota through his work in helping to manage South Dakotas Wildlife. His efforts and service to the state were exemplified through a 2016 GFP Award for Excellence and again in 2017 with the Wildlife Damage Specialist of the Year Award.

Brendan Peterson grew up with a rich history of hunting with his Grandfathers, Uncles, and Cousins. All of these family members mentored Brendan, and made him the outdoorsman that he was.

In memory of Brendan, his family chose to support the continued enjoyment of hunting in the outdoors through the donation of a hunting blind to be used in the Outdoor Campus Hunting 101 Program.

A plaque will be placed in this blind explaining where the donation came from and numerous mentored youth will be able to learn the activity of hunting because of resources such as this blind.



Campus Updates - Expansion Construction

Phase 1

The Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus Archery Range will be opening this Spring! Final touches are being done to the facility, and an announcement will be made via social media once the facility is open for use.



Phase 2

On another note, the indoor phase of the expansion will be starting this Spring as well. This is the addition of a 20/30-yard indoor archery range, new classroom space, a game processing space, remodel of the original classrooms to be a cooking classroom, new restrooms, a nursing mother's room, and a family restroom.

This new addition will allow for more programming as well as more space for the general public to utilize the facility.



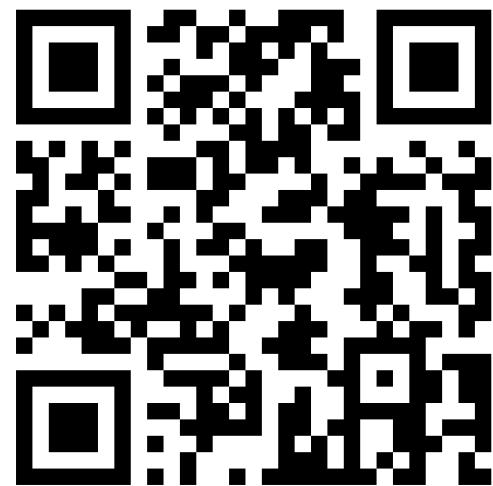
Spring 2025 Programming

Our Spring 2025 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:



Spring 2025 Programming Highlights



Firearms Cleaning/Maintenance

Saturday, March 8 from 1-2:30pm or

Thursday, March 13 from 6:30-8pm

Learn how to properly care for and maintain firearms in this 1.5 hour class. Class will include lecture and hands-on portions with explanation on cleaning rifles and smooth bored firearms.

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

Archery Basics

Saturday, April 12

10-11:30pm or 1-2:30pm

Learn how to shoot our compound and long bows. Equipment, safety instruction, proper stance, and ethical shot placement will all be discussed and demonstrated at our archery range using 3-D targets.



Spring 2025 Programming Highlights



Channel Catfish and Walleye Talks with Ted

Saturday, May 10 from 12-3pm

Ted Ellenbecker, multi-species angler, multiple world record holder, nationally renowned speaker, and developer of "The Theory of Three is presenting three individual seminars in person and streaming live on Catfish Weekly @ <https://www.catfishweekly.com>

High Percentage Bank Fishing
12:00-12:45PM

On shore or in a boat who really has the advantage may surprise you. From beginner to expert this seminar information will up your game!

Fishing Walleyes Simplified
1:00-1:45PM

Proven technique, rigs, baits, and common sense. Catching walleyes doesn't need to be complicated if you understand the basics.

Channel Catfish from A to Z
2:00-2:45PM

These fish are available, willing, and fun. We will talk baits, rigs, and how to find these great sport fish. Then...hold on to your fishing rod!!!

HUNTSAFE TRADITIONAL COURSES

TRADITIONAL HUNT SAFE WITH A LIVE FIRE DAY

APRIL 15, 17, 19

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

MAY 13, 15, 17

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

JUNE 3, 5, 7

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

JUNE 24, 26, 28

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

JULY 8, 10, 12

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

JULY 22, 24, 26

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

AUGUST 5, 7, 9

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

AUGUST 19, 21, 23

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

SEPTEMBER 2, 4, 6

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

SEPTEMBER 16, 18, 20

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 2, 4

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

Hunting 101 - Spring Turkey Hunts



Are you looking to learn how to turkey hunt? The Outdoor Campus is once again hosting its Hunting 101 Turkey program this spring. This program is similar to the Hunting 101 Deer program in that you will learn the basics of purchasing a tag, spend time at the gun range, and also spend time in the field working to harvest a turkey.

Students will also get the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of turkey hunting such as using a turkey call and using decoys.

Applications are available now for the Spring 2025 Hunting 101 Turkey Season. Deadline to apply is March 20th, at 4:00 PM. To learn more and download the application, visit gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/ and click on “Programs”.

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.

This Spring, be watching for plenty of opportunities to get outside at the Brookings County Adventure Center and the Dakota Nature Park. There will be a variety of Open House Archery Programs, Study Nights, along with classes such as paracord bracelet making!

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:

Intro to Archery 3/5 from 3-5pm	Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center
SD Fish 3/10 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
Intro to Archery 3/12 from 3-5pm	Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center
Leave It To Beaver 3/24 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
Intro to Archery 3/26 from 3-5pm	Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center

Be watching the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center and the Dakota Nature Park social media pages for more updates on classes!



Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

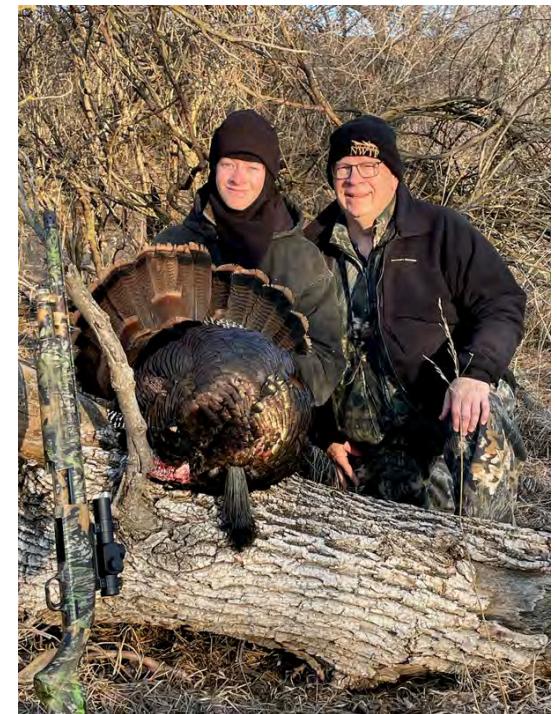
Welcome, Spring!

Spring is a season of change, and at the Outdoor Campus, that means anything from snowshoeing in April to kayaking—I'm crossing my fingers for kayaking!

A heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who spent countless hours helping with ice fishing this winter. We heard so many stories from excited participants who were thrilled to be part of the experience. We also had the chance to recognize our Hunting 101 mentors at the annual Hunting 101 Social. In 2024, seven incredible mentors gave nearly 890 hours to introducing new hunters to the field—a truly generous gift of time and knowledge.

As spring unfolds, so does a busy season of programming. We love seeing more volunteers and participants through our doors each day. And with Volunteer Appreciation Month in April, we look forward to celebrating the people who make all this possible.

Thank you, volunteers—you are the heart of the Outdoor Campus!



Interested in Volunteering?

Scan the
QR Code:



Summer 2025



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

Spring 2025 Recap

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happened this past
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Campus programming
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Summer Programs

Find out what exciting
classes are coming up
for Summer 2025
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Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

Summer is almost here which is our busiest time of the year! We are so excited for all of the fun activities we have planned from Snorkel Spearfishing to Duck Camp!

Along with all of our traditional, "Registration Required Classes" we have a number of no-registration required classes including Open House Fishing, Open House Archery, Open House Paddling, Fishing at Family Park, and Fishing at Lake Lorraine! See page 10 to learn more!

