OUTDOOR CAMPUS

SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA



photo by Keith Anderson

2026-27 WINTER COMMUNITY PROGRAM BOOKLET

4500 S Oxbow Ave | Sioux Falls, SD | 605.362.2777

gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/

REGISTRATION & Information

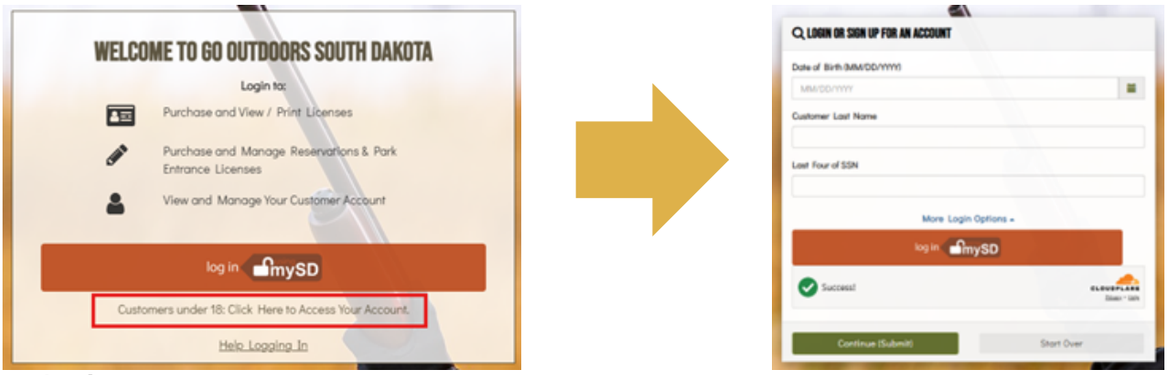


To Create an Account

1.) Go to our registration link 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.) For new customers under the age of 18, please use the Youth SSO Bypass by clicking on the link labeled "Customers under 18: Click Here to Access Your Account."



Reminder:

- This feature is only available for customers under the age of 18.
- Youth customers can use this feature to access an existing profile or create a new profile if one does not already exist.
- Once a customer turns 18, they will be prompted to create a state SSO account to continue accessing their profile.
- Linked Accounts functionality is disabled within youth profiles; however, adults can still link to youth accounts from their own profiles.

REGISTRATION & Information

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES
https://gooutdoorssouthdakota.com/

WINTER REGISTRATION:
November 18, 8:00 a.m.

Spring Booklet
January 27
Registration
February 10

COST
All programs are free!
Thank a hunter or angler for supporting our education efforts!

PRE-REGISTRATION
Pre-registration is required of all events (classes) unless noted.

CANCELLATIONS
Many programs fill quickly. PLEASE call us or cancel on the website as soon as possible if you cannot attend a class. Our waiting list automatically fills from your cancellation.

WAITING LISTS
Do not be afraid to sign up on our waiting lists. People often cancel and if you're on the list your name will automatically move into the class and you will be notified by email.

WE ARE NOT A PEANUT FREE FACILITY

HOURS
Open: Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. &
Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed: Sundays, State and Federal holidays.

Facebook
outdoorcampusSF

Instagram
@outdoorcampus_siouxfalls

Website
gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/

DECEMBER CLASSES

Super Saturday Archery

Open-house archery will be in the new indoor archery range! Similar to our outdoor Super Saturday events, basic instruction will be provided before allowing participants to nock their arrows and master their shot. All equipment will be provided.

Age: Recommended ages 8 and up, youth with adult

Class size: Registration is not required for Super Saturday Events

Date: Saturday, December 5, 10:00 to Noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 19, 10:00 to Noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Gun Cleaning - Shotguns

Regular cleaning and maintenance of your firearm is a critical component of proper function when you are hunting. This class program will will give you hands-on experience cleaning 12 and 20 gauge shotguns.

Age: adult only, 16 and up Class size: 10

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Ice-Rod Building 2-part class

While waiting for the ice to thicken up on the lakes and ponds, start getting your tackle and gear ready for ice fishing and build your own ice rod! New this winter, we will guide you through building your own ultra light Brim Buster ice rod. Imagine catching your first fish through the ice this season with a rod you made! This class will only be making ice rods. Please be sure you can attend both build days. A suggested donation of $20 is requested to cover the costs of each kit.

Age: adult only,16 and up Class size: 10

Dates: Thursday, December 10, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. &
Saturday, December 12, 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.