I want to thank all of our participants and the general public for their patience with all the construction happening at the Outdoor Campus. We recognize the inconvenience it is causing with our back door being closed, but are so excited for the upcoming changes. See page 7 to read about the changes occurring.

Lastly I want to remind everyone that our new Outdoor Archery Range is open for anyone in the general public to utilize for free (see page 6)!

Region 3

Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

Summer is upon us once again and we couldn't be more excited about the outdoor opportunities ahead! We're coming off a phenomenal year for pheasants in 2024 and we expect the hatch from this spring to be great for 2025. With 2024 boasting the most pheasants harvested in South Dakota in over a decade, we can't wait to see what 2025 holds! We also saw a successful spring turkey season this year throughout the southeast region, with many hunters getting opportunities at birds. As far as deer go in the southeast, EHD and severe weather has left us with some ground to make up. With far fewer licenses being issued for this fall, we're putting the odds in our favor for a population rebound. Fortunately, deer are prolific animals and capable of quickly increasing numbers if the weather cooperates. The fall hunting season will be here before we know it, but until then the Outdoor Campus staff are looking forward to a summer of fishing, archery, paddling, and many other outdoor adventures! We hope you can join us!





Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

The new outdoor archery range is now open. Bring your bow or join an archery class to use the range. Construction of the Outdoor Campus expansion, including more classrooms and an indoor archery and BB gun range, has started. The campus remains open, and programs will continue during construction. Thanks to our generous donors for making this expansion possible.

I would like to personally thank the Friends of the Outdoor Campus board and share an honor they earned through their ongoing support of the Campus. They were recently recognized by the National Association of Interpretation: Heartland Region award for Excellence in Interpretive Support. This award is presented to an individual member or non-NAI member, governing body, official, administrator, business, agency, or organization that has shown recognition of the value of interpretation through exceptional and sustained support. The award letter states that,

“It is clear from the nomination and letters of support submitted for this award category that you are a supportive leader in the field of Interpretation. Your efforts and actions represent a superior level of excellence in sustained support. With support from organizations such as yours, the field of interpretation can achieve new heights with in-person & non-personal interpretation, and diverse program offerings.”

Take advantage of the summer and sign up for a new experience at the Outdoor Campus and enjoy the benefits of the outdoors!

Board Members

Tim Kromminga - Chair

Emmett Keyser - Vice Chair

Amanda Oines - Member

Derek Maassen - Member

Drew Woelfel - Member

Brian Klatt - Member

Royce Meritt - Member

Jeff Scherschligt - Member

Cheryl Ulvestad - Member

Eric Kurtz - Member

Kathy Anderson - Member

Ritchie Hutchinson - Member

Jamie Simko - Member

Josh Johnson - Ex Officio

Kristina Coby - Ex Officio

Kip Rounds - Ex Officio

David Parker - Ex Officio

A Look Back at Spring 2025



Party for the Planet

On April 26th, The Outdoor Campus got to partner with: The Great Plains Zoo, The Butterfly House and Aquarium, Friends of the Big Sioux River, Siouxland Libraries, Pheasants Forever, Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum, Minnehaha Conservation District, SD Grassland Coalition, and BINFluencers to host the American Zoo Association Party for the Planet!

At this event, partners had booths where folks could learn about South Dakota wildlife and habitat. The Outdoor Campus also hosted Open House Fishing that day!

This program focused on celebrating Earth Day and was connected with the Big Sioux River Cleanup. 450 pounds of trash were collected during the Friends of the Big Sioux River - Clean Up!

Rod Building

Rod building has become a staple class for the Outdoor Campus over the last couple of years. This class allows participants the opportunity to take a “blank” and add a handle and intricately wrap the guides on. Participants utilize whichever mix of threads they like to create a unique pattern for the rod and then utilize adhesive to make the pattern permanent.

This Spring we hosted two different classes: Spinning Rod Building and Casting Rod Building.



A Look Back at Spring 2025



Hunting 101 - Turkey

During the Spring Season, the Outdoor Campus Hunting 101 program transitions from Deer Hunting to Turkey Hunting. Students in the program are provided the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of turkey hunting through getting outside with a GFP Staff Member or a GFP Sanctioned Volunteer Mentor.

Thus far this year, 25 turkeys have been harvested with more students still to get out in the field.

Bird Banding at Good Earth State Park

On May 16th, the Outdoor Campus partnered with our local Regional Wildlife Diversity Biologist to offer a new and unique program: Bird Banding.

The Game, Fish and Parks not only manages game species, but also does work with nongame species such as song birds. Over the past year, the local Regional Wildlife Diversity Biologist has been doing studies at Good Earth that include capture, banding, and release of song birds to gather data on this local population.

This year, for the event, we had 15 participants take part in the program.



Campus Updates - Outdoor Archery Range

“Open to the Public”

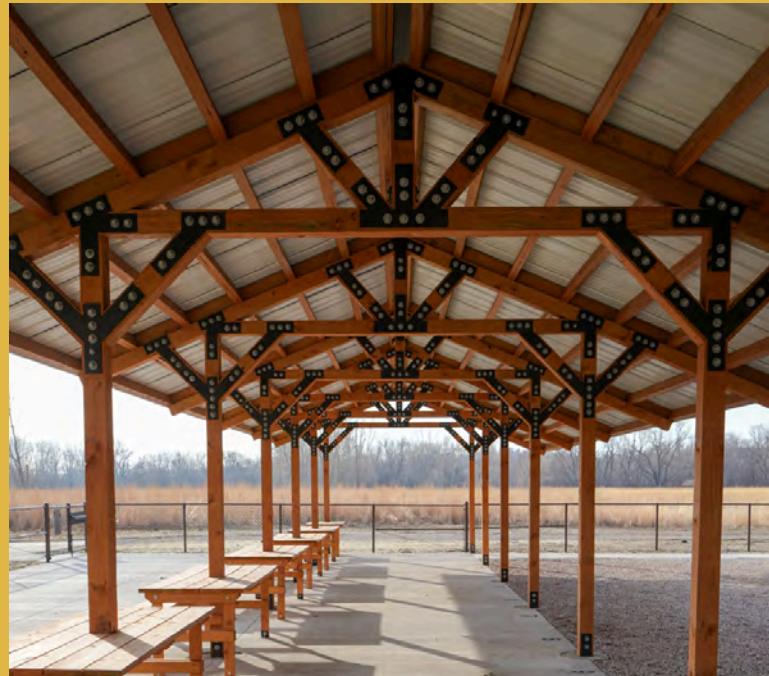
The Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus Archery Range officially opened to the public on March 16th.

To mark this occasion, Richard Elmen (top photo), son of James and Eloise Elmen, joined Campus and Parks and Wildlife Foundation staff on March 13 to shoot the honorary first arrow.

Richard Elmen has many fond memories of spending time outside with his father, and because of this propensity, Richard helped facilitate a major gift from the James and Eloise Elmen Foundation that brought this outdoor archery range to reality.

This archery range is open to anyone in the general public to come out and utilize for FREE. Targets are located anywhere from 10-yards to 60-yards. The two outside lanes are concrete to allow for accessibility and have crossbow specific targets.

The range is open whenever Sertoma Park is open: 5:00am-10:00pm.



Campus Updates - Expansion Construction

Phase 2

Over the past couple of months, work has been moving at a steady pace on the Outdoor Campus Expansion.

Dirt has been moved on the South (top photo) and East (middle photo) sections of the building. This will pave the way for the creation of new storage, the archery range, new classrooms, and paved, concrete trails connecting the bridge to the main trail

Along with this certain parts of the building have been closed off so that the “remodel” portion of spaces such as the original museum space (bottom photo). Where the old museum was, will be part of the archery range and part of the new restrooms.

We want to thank everyone for their patience during this process as we know that the closing of our South doors is somewhat inconvenient.



Summer 2025 Programming

Our Summer 2025 Program Registration is live and ongoing.

Summer registration is slightly different than other seasons. We break summer registration into three registration dates:

June Class Registration 8 AM on May 7

July Class Registration 8 AM on June 4

August Class Registration 8 AM on July 2

Scan to Register:



Summer 2025 Programming Highlights



Fly Fishing

Saturday, June 28 from 10am-12pm
or 1pm-3pm

Learn the basics of fly fishing from an introduction to the rod/reel to the finesse of casting and presenting a fly to catch a fish.

Paddling - Canoes and Kayaks

Thursday, August 7
10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm

Learn the difference between canoes and kayaks and the paddles that go with them. Spend time understanding water safety, paddling strokes, and getting in and out of the boat.



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

Summer 2025 Programming Highlights

‘hood Magazine Familyfest Fun Cruise

Saturday, May 31
9am-2pm



Photo by Solis Photography and ‘hood Magazine

To learn more, visit
‘hood Magazines
Website:



Come visit the Outdoor Campus on the 2025 ‘hood Magazine Familyfest Fun Cruise!

This year, the Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls will be the “Swag Bag” stop similar to last year! So make sure you plan to swing by Sertoma Park to pick up your Swag Bag to get all the goodies that are inside!

Along with being the Swag Bag stop, we plan to have Open House Fishing (9am-3pm) and practice casting. For the fishing, we will provide all the gear and bait, you just come ready to have some fun and catch fish!

If you check out the Familyfest Fun Cruise [Map](#) you will see that we are located at the “Oxbow & 49th Street” Section. At our same location, you will find activities with Genesis Academy and the South Dakota Department of Health.

We look forward to seeing you and your family for loads of fun!

Summer 2025 Programming Highlights

Super Saturday's

Where: The Outdoor Campus

Times: 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm

May 31 Fishing

June 14 Paddling

June 28 Archery

July 12 Paddling

July 26 Archery

August 9 Fishing

No registration required programs with all the gear needed required.

Family Park Fishing

Where: Family Park (300 N. Ellis Rd.)

When: Saturdays, June 7-July 26

Times: 9am-11am

Join the Outdoor Campus and Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation for Free, no registration required fishing at Family Park. We will bring all the gear, you come ready to fish!



Fishing at Lake Lorraine

Where: Lake Lorraine

When: June 12, July 10, and August 14

Times: 6pm-7:30pm

Join us for an exclusive opportunity to fish at Lake Lorraine. Registration is not required and we will provide the gear.

Please Note: Lake Lorraine is a private pond and fishing is not allowed to the general public. The Outdoor Campus has been given express permission for these specific dates/times to provide this fishing opportunity.

Summer 2025 Programming Highlights



Women's Try It Night

Thursday, June 26th
5:30pm-9pm

This event is a free, fun ladies night!

The program will include open house programs from 5:30pm-6:30pm followed by a short presentation, and then rotations through a variety of outdoor opportunities including fire starting, fishing, archery, and paddling.

Registration for this event is required. Participants must be 8 and older, youth with adult.

Hunting and Fishing Gear Giveaway

Where: The Outdoor Campus

When: August 9

Times: 10am-12pm

If the cost of gear is a barrier to you being able to get outside and hunt or fish, then join us for our Annual Hunting and Fishing Gear Giveaway Program. Stop by on August 9 to pick up some gently used outdoor gear that you can take out and use!

We are currently collecting new and gently used gear that we can clean up and give back out to the public. Contact us at 605-362-2777 if you are interested in helping with this.



HUNTSAFE TRADITIONAL COURSES

TRADITIONAL HUNT SAFE WITH A LIVE FIRE DAY

APRIL 15, 17, 19

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

MAY 13, 15, 17

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JUNE 3, 5, 7

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AUGUST 5, 7, 9

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AUGUST 19, 21, 23

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SEPTEMBER 2, 4, 6

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

SEPTEMBER 16, 18, 20

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 2, 4

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

Outdoor Campus Loaner Equipment

The Outdoor Campus/Region 3 Office has a variety of free loaner equipment that can be checked out 1-2 weeks, below are a few pertinent to the summer!

Lifejackets

Thanks to a generous donation from the Sea-Tow Foundation, the Outdoor Campus/Region 3 Officer has new lifejackets that can be checked out for free by anyone in the public. These lifejackets are available in sizes ranging from infant to adult.

To learn more or check availability, give us a call at 605-362-2700.



Critter Crates

The Campus has a variety of crates that can be checked out ranging from fishing to GPS. If you are looking to augment learning this summer or a way to get out and enjoy the outdoors, we have a crate this right for you. To learn more visit our website: gfp.sd.gov/toc-east to see all the crates that are available.



Action Trackchair

The Outdoor are open for everyone! Access is a key priority for the Game, Fish and Parks and the Department is proud to have a variety of Action Trackchairs[®] located across the state to be checked out. The Outdoor Campus one also comes equipped with a trailer that can be used to access locations throughout South Dakota. To Learn more: <https://gfp.sd.gov/trackchair/>



Hunting 101 - Deer Hunting



Every fall, the Outdoor Campus offers its Hunting 101 Deer Program. This program walks students through the full process of going deer hunting from learning to purchase a tag to time at the range to time in the field.

This year applications to join this program will open on June 14. You can pick up a physical copy of the application at the Outdoor Campus or you can download an application from our website at gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/ (under the tab “Programs”).

So, come join us this fall in learning how to deer hunt. This program is open to anyone 10+ years and older and is perfect for those who have never gone hunting for deer or looking for help in shoring up their confidence in hunting.

Campus Internships



Fall Internship Opportunities

Are you a college student looking for a fun, paid internship this Fall?

Consider a job at the Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls. We provide training and a variety of opportunities for Outdoor Education experience with students of all ages. If you love to hunt, fish, trap, and get outside, this job is right for you.

Opportunities in Sioux Falls:

Fall School Program Intern: <https://tinyurl.com/Fall-Schools>

Fall Group Program Intern: <https://tinyurl.com/Fall-Group>

Fall Community Program Intern: <https://tinyurl.com/Fall-Community>

Opportunities in Brookings:

Fall Outreach Intern: <https://tinyurl.com/Fall-Outreach>

Please Note: applicants must be a current part-time or full-time student (minimum of 6 credit hours) in upcoming semester or the immediately preceding semester.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us at 605-362-2777.

Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Summer is officially underway at The Outdoor Campus – Sioux Falls, and our volunteers are ready to jump into another season of hands-on learning and outdoor fun. Whether they're assisting with fishing, archery, kayaking, or helping with setup and cleanup behind the scenes, our volunteers bring enthusiasm, flexibility, and a deep commitment to our mission.

We're excited to welcome back our volunteer coordinator intern, Sammie, for her second summer with us. She quickly became a valued part of our team last year, and it's been a smooth and welcome transition having her return. Sammie knows our programs, our people, and how to make things work. Her presence helps everything feel a little more connected!

Thanks to all our volunteers for showing up, pitching in, and making The Outdoor Campus a welcoming and active place for our community. We're looking forward to a full and successful summer, thanks to you!



Interested in Volunteering?

Scan the
QR Code:



Fall 2025



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

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



Summer 2025 Recap

This summer was very busy! Check out all the cool classes from the summer

P. 4-7

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Fall Programs

Find out what exciting classes are coming up for Fall 2025
P. 10-11



Photo by Travel South Dakota

Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

Summer may be over, but that doesn't mean the outdoor fun is over! Fall means even more opportunities to get outside including hiking, fall fishing, and HUNTING!

If you are a new to hunting, we would love to come along side you on your journey and help get you ready for a fun season. We have a variety of classes you may want to consider: HuntSAFE (p.), Introduction to Bowhunting (in partnership with the SD Bow Hunters), or Firearm Cleaning/Maintenance .