DECEMBER CLASSES

Wilderness First Aid Training

Led by Wilderness First Aid Responder and SD Volunteer Naturalist, Emily White, this class will cover the basics to help keep you and your friends safe in case of an accident while on a hunting or fishing trip in the backcountry. Stop the bleed, splints for breaks and sprains, hypothermia, and heat illnesses will be just a few of the topics covered in this hands-on learning program. There will be indoor and outdoor portions of the class, please be sure to dress for the weather. Lunch will not be provided.

Age: adult only, 16 and up Class size: 10

Date: Saturday, December 12, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Deer Hunting - Breaking Down the Quarter

When the hunt ends, the fun begins. What are you going to do with all of that game meat? Let's break it down! This class will be elbows-deep in cleaning, cutting, packaging and preserving the hind quarters of deer. We will learn about which cuts of meat make the best steaks, roasts, burger and how to use and package as much of the animal as possible with the least amount of waste. This is not a cooking class but you will leave hungry… hungry to try out your new skills after your next hunt!

Age: adult only, 16 and up Class size: 4

Date: Tuesday, December 15, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Wild Game Preservation - Canning Meat

Pressure cooker canning meat is a shelf stable way of preserving your harvest. This class will discuss the safety, technique and equipment needed while giving participants hand-on experience. The class will also include an opportunity to taste recipes using canned meat.

Age: adult only, 16 and up Class size: 5

Date: Saturday, December 19, 10:00 to 12:00 p.m.

Watch for fun and exciting

Pop-Up Classes the last 2 weeks of December!

JANUARY CLASSES

Rod Building - Spinning Rods

Imagine reeling in that first walleye of summer with a rod built by you! We will walk you through the step by step process of building and personalizing a 6'6" light action rod over a series of class times. Be sure you are able to attend all class dates for rod completion. A suggested donation of $35 is requested to cover the costs of each kit.

Age: adult only, 16 and up Class size: 10

Date: Thursday, January 7, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Saturday, January 9, 10:00 to 2:00 p.m., & Tuesday, January 12, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Family Ice Fishing

Let's go fishing! Yes, even in the winter! This class will begin inside discussing ice fishing tackle, gear, fish species and most importantly, ice safety. At the pond, our staff and volunteers will be there to demonstrate and help bait hooks and cheer you on as you reel in your catch, while creating memorable ice fishing experiences. Please remember to dress for the weather, including coats, hats, gloves and boots. All fishing equipment will be provided.

Age: recommended age 5 and up, youth with adult Class size: 25

Date: Saturday, January 9, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. OR 1:00 to 2:30 p.m



JANUARY CLASSES

Native Plants for Winter Habitat

South Dakota State University Extension

In addition to the multitude of services they provide during the growing season, many native perennials offer specific benefits during winter. Native perennials with winter interest provide either colorful stems, colorful foliage or structure for aesthetic value, habitat for wildlife like birds and insects, or food for wildlife when resources are low in winter. Learn how to select species that add winter interest to your own yard or prairie!

Age: adult only, 16 and up Class size: 25

Date: Tuesday, January 12, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

About the Instructor: Allison Dollen is a Native plant Field Specialist with SDSU Extension based in Brookings, SD. She received her master's degree from SDSU in 2026 where her research focused on performance and cost comparisons of native seed production planting methods, and granivory impacts in Eastern South Dakota. In her role with SDSU Extension, she provides resources and guidance pertaining to native plant installation and maintenance, as well as native seed production to individuals and organizations across the state. Her overarching goal is to connect people with the plants native to their region.

Ice Fishing with the Littles

Fishing time is family time, even on the ice!! This shortened fishing class is perfect for parents, grandparents and babysitters of younger kids with shorter attention spans. We'll keep it basic and fun for everyone! Be sure to dress for the weather!

Age: 3-5 year olds with adult Class size: 15

Date: Thursday, January 14, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

JANUARY CLASSES



Predator Calling - Virtual Zoom Class

This program will be available online only. Please see Zoom link below.
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 professional wildlife damage management specialists at Game, Fish and Parks!
Age: Recommended ages 12 and up, youth with adult
Date: Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Zoom link: https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/94924536582

Ladies Only - Fly Tying Club

A beginner level of classes to introduce women into fly tying world. This group will start by meeting once a month learning about fly-tying equipment and techniques with a different fly featured each month. The hope is to create, encourage, connect and support women and fly fishing .
Age: adults, 16 and up Class size: 10
Date: Thursday, January 21, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY CLASSES

Archery

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

Age: recommended age 8 and up, youth with adult Class size: 20

Date: Saturday, January 23, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Intro to Snowshoeing

Class is dependent on proper snow conditions.