Aside from our hunting classes, we have a variety of other classes you can check out in our booklet that came out on August 6th. Registration is open and ongoing!

Lastly, just a reminder that our Outdoor Archery Range is open anytime Sertoma Park is open. If you have your own gear and are looking for a place to shoot your bow, swing by anytime between 5 AM and 10 PM to try out the range.

Region 3

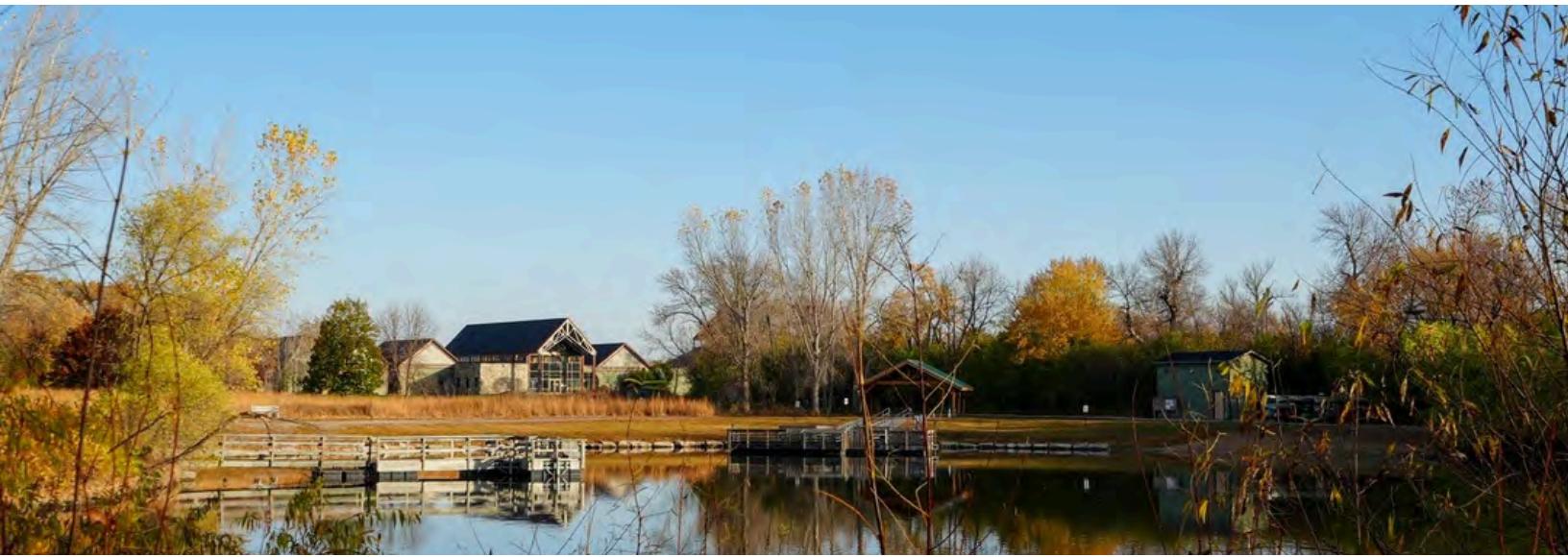
Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

As the summer of 2025 wraps up, we are heading into fall with much-needed moisture in the ground. In fact, nearly all of the southeast region of South Dakota is no longer on the drought map! As hunting seasons begin this fall, we look forward to what's shaping up to be a season to remember. Deer licenses were decreased throughout much of Region 3 this year to help boost populations after EHD took its toll. However, fawns are being observed throughout the region and we expect a quick population rebound if mother nature cooperates. Pheasant broods are being observed all throughout the region as well to build on the great hunting success we saw in 2024. Two consecutive mild winters, along with increased habitat on the ground, have helped elevate pheasant numbers to levels worth being excited about! As always, we're eager to roll out the blaze orange carpet for hunters visiting our state this fall and looking forward to showing them why South Dakota is a hunting destination!





Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

We are pleased to report the significant progress achieved on the expansion project at the Outdoor Campus. The newly developed classrooms, food to fork areas featuring game processing and kitchen facilities, along with a new indoor archery and BB gun range, will present year-round opportunities for outdoor engagement. These enhanced resources are scheduled to be available next fall.

Eric Olson has recently retired from the Friends of the Outdoor Campus board. We extend our sincere gratitude for his commitment, passion, and dedication to the Outdoor Campus programs, the expansion campaign, and the many mentor hunts he conducted. Although Mr. Olson will continue mentoring new hunters, his insight and leadership will be greatly missed by the Friends of the Outdoor Campus board.

We are also pleased to welcome three new members to the Friends of the Outdoor Campus board: Emily Oyos representing the Friends of the Big Sioux River, Ryan Martin from First Western Bank, and Tyler Tordsen from Sioux Metro Growth Alliance. We appreciate their willingness to volunteer and serve the community.

As summer concludes, many outdoor enthusiasts look forward to the commencement of fall hunting seasons. We are encouraged by the increased participation at the new outdoor archery range within the community. For those new to hunting or other outdoor pursuits, The Outdoor Campus offers educational classes—please refer to our website for more information about these introductory programs.

We remain grateful for the ongoing enthusiasm and support from our community as we continue to enhance the Outdoor Campus experience. Whether you are an experienced outdoor enthusiast or just beginning, there are numerous ways to become involved and connect with nature locally. Our dedicated staff and volunteers are always committed to sharing their expertise and passion for the outdoors through workshops, guided programs, and special events designed for participants of all ages and skill levels.

Board Members

Tim Kromminga - Chair
Emmett Keyser - Vice Chair
Amanda Oines - Member
Derek Maassen - Member
Drew Woelfel - Member
Brian Klatt - Member
Ryan Martin - Member

Royce Meritt - Member
Jeff Scherschligt - Member
Cheryl Ulvestad - Member
Eric Kurtz - Member
Kathy Anderson - Member
Ritchie Hutchinson - Member
Tyler Tordsen - Member

Jamie Simko - Member
Emily Oyos - Member
Josh Johnson - Ex Officio
Kristina Coby - Ex Officio
Kip Rounds - Ex Officio
David Parker - Ex Officio

A Look Back at Summer 2025



Familyfest Fun Cruise

On Saturday, May 31st the Outdoor Campus participated in The 'hood Magazine annual Familyfest Fun Cruise. This year the Outdoor Campus offered free practice casting, family fishing, and family archery for the public.

At the Outdoor Campus location, around 700 individuals stopped by to fish or shoot archery!



Paddle Board Fishing

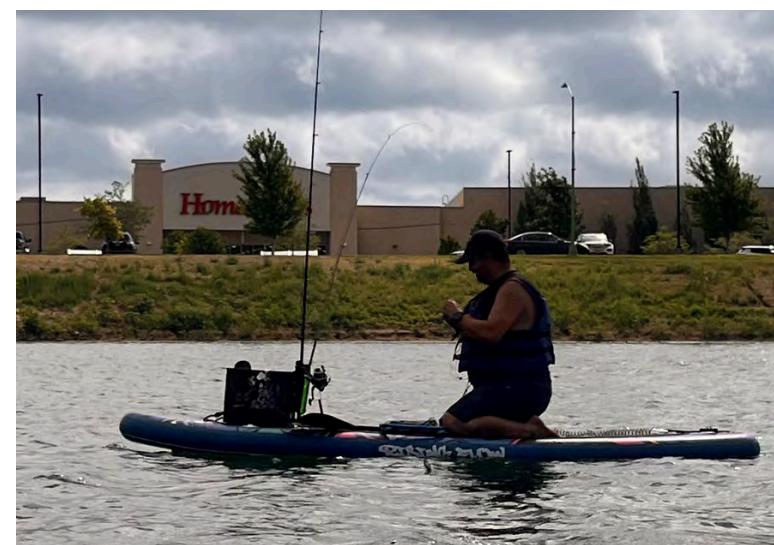
On July 26, the Outdoor Campus partnered with Flow and Paddle and Lake Lorraine to offer a Paddle Board Fishing Class.

The focus of the class was to spend some of the class helping students understand how to paddleboard and the rest of the class fishing from a paddleboard.

During the class a variety of fish were caught including blue gill, green sunfish, and bass.

The class was a new one for the Outdoor Campus and had 9 participants try their hand at paddleboarding and fishing.

We look forward to being able to offer this class again in the future. A reminder that Lake Lorraine is a private pond and use of the pond for fishing/boating is only allowed through express permission from Lake Lorraine.



A Look Back at Summer 2025



Teacher Training - Nature to Molecules

The PROMISE Lab at Sanford Research Center partnered with the Outdoor Campus to offer a 4-day professional development course for secondary teachers. The first 2 days were held at the Outdoor Campus and focused on ecology. Ryan Park, GFP Regional Habitat Program Manager and Carter Knecht, GFP Aquatic Habitat and Access Biologist led discussions on fire succession and shoreline restoration. Jeff Zimprich with SD Grassland Coalition and Pasque Hill on Beaver Creek led conversations on the importance of grasslands and soil health principles. Carter Sergeant, Pheasants Forever Monarch and Pollinator Biologist spoke on the importance of pollinators. Finally, Dr. Carrie Manning-Olson from Augustana University taught about milkweed and the work being done with it.

The last 2 days were at the PROMISE Lab and focused on the other end of the spectrum: "Molecules". Teachers spent time at the lab doing hands-on activities with DNA extraction, PCR, electrophoresis, and protein modeling. Participants also got to meet scientists and tour the labs.

A Look Back at Summer 2025

Paddleboard Fishing

The Outdoor Campus partnered with Flow and Paddle to hold a Paddleboard Fishing Class on July 26th. This free class was held on Lake Lorraine made possible through partnership with Friessen Construction (a privately owned pond, that is not open to fishing by the general public).

Students in the class were given instructions on how to use a stand up paddle board as well as instruction on how to manage fishing gear on a stand up paddle board. During the class students caught a variety of different fish including blue gill, green sunfish, and bass. The class was a big success and likely to be held in the future.



Scheel's Bow Tune Up Day

Scheel's teamed up with the Outdoor Campus to offer a Bow Tune Up Day at our new Outdoor Archery Range. On July 31, the Scheel's Archery Department Experts volunteered their time to help folks in this class prepare for hunting season.

Scheel's staff brought tools, a bow press, and equipment for paper tuning and spent 1-on-1 time with folks to get their bows sighted in.



A Look Back at Summer 2025

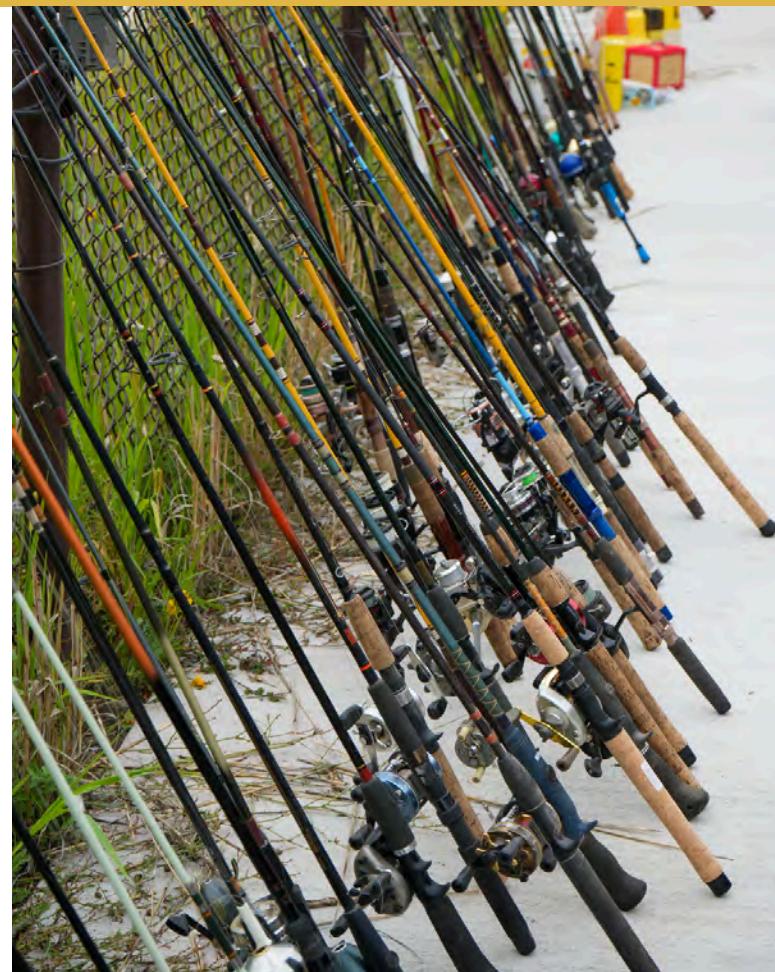


Women's Try It Night

On June 26th, the Outdoor Campus hosted its annual Women's Try It Night. This event is open to females who are looking to try their hand at a variety of different outdoor activities such as fishing and Dutch oven cooking. This year 51 individuals participated.

Duck Days

The Outdoor Campus hosted a booth at the first annual Duck Days in Wallace, SD. The Outdoor Campus utilized the SD Grassland Initiative Tote to introduce students to native wildlife through a print-making activity.



4th Annual Gear Giveaway Program

August 9th marked the 4th Annual Gear Giveaway Program. This year 100+ donors gave over 1,300 items with the purpose of those items being given back to folks in the public in an effort to help them get started in their outdoor adventures.

During the event 325 folks came through and took gear including hunting clothing, fishing gear, and decoys for hunting. In correlation with this event, the Outdoor Campus also hosted an Open House Fishing class with 215 folks coming out to fish at the pond.

Campus Updates - School Coordinator

Meet Raghav Sriram Yogeeshwari

In early July, Raghav joined the Outdoor Campus team as the School Coordinator!

Raghav first joined the Outdoor Campus team as a Naturalist Intern in the Fall of 2024 with a focus on school programming. He is passionate about outdoor education and has a strong background in natural resources and conservation.

Raghav is very much looking forward to continuing in his new role as School Coordinator and being able to bring meaningful outdoor experiences to classrooms in South Dakota!



If you are a school teacher looking to bring the outdoors to your classroom, check out our School Booklet! Scan the QR code for a copy, or stop by the Outdoor Campus and pick up a hard copy.



Campus Updates - Expansion Construction

Phase 2

As the months have progressed, construction on our expansion has continued to move forward!

The top photo, is a glimpse of where the new restrooms will be located. The restrooms will include a male and female side that is larger then our current facilities. Also there will be a family restroom with a full size, adult changing table. On the other side will be located a nursing mother's room with child size changing table.

The bottom two pictures are depicting the outside (middle) and inside (bottom) of a new storage space.

Though not the “coolest” part of an expansion, this is a huge boon to our programming because it allows for more space for storage. It will also have an updated loading dock for us to receive publications such as the Hunting Handbook, Fishing Handbook, etc.



Fall 2025 Programming

Our Fall 2025 Program Registration is live and ongoing. If you have not picked up a copy of our program book, swing by the outdoor campus and grab a copy.

Other dates to note:

- Winter Programming Booklets are available **November 5**.
- Winter Program Registration is **November 12 at 8am**.