Learn how to walk in snowshoes and explore the park! Dress for the weather and be sure to wear snow boots or waterproof boots. Bring on the snow!

Age: recommended age 5 and up, youth with adult Class size: 20

Date: Saturday, January 23, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Intro to Cross Country Skiing

Class is dependent on proper snow conditions.

Get hands-on instruction in cross-country skiing and related equipment and head outdoors for guided practice on our trails. All equipment is provided, but please dress for the weather.

Age: recommended age 5 and up, youth with adult Class size: 20

Date: Saturday, January 23, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

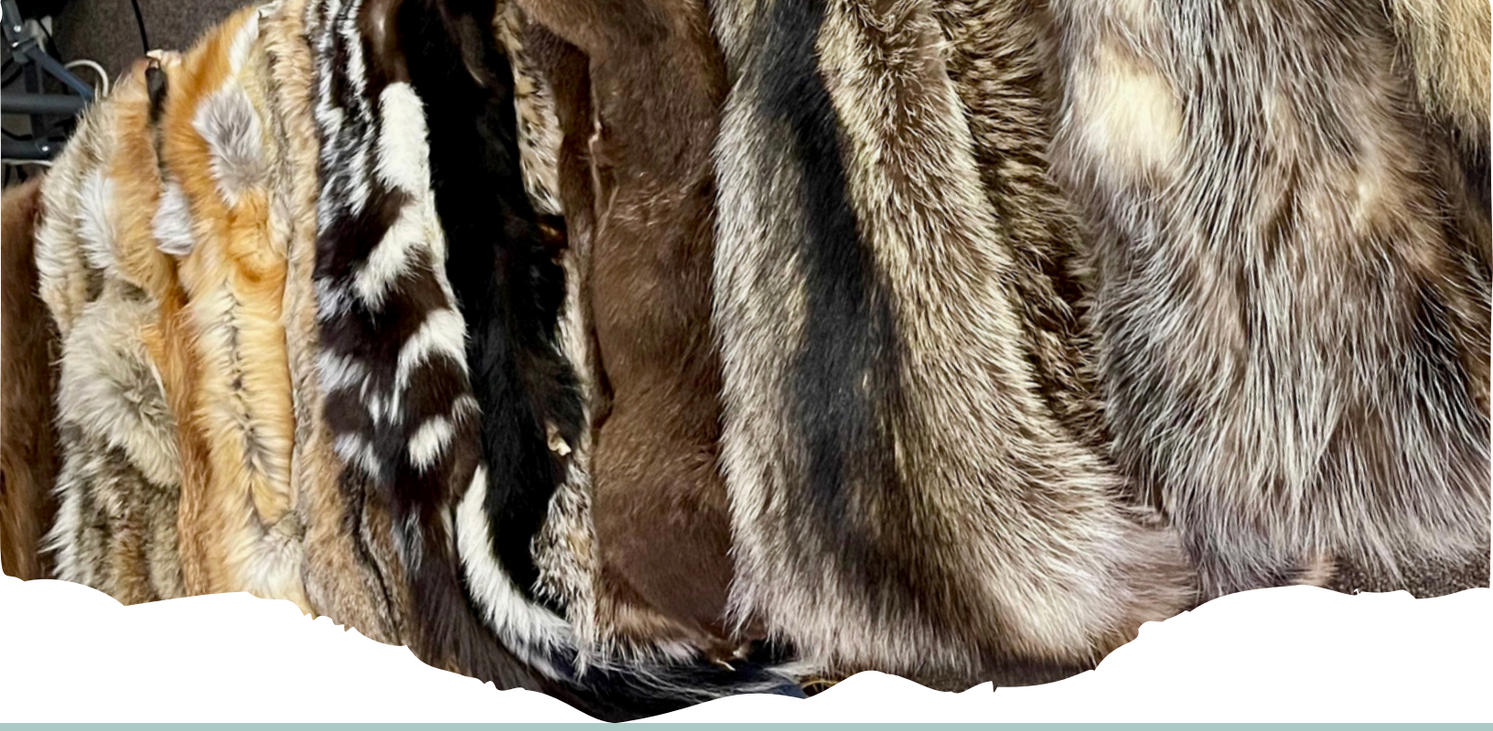
Jr. Duck Stamp with USFWS

ATTENTION HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES!!!

The Outdoor Campus is thrilled to partner with USFWS to create DUCK CAMP! The camp will include a rotation of activities including learning duck identification and markers for classification, a nature hike with duck calling and time to create your entry for the 2027 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Kindergarten through 12th grade are eligible to participate and all supplies will be provided.