Scan to Register:



Fall 2025 Programming Highlights



Bird Banding at Good Earth State Park

Thursday, September 25 from 10-11:30am

or

Tuesday, September 30 from 10-11:30am

Monitoring the health and variety of songbird species is one of the many jobs of GFP. This class will give you the opportunity to learn more about the banding process and why it is important. **Please note: a State Park Sticker is required for vehicles entering the park.**

Introduction to Bow Hunting

Thursday, October 9 from 6:30-8:00pm

If you have taken an introductory archery class at the Outdoor Campus or you are just curious about how to get started bow hunting, this class is one you won't want to miss! This class will be **led by the SD Bowhunter's Association** and will involve discussion on equipment, gear safety, where to hunt, licensing, and entry level hunting knowledge to get you a solid foundation into hunting with a bow.



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

Fall 2025 Programming Highlights



Our Living Prairie

Friday, October 3 from 10-11:30am

Join us and learn all about how the prairie is alive! Jeff Zimprich from Pasque Hill on Beaver Creek will lead participants of all ages through lessons to better understand how soil is alive, the importance of grasslands, and prairie plant root systems.

This class will include hands-on activities as well as time exploring on the trails here at the Outdoor Campus!



Introduction to Waterfowl Hunting

Saturday, November 8 from 1-2pm

Learn the first steps to getting acquainted with duck and goose hunting in this hands-on camp. Proper calling, decoy, and blind set up along with bird identification will be just a few topics covered in this program.



2025 Sioux Falls Area HuntSAFE

Traditional Classes

September 2, 4, 6

September 16, 18, 20

September 30, October 2, 4

Field Day Only

September 6

September 20

October 4

*Requires successful completion
of the online course.

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



Outdoor Campus Loaner Equipment

The Outdoor Campus/Region 3 Office has a variety of free loaner equipment that can be checked out 1-2 weeks, below are a few pertinent to fall hunting!

Goose Trailer

The Outdoor Campus/Region 3 Office has two goose trailers that are available to check out for free. One is located at the Sioux Falls Office in Sertoma Park and one is located at the Outdoor Adventure Center in Brookings. These are free to checkout and use anywhere in the state of South Dakota.

To learn more or check availability, give us a call at 605-362-2700.



Waterfowl Decoy Bags

The Outdoor Campus/Region 3 Office has a variety of duck and goose floater decoys that can be checked out for free. These decoy bags are a great way to try waterfowl hunting prior to purchasing your own set of decoys.

To learn more or check availability, give us a call at 605-362-2700.



Action Trackchair

The Outdoor are open for everyone! Access is a key priority for the Game, Fish and Parks and the Department is® proud to have a variety of Action Trackchairs located across the state to be checked out. The Outdoor Campus one also comes equipped with a trailer that can be used to access locations throughout South Dakota. To Learn more: <https://gfp.sd.gov/trackchair/>



Teachers! Free Resources for Your Classroom!

The Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus is committed to providing quality resources that teachers can use to share the outdoors with their classroom, below are just a few:

Grassland Education Tote

The Outdoor Campus is excited to be one host location for the Grassland Education Tote. This tote was created in partnership with the SD Grassland Initiative and has a variety of lesson plans aimed at bringing grassland education to your classroom.

To learn more visit:

<https://www.sdgrassinitiative.org/resources/>



AIS Curriculum

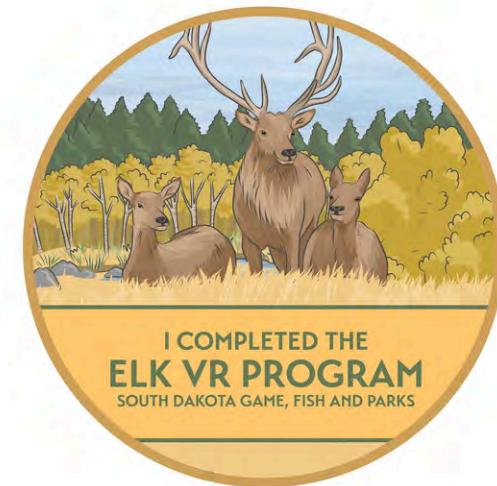
The Aquatic Invasive Species Curriculum is a 5-day curriculum that is geared toward Middle School students. Each lesson is 30-minutes to 60-minutes in length and can be done inside or outside. The lessons walk students from understanding what an ecosystem is to what AIS are to what managers are doing to slow the spread. To learn more visit:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/fishsd/>



Elk of the Black Hills VR

A field trip to the Black Hills might not be possible for your class, so why not take a virtual field trip there? Check out the Elk of the Black Hills VR (<https://gfp.sd.gov/elk-vr/>). This virtual tour will take your students through a better understanding of elk, the habitats they can be found in, and management practices for elk populations.



Campus Internships



Spring 2026 Internship Opportunities

Are you a college student looking for a fun, paid internship this Spring?

Consider a job at the Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls. We provide training and a variety of opportunities for Outdoor Education experience with students of all ages. If you love to hunt, fish, trap, and get outside, this job is right for you.

Opportunities in Sioux Falls:

Spring Group Program Intern: <https://tinyurl.com/Community-Spring-2026>

Spring Community Program Intern: <https://tinyurl.com/Group-Spring-2026>

Please Note: applicants must be a current part-time or full-time student (minimum of 6 credit hours) in upcoming semester or the immediately preceding semester.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us at 605-362-2777.

GFP in Brookings

The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls, in an effort to promote outreach to college aged students and expand our community reach, oversees two naturalist interns in Brookings during the school year. Their goal is to partner with the City of Brookings and the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center to increase outdoor users. Each semester these interns develop, promote, and put on many programs including archery, shore fishing, ice fishing, hiking, paddling, and orienteering, along with many “classroom style” programs.

For the 2025 Fall semester, we have hired Gabby O. and Mya D. Both are current SDSU students with experience in outdoor education through Summer internships at the Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls. We are excited to see what new and exciting programs this partnership will develop.



Gabi



Mya



New! GFP in Vermillion

The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls is pleased to announce that we are partnering with the University of South Dakota to place an Outreach Intern in Vermillion.

The goal of this intern is similar to the positions in Brookings, to partner with the University of South Dakota and the Vermillion community to increase outdoor opportunities and users.

This 2025 Fall semester, we have hired Josh W., a current student at the University of South Dakota. Josh has experience in outdoor education through his Summer internship at the Outdoor Campus as well as personal time spent in the outdoors.

Be on the look out for classes in the Vermillion area!



Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Happy Fall!

We've wrapped up another busy and successful summer at The Outdoor Campus—Sioux Falls, and it wouldn't have been possible without our amazing volunteers. This summer, 78 volunteers helped wherever they were needed, donating over 1,300 hours of service. Between mid-May and mid-August, we also welcomed 16 new faces to our team. It's been such a joy watching our volunteer family grow and seeing newcomers gain confidence in their roles.

As we shift into fall, our focus turns from bustling summer group and community programs to Hunting 101 and school programs. Thank you to everyone who keeps showing up and giving their time as the season fills with classes, school visits, and events.

We are so grateful for each of you and feel incredibly lucky to work alongside such generous, knowledgeable, and friendly people.



Interested in Volunteering?

Scan the
QR Code:



Winter 2025



Photo by 605 Video Co.



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

Fall 2025 Recap

Read about what happened this past Summer for Outdoor Campus programming (P. 4-7)

Campus Updates

Learn about what new things are happening at the Outdoor Campus (P. 8-10)

2025 Program Highlights

Find out what exciting classes are coming up for Winter 2025 (P. 12-13)



Photo by 605 Video Co

Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

Hard to believe we are nearly into winter. This has been one of the most gorgeous falls with mild weather plenty of opportunities to get outside. That being said, the beauty of living here in South Dakota with winter is that it opens a whole new season of outdoor opportunities for us. From cross-country skiing and snow shoeing to ice fishing, winter affords us all a new way to get outside.

At the Outdoor Campus, we are here to help you enjoy the outdoors through: offering free classes to try new winter activities. We also provide snowshoes you can check out and use anywhere in the state. Along with this, don't forget that the trails at the Outdoor Campus are groomed when there is enough snow to allow for cross-country skiing (<https://www.siouxfalls.gov/activities-recreation/parks-trails/trails/nordic-ski-trails>). Please be mindful of others using the trail (see page 11).