Age: Recommended ages 5 and up, youth with adult Class size: 50

Date: Wednesday, January 27, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



SOUTH DAKOTA BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN

BOW PATHWAYS: INTRO TO TRAPPING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26 | 6:00 p.m.

Trapping furbearers is a way of managing wildlife populations and is also done for economic and cultural reasons. Taylor Etherington, Conservation Officer and life-long trapper, will be leading this women's only Trapping 101 class. Women will learn about the habits and habitats of furbearers in our area while gaining an understanding of the why and how of trapping with hands-on examples and visuals.

This BOW Pathways class is open to all women interested in learning or practicing outdoor skills—no prior BOW experience needed. Enjoy hands-on instruction, time outdoors, and the chance to connect with other women who share your love for adventure.

All equipment is provided.
Register at https://gooutdoorssouthdakota.com/

JANUARY CLASSES



Weather and Fishing with Todd Heitkamp

Todd Heitkamp, National Weather Service Meterologist and owner of Dakota Angler, will present on how the weather effects fish behavior and how it can determine your success or failure through the ice.

Age: Recommended ages 12 and up, youth with adult Class size: 50

Date: Thursday, January 28, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Intro to Reading Topographic Maps

Whether you are planning a backcountry hunt or hike, map reading skills are essential. Led by SD Volunteer Naturalist and geographer, Emily White, this class will teach you how to read and use a topographic map. The class will cover not only basic map reading skills and understanding elevation lines but also other skills to help you plan your trip with the least amount of hazardous surprises!

Age: adult only, 16 and up Class size: 10

Date: Saturday, January 30, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



FEBRUARY CLASSES

Rod Building - Fly Rods

Show off your fly fishing skills this summer by building your own rod this winter! We will walk you through the step by step process of building and personalizing a 9 foot, 4 piece, 5 weight fly rod over a series of class times. Be sure you are able to attend all class dates for rod completion. A suggested donation of $55 is requested to cover the costs of each kit.

Age: adult only. 16 and up Class size: 10

Date: Thursday, February 4, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Saturday, February 6, 10 to 4:00 p.m., & Tuesday, February 9, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Wildlife Diseases

Join our naturalists as they discuss prominent wildlife diseases in South Dakota. Learn about our wildlife species that are influenced by the spread and fluctuations of disease spread and prevalence.

Age: Recommended ages 12 and up, youth with adult Class size: 20

Date: Thursday February 4, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Family Ice Fishing

This class will begin inside discussing ice fishing tackle, gear, fish species and most importantly, ice safety. At the pond, our staff and volunteers will be there to demonstrate and help bait hooks and cheer you on as you reel in your catch, while creating memorable ice fishing experiences. Please remember to dress for the weather, including coats, hats, gloves and boots. All fishing equipment will be provided.

Age: recommended age 5 and up, youth with adult Class size: 25

Date: Saturday, February 6, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. OR 1:00 to 2:30 p.m

Ice Fishing with the Littles

Fishing time is family time, even on the ice!! This shortened fishing class is perfect for parents, grandparents and babysitters of younger kids with shorter attention spans. We'll keep it basic and fun for everyone! Be sure to dress for the weather!

Age: 3-5 year olds with adult Class size: 15

Date: Thursday, February 11, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY CLASSES

Winter Sowing Workshop



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

It may be cold and wintery outside still, but it's the perfect time to try winter sowing! Winter sowing is a seed-starting method that uses everyday containers and natural freeze thaw cycles to get a head start on spring planting. This hands-on workshop will focus on winter sowing seeds for native plants. Bring a clear container or two and try this easy, low-cost way to grow native plants for your garden!

(Supplies will be provided, but you can also bring additional clear containers, such as plastic salad containers or gallon jugs.)

Age: recommended ages 8 and up, youth with adult Class size: 15

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

About the Instructor: Robin Buterbaugh works for SDSU Extension as a Horticulture Field Specialist based in Brookings. She received her master's degree in Natural Resources Management from SDSU in 2023, where her project focus was on integrating native plants in community and residential landscaping. She also obtained a permaculture design certificate in 2017. In her Extension role, she works across South Dakota to provide resources and assistance to individuals and organizations related to ecological design, permaculture, native plants, pollinator gardens, and community and school gardens. Robin loves vegetables, flowers, native plants, and all things plant related, and she loves to bring all those things together to help people create landscapes that are beautiful and beneficial!

Wild Game Cooking - Appetizer Night!