Region 3

Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

As another South Dakota winter slowly, but surely, makes its presence known, we are reminiscing the memories made throughout the year and excited for those yet to come! The current pheasant season has certainly been one to remember and hunters should continue to find success into the late season as crops are out and birds gravitate towards typical winter cover, like cattails and shelterbelts. The traditional South Dakota pheasant season remains open until January 31. As expected, deer hunting success varied throughout the region in 2025. The southeast counties of Region 3 have been hit with Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in recent years. As a result, deer license numbers have been reduced in those hunting units to help bolster the herd. If Mother Nature cooperates, we expect to see a quick rebound of those deer populations. Turkey numbers are trending in the same direction as pheasants and look promising for next spring. Until then, we hope everyone gets outdoors and enjoys the wonderful resources South Dakota has to offer!





Photo by Travel South Dakota

Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

As the seasons shift from fall to winter, we invite you to take advantage of a wide range of outdoor winter educational programs offered at the Outdoor Campus. These opportunities include both indoor and outdoor activities designed to engage and educate. Enjoy inside experiences such as cooking classes, or venture outdoors for winter activities like ice fishing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. To view all available classes and programs, please visit our website at <https://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east> and sign up for our free offerings.

The improvements of the Outdoor Campus are progressing steadily. The current expansion project will feature an indoor archery and BB gun range, additional classroom space, an enhanced game processing area, an expanded kitchen, and an improved theater. Contractors are working diligently to enclose the new facilities, allowing for interior work to continue throughout the winter months. We anticipate that the expansion will be completed by fall 2026.

As you consider your year-end charitable contributions, please remember the Outdoor Campus. Your donations are vital in supporting our educational programs, particularly by providing transportation for local youth and fostering their connection to the outdoors.

On behalf of the Friends of the Outdoor Campus, we extend our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Board Members

Tim Kromminga - Chair

Emmett Keyser - Vice Chair

Amanda Oines - Member

Derek Maassen - Member

Drew Woelfel - Member

Brian Klatt - Member

Ryan Martin - Member

Royce Meritt - Member

Jeff Scherschligt - Member

Cheryl Ulvestad - Member

Eric Kurtz - Member

Kathy Anderson - Member

Ritchie Hutchinson - Member

Tyler Tordsen - Member

Jamie Simko - Member

Emily Oyos - Member

Josh Johnson - Ex Officio

Kristina Coby - Ex Officio

Kip Rounds - Ex Officio

David Parker - Ex Officio

A Look Back at Fall 2025



Conservation in the City

The Outdoor Campus attended the 2025 Conservation in the City event that was held downtown Sioux Falls. The event focused on teaching kids and adults about the importance of conservation within city limits.

The Outdoor Campus booth focused on education on aquatic invasive species and what they can do to slow the spread. The event saw over 300 kids and adults.

Downtown Sioux Falls River Fest

The Outdoor Campus partnered with Pheasants Forever and SD Grassland Coalition to host a booth focusing on conservation. The Outdoor Campus brought a variety of furs, antlers, and shells for students to guess what animal it was and then learn about that animal's habitat and adaptations.

Over 350 kids and adults attended this outreach event.



A Look Back at Fall 2025

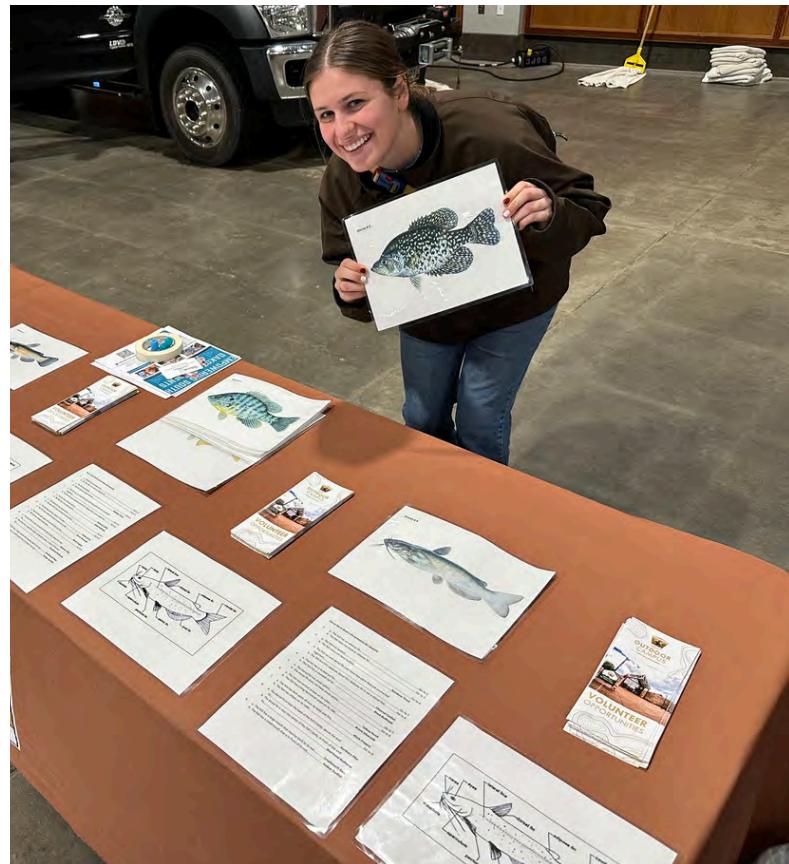


USF Project Wild

The Outdoor Campus partnered with the University of Sioux Falls to offer students in their Science Methodology Course a Project Wild Training. Students spent time understanding the Project Wild Curriculum book as well as implementing lessons in the curriculum book. Time was also spent discussing how lessons in the book could be scaled to meet the unique needs of their future classrooms.

Junior Achievement

The Outdoor Campus hosted a booth at the 2025 Junior Achievement Inspire - Middle School Career Fair. The Campus booth featured a fish identification activity using a dichotomous key to show the importance of observation and give students a sample of Biology in action. This year there were around 3,500 eighth graders who attended the event from the Sioux Empire.



A Look Back at Fall 2025



HuntSAFE in the Schools - Fall 2025

Since Fall of 2023, the Outdoor Campus has been partnering with the Sioux Falls School District and their afterschool program to provide Hunter Safety to students. The program runs for two weeks, Monday-Thursday from 4pm-5:30pm. The first week is hosted at the school for classroom instruction and the second week is hosted at the Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League for field training and a live fire day.

This year we partnered with Ben Reifel Middle School, Patrick Henry Middle School, the Sioux Falls YMCA, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Sioux Empire to certify 24 students



A Look Back at Fall 2025



Hunting 101 - Deer

The Fall 2025 Hunting 101 Program is well underway!

The program is comprehensive, teaching students everything they need to know about hunting. It covers the important aspects of hunter safety and allows participants to spend time practicing their skills at a local shooting range, provides hunting experiences in the field — and if a hunt is successful — hands-on lessons in caring for and processing the harvested deer (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEazROSVfxo>).

So far this season 33 deer have been harvested by participants. The program will continue throughout the remainder of the Youth/Mentor/Apprentice Season and end January 1, 2026.

A huge thank you to all the Landowners and Volunteer Mentors that donate to make this program a success!

Hunting 101 - Disabled Veteran

In collaboration with the Grey Ghost Chapter of the South Dakota Mule Deer Foundation, the Outdoor Campus is once again conducting 10 Disabled Veteran Hunts. These hunts are done at no cost to the Veteran Hunter. 5 deer have been harvested thus far, with the plan to harvest the remaining 5 before the season ends. The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of South Dakota is paying for each deer harvested to be processed so that the Veterans can have the meat.