Trying out the new cooking classroom, this wildgame cooking class will include a variety of game meats and recipes for participants to prepare and share! Be sure to come hungry!

Age: adult only, 16 and up Class size: 20

Date: Thursday, February 11, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY CLASSES

Ladies Only - Fly Tying Club

A beginner level of classes to introduce women into fly tying world. This group will start by meeting once a month learning about fly-tying equipment and techniques with a different fly featured each month. The hope is to create, encourage, connect and support women and fly fishing .

Age: adults, 16 and up Class size: 10

Date: Thursday, February 18, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Intro to Snowshoeing

Class is dependent on proper snow conditions.

Learn how to walk in snowshoes and explore the park! Dress for the weather and be sure to wear snow boots or waterproof boots. Bring on the snow!

Age: recommended age 5 and up, youth with adult Class size: 20

Date: Saturday, February 20, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Intro to Cross Country Skiing

Class is dependent on proper snow conditions.

Get hands-on instruction in cross-country skiing and related equipment and head outdoors for guided practice on our trails. All equipment is provided, but please dress for the weather.

Age: recommended age 5 and up, youth with adult Class size: 20

Date: Saturday, February 20, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Water Quality Testing with Aquatic Insects

A healthy aquatic habitat includes plant and animal diversity. Variation and populations of aquatic insects can help us understand water quality because of their tolerances or lack of tolerance to pollutants in the water. This program will include aquatic insect identification and assesments of a variety of water samples for quality habitat.

Age: recommended age 12 and up, youth with adult Class size: 20

Date: Saturday, February 20, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.



SOUTH DAKOTA BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN

BOW PATHWAYS: ICE FISHING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 | 10:00 a.m.

This women-only class will include all you need to know to get started ice fishing including equipment, gear, safety along with plenty of time on the ice.This class will include indoor and outdoor portions. Be sure to come dressed for the weather.

This BOW Pathways class is open to all women interested in learning or practicing outdoor skills—no prior BOW experience needed. Enjoy hands-on instruction, time outdoors, and the chance to connect with other women who share your love for adventure.

All equipment is provided.
Register at https://gooutdoorssouthdakota.com/

ADDTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

HUNTSAFE

HUNTER SAFETY AND FIREARM EDUCATION

Where do I find a listing of HuntSAFE classes in my area?

https://gooutdoorssouthdakota.com/

What ages can attend the HuntSAFE classes?
South Dakota's HuntSAFE (Safety And Firearms Education) courses are designed for persons age 12 through 15. Persons who are 11 may participate, but will not be issued a Hunter Safety certification card until they turn 12, unless the card is clearly marked that the card is not valid in South Dakota until their 12th birthday.

2027 HuntSafe classes will be posted in March

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Program Purpose

To cultivate stewardship and safely connect people with the outdoors by supporting and leading educational opportunities for The Outdoor Campus.



Volunteer Positions

EDUCATION ASSISTANT:

Education Assistant volunteers support classes by performing tasks like classroom management support, archery/BB gun range commands, baiting fishing hooks, ensuring safety during programming, and more.

ANIMAL CARE:

Animal Care volunteers are responsible for feeding and caring for the educational animals and keeping their area clean and presentable. Must be able to commit to a weekly assignment.

FRONT DESK:

Front Desk volunteers are responsible for greeting guests, answering questions, and directing visitors to various areas and people in the building. Front Desk Volunteers are the first people visitors see when entering the Outdoor Campus.



How to Apply

Volunteers must be at least 12 years old.
Apply online at gfp.sd.gov/volunteer-toc-east/
Interview with a volunteer coordinator.
Anyone under 18 will need a parent/guardian present.
Complete a volunteer orientation.
Commit to a minimum of 25 hours (youth) or 50 hours (adult) a year.

ABOUT THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS

Mission Statement

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks provides sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardship and safely connecting people with the outdoors.



How are these classes FREE?

Our funding comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses in South Dakota. If you like our classes thank a hunter or an angler.

How can we support The Outdoor Campus?

Buy a hunting and fishing license in South Dakota. Nationwide the sale of licenses are declining rapidly as we lose the Baby Boomer Generation. They were the last large group of hunters and anglers. We need to replace the funds they put toward habitat, wildlife management, conservation, recreation and education. Every single license you buy in your family helps fisheries, pheasant habitat and so much more—including The Outdoor Campus.

Do you get any other funds?

We do receive some funding from a Federal excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment sales. A small portion of each fishing pole or shotgun you buy can go toward hunting and fishing programs here.