Campus Updates - Casting for Recovery



On September 12-14, the Casting for Recovery South Dakota was held at Outlaw Ranch in Custer. This free program welcomed 14 participants from four states, providing an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of fly fishing while connecting with others who share a similar experience. Over the course of the weekend, participants learned knot tying, fly tying, and casting techniques prior to applying those skills during a guided fly fishing experience at Stockade lake.



The Retreat was led by Outdoor Campus staff alongside a dedicated team of volunteers including fishing guides, medical professionals, and support staff.

Casting for Recovery - South Dakota remains committed to providing women facing breast cancer with unique, nature-based healing experiences that promote resilience, connection, and hope.

Applications are currently open for the 2026 retreat which will be held at NeSoDak near Waubay, SD on September 18-20. To learn more or apply: <https://castingforrecovery.org/>

Campus Updates

Waterfowl Signage

Over the past year, the Outdoor Campus has been partnering with the South Dakota Ducks Unlimited to design and print 3 waterfowl related signs. These signs cover the following topics:

- Common East River Waterfowl ID
- Wood Duck Restoration
- The Prairie Pothole Region “Duck Factory”

These signs are now located along the Riparian Trail just south of the pond. As you walk through that wooded section of the trail, take a look at the signs and perhaps a few ducks or geese enjoying the oxbow.

A big thank you to everyone who made this project a reality including: SD Ducks Unlimited for help in funding and design, Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation for sign installation, and Dr. Keith Anderson and Ducks Unlimited Ben Romans for their generosity in usage of waterfowl photos.



Outdoor Archery Range

It has been exciting to see the usage that the Outdoor Archery Range has seen since opening in March 2025. To date we have had 14,601 folks utilize the range as a resource to prepare them for target practice and the opportunity to prepare for hunting season.

As we move into winter, we want to remind folks that once there is snow on the ground, the range will close (we will not be removing snow).

Finally, as we continue managing this range, please give us feedback on any improvements you may have and we will do our best to accommodate them as we can.

Campus Updates - Expansion Construction

Phase 2

Construction is moving forward in great strides on our expansion project. A lot of spaces are taking form. The game processing space, restrooms, and new storage area have walls and sheet rock up (not pictured here).

Along with this, steel is being erected where the future indoor archery range will be placed. You can tell from the picture (top) where the range will be 20-yards in length and where it will be 30-yards in length.

Another area of rapid change is the classroom space (middle). This space will hold around 100 people when all the rooms are opened or can be segmented into 2 smaller classrooms and 1 larger classroom. This will allow for more classes for the Campus and more meeting space for the public.

One final space we would like to highlight is our outdoor cooking patio (bottom). The pad is already poured for space. We can't wait to use it for a number of classes such as Dutch oven cooking and meat smoking!



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 Conserv

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 2025 Programming

Our Winter 2025 Program

Registration is live and ongoing.

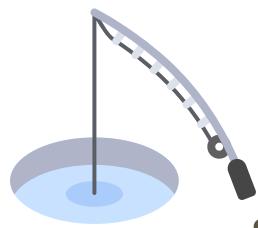
If you are looking to learn more about hunting, fishing, trapping, outdoor skills, or conservation, The Campus has a class that is right for you!

Scan to Register:



Winter 2025 Programming

Highlights



Ice Fishing

Saturday, January 10

10am-11:30am or 1pm-2:30pm

This class will focus on a discussion on ice fishing tackle, gear, fish species and ice safety. Then participants will get to fish at the Outdoor Campus Pond with the help of staff and volunteers.

Please make sure to dress for the weather with a coat, hat, gloves, and boots.



Cross Country Skiing

Saturday, January 17

10am-11:30am or 1pm-2:30pm

Get hands-on instruction in cross-country skiing and related equipment and then spend time on the trials. All equipment is provided, but dress for the weather.

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

This class is dependent on proper snow conditions.

Winter 2026 Programming Highlights



Predator Calling and Hunting Virtual Online Program

Thursday, January 22
7:00pm-8:30pm

The coyote diet is adaptable to the food that is available throughout the year and can consist of small game, fawns, and livestock. Coyote hunting can help control the population, but can also be challenging. Learn some tips and techniques from the Department's professional Wildlife Damage Specialists in this virtual Zoom class.

Archery Turkey Hunting What You Need to Know

Tuesday, February 24
6:30pm-8pm

The Outdoor Campus is thrilled to have Justin Broughton from South Dakota Bow Hunters Association share his passion about archery turkey hunting and also give valuable guidance, tips, and tricks from gear to location for a successful turkey hunt. Justin is a lifelong bowhunter with over 35 years of archery turkey hunting experience and has served as the President of the SD Bow Hunters Association for the past 3 years.



Hunting 101 - Spring Turkey Hunts



With our Deer Hunting 101 Season reaching the final month of hunting, we are already looking forward to our next Hunting 101 program: Spring Turkey Hunting. This program is very similar to our Deer Hunting 101 in that students will learn how to hunt turkey, spend time at the range, and get the opportunity to go out into the field to try and harvest a turkey.

The Outdoor Campus Internal Application for this program will open in February 2026. Candidates chosen for the program will need to purchase a Spring Mentor tag or Successfully draw a Spring Turkey Tag. To learn more about this program, visit: gfp.sd.gov/toc-east and click on “Programming”.



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

WE'RE HIRING!

2026 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Looking for an opportunity that's more than just a summer job? Join us as a Naturalist Intern, Horticulture Intern, or Volunteer Coordinator Intern. You'll get hands-on experience in education, conservation, and leadership, perfect for students who love the outdoors and want to build their resume.

AVAILABLE INTERNSHIPS:

- GROUP NATURALIST INTERN
- COMMUNITY NATURALIST INTERN
- OUTREACH NATURALIST INTERN
- HORTICULTURE INTERN
- VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR INTERN
- FIRST CATCH CENTER INTERN

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FOR
APPLICATION
LINKS:



GFP Outreach

The Outdoor Campus has placed interns in both Vermillion and Brookings to help spread the opportunity for more folks to get outside and enjoy hunting, fishing, trapping, and Conservation Science. If you are a local community looking for programming, reach out to Jason Nelson (Jason.Nelson@state.sd.us) for free, outdoor education programming in your town.

Vermillion Happenings:

This Fall we started an internship partnership with the University of South Dakota. One fun event we have hosted this Fall is a Pond Clean Up followed by fishing. All participants had a great time and caught quite a few bass!

Be looking for more classes to come this Winter!

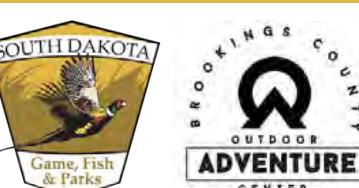


Brookings Happenings:

Programming in Brookings has been busy with classes including:

- Archery Classes at the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center
- Introduction to Fishing at the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center
- Winter Survival at the Larson Center of the Dakota Nature Park

Keep checking the Outdoor Campus, Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center, and Dakota Nature Park social media pages for more classes!



Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Winter is here. Even with construction slowing down some of our classes, our volunteers have continued to show up consistently by teaching programs, leading mentored hunts, and helping us navigate a season with limited indoor space. Their steady presence has been a major support during this transition period.

As we move into the colder months, we're preparing for winter programs like ice fishing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. These remain some of our most popular offerings, and the volunteer involvement behind them continues to be essential.

I also want to highlight the work of our hunting mentors, who have dedicated hundreds of hours this year to guiding new hunters through the deer hunting process. The Hunting 101 program depends on their experience and commitment, and their impact shows in every participant who walks away more confident and informed.

This fall, we also welcomed eight new volunteers to the team. We're looking forward to getting them involved and seeing where they choose to contribute.

Thank you for all you've done throughout 2025. Your time and effort truly make a difference, and I'm looking forward to what we can accomplish together in 2026.



Interested in Volunteering?

Scan the
QR Code:

