



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —



2026-27 | School Program Guide

4500 S Oxbow Ave | Sioux Falls, SD | 605.362.2777

gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/

SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Our goal for school programming is to deliver experiential outdoor education programs that are both meaningful to students and aligns with what teachers are already covering in the classroom.



Your class can register to do a field trip at The Outdoor Campus and experience the programming in a novel setting, or we can bring the programming to your classroom.

***We can also deliver programs via Zoom if necessary.**

The programs listed in this booklet are great options to choose from and many are designed to be adapted into a classroom setting as well. However, **we are flexible and open to your ideas.**

If you don't see something on the list, have a new idea, are covering something in your classroom that you would like for us to build upon, please feel free to reach out and we can talk about creating new programming.

***All of our programming can be modified to cater any age group.**

For questions about programming, please contact our School Coordinator, Raghav, at Raghav.SriramYogeeswari@state.sd.us
or call 605.362.2717

REGISTRATION



For registration, you will contact our School Coordinator, Raghav, at
Raghav.SriramYogeeswari@state.sd.us

or call 605.362.2717

Here is all the information we will need from you during registration:
Program Date, Time, Type of Programming, Class Size, Age Group, and Teacher Contact Information.

And here are some things to consider:

Class Size: The maximum class size for most programs is set at 30 students, minimum number is 10. If you have more than 30 students or multiple sections, we can discuss doing programming in rotations or schedule for multiple times/dates.

Cost: There are no fees to our programs. Thank a hunter or angler for supporting these educational experiences.

Cancellations: Please notify us of all cancellations or adjustments that may be needed as soon as possible.

Chaperones: We encourage chaperones' participation to assist in the supervision of students. We request that one adult attend for every 10 children.

Confirmation: Following your registration, we will confirm with you the details of the program and keep you updated on any changes.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Animals in South Dakota

What kinds of animals live in South Dakota? Animal adaptations, along with their relationships and importance in this ecosystem are strong themes of this class. This is a very informative and hands-on presentation that can include furs, skulls, tracks, scat, and live animals.

*This program can be customized to meet your classroom needs.

(1.0–2.0 hours)

Nature Track and Traces Hike

A naturalist will lead you on a hike to observe for signs of active wildlife, seasonal changes, and learn to identify local flora and fauna.

(1.0-1.5 hours)

Fishing

Come learn the basics of fishing, along with an overview of gear, safety, casting techniques, and fish identification. Then try your luck fishing at our pond!

(1.0-1.5 hours)

Fish Dissection/Anatomy

Come learn about fish inside and out! This hands-on class explores the basic anatomy and physiology of fish, along with key adaptations that helps these aquatic creatures live and thrive in their environment.

(1.0-1.5 hours)

Kayaking and Canoeing

Learn basic safety and paddling techniques for kayaks and canoes, then get to practice your new skill at our pond! Students are encouraged to wear sandals or shoes that can get wet.

(1.0-1.5 hours)

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Introduction to Archery

Join us as we learn all about the fascinating sport of archery in this introductory class. We will learn the fundamentals of archery including safety, equipment, technique, and ethics. Then we will try your new skills on 3D targets at our archery range.

(1-1.5 hours)

BB Guns Basics & Safety

Join us as we learn about basic safety, shooting positions, and firearm handling techniques used in shooting sports. Improve your accuracy with tips and tricks on how to better your aim in a safe setting.

(1-1.5 hours)

Orienteering/Map and Compass

This is a sport that uses a detailed map to select routes while navigating through unfamiliar terrain. Orienteering will help your students' map reading skills, concentration, and their ability to make quick decisions about the best route to take. This sport can be enjoyed by a walk through the natural habitats at The Outdoor Campus or as a competitive race.

An advanced orienteering class will also include the basics on how to use a compass.

(1-1.5 hours)

Lewis and Clark Adventures

Two hundred years ago, Lewis and Clark made their way along the Missouri River through what is today part of South Dakota. Come along with "Capt. Lewis" and "Capt. Clark" to learn the history and some of the skills it took to be an early explorer.

(1.5-2.0 hours)

SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Owls and Owl Pellet Dissection

Learn all about owls, their habitat, and their amazing adaptations that make them the apex predators they are. Students will also get to dissect owl pellets and explore all of the owl's life secrets that may be hidden in one.

(1-1.5 hours)

Wetland Biology

Learn all about wetlands and the important role they play in our environment. Students will discover the multitude of species that depend upon wetlands and how they help humans as well. Students will also learn how human activity impacts wetlands and how those impacts can be mitigated. And finally, they will get to play the habitat game or build their own wetlands using play-dough!

(1-1.5 hours)

Grasslands Biology

Learn all about South Dakota's prairie and grassland ecosystems and their incredible importance to our world. Students will learn to identify native flora and fauna, while gaining a deeper understanding of the amazing adaptations that let the plethora of grassland species live and thrive in the prairies of South Dakota.

(1-1.5 hours)

Aquatic Invasive Species in South Dakota

Aquatic Invasive Species refers to those aquatic flora and fauna that are not native to an area and are likely to cause harm of some sort. This class will introduce students to aquatic ecosystems, explore aquatic invasive species and their life-cycles, and the real-life problems caused by AIS in South Dakota.

(1-1.5 hours)

SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Endangered Species / “Going, Going, Gone”

Who’s disappearing from our planet and why? What’s meant by the different classifications – threatened, endangered, and extinct? Play a game and participate in activities that highlight some of South Dakota’s disappearing wildlife, and learn what you can do to help.

(1-1.5 hours)

Home Is Where the Habitat Is

Get to explore South Dakota’s wildlife and what habitats they call home through games and hands-on activities. Learn about what wildlife need in order to survive and thrive in a changing world.

(1-1.5 hours)

History of Conservation

The history of conservation in the US is a crucially important part of the world we live in today. Learn all about the different eras of wildlife management in the US from the greatest mistakes made to the greatest success stories.

(1 hour)

“Leave it to Beaver” / Ecosystem Engineers

Come learn all about the amazing adaptations of the American Beaver and how they modify where they live to serve other species. And just to add more fun, we will dress up one of your classmates to be a beaver.

*The program can also be modified to cater to an older audience with a shifted focus on ecosystem engineers in the environment.

(0.5-1 hour)

Reptiles and Amphibians / “Awesome Amphibians”

Come learn about all the unique characteristics that make amphibians and reptiles so cool. Learn about some of the common threats to these animals, and how scientists use amphibians to determine the health of an ecosystem. This program will include educational games and meeting some of our live animal ambassadors.

(1-1.5 hours)

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Wonder of Seeds

This class introduces students to the wonders of nature through the fascinating world of seeds. Students will explore where seeds are found, how they travel, and what they need to grow.

(1.0-1.5 hours)

Survival Skills

Come learn what to do in a outdoor survival situation. Topics covered include winter survival, fire building, shelter, first aid, compass navigation and general preparedness.

(1.0-2.0 hours)

Winter Programming

Ice Fishing

Learn the basics of what it takes to fish under the ice in South Dakota and how to do it safely. We will talk about equipment needed, safety, and characteristics of ice before heading out to the pond and dropping a line. **Wear warm winter clothes.**

(1.0-1.5 hours)

Cross Country Skiing

Learn the history and basic technique of the sport, then go outdoors to practice your newly learned skill on our ski trails. Skis, poles and ski boots are provided by The Outdoor Campus.

Must have at least 4" of good snow to ski. Wear warm winter clothes.

(1-1.5 Hours)

Snow Shoeing

Learn about how to dress appropriately for the winter and some snowshoeing technique before hitting the trails to go on a snowy trek.

Wear warm winter clothes and waterproof boots.

(1-1.5 Hours)

***All of our winter programming is weather dependent and subject to cancellation if there is not enough snow or if ice conditions are unsafe.**

SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Career Pathways

The field of natural resource provides a ton of fun and exciting career opportunities. Learn about some of those careers and the pathways you can take to find a job that's right for you. This program can be personalized to include guest lecturers from our department staff (biologists, conservation officers, naturalists, etc.)

(0.5-1 hour)

CRITTER CRATES



The Outdoor Campus provides **FREE** crates complete with props and curriculum to help aid educational instruction. Crate options include everything from hides and scat to aquatic invasive species for you to teach about in your classroom. For more information, and to see available crates and their contents, Contact Jean Olson at jean.olson@state.sd.us or call 605-362-2777.

***Crates can be reserved for a 1 week period, and must be picked up.**

ALL CLASSES ARE FREE



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 is declining rapidly as we lose the Baby Boomer Generation. They were the last large group of hunters and anglers in North America.

We need to replace the funds they put towards habitat, wildlife management, conservation, recreation, and education. Every single license you buy helps contribute to fisheries, wildlife habitat and so much more—including education programs at 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 rod or shotgun shell you buy goes toward hunting, fishing, and conservation programs we teach here.

We offer a variety of professional development opportunities for teachers. Here are some readily available workshops:

Project Wild



This workshop will help educators become familiar with the use of Project Wild and Growing Up Wild curriculums and materials. The workshop will include classroom instruction, an opportunity to practice activities and engage in outdoor field experience. For more information contact Raghav Sriram Yogeeswari at Raghav.SriramYogeeswari@state.sd.us

Project Learning Tree



This workshop will help educators become familiar with the use of Project Learning Tree (PLT) curriculums and materials through hands-on experience. PLT is an environmental education program that engages students in learning about the environment through the lens of trees and forests. For more information contact Raghav at Raghav.SriramYogeeswari@state.sd.us

HuntSAFE for Schools



This workshop will train educators to be able to run a HuntSAFE class in their schools. This firearms safety course meets a number of content standards in Physical Education, Science, CTE, Environmental Science, etc. For more information contact Brandon Maahs at Brandon.Maahs@state.sd.us

National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)



This workshop will train teachers to run their own NASP program at their school. This program is designed to promote instruction in international style target archery and participation of students in shooting sports. For more Information, contact Jason Nelson at Jason.Nelson@state.sd.us

All of these workshops can be eligible for Continuing Ed, Undergraduate, or Graduate Credits.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



If you have students who are **12 years and older** and are interested in the outdoors, they can now apply to be a volunteer at The Outdoor Campus. The role of volunteers will be to safely connect people with the outdoors by supporting educational opportunities at the campus.

Please feel free to encourage your students who are interested in volunteering to submit a completed application form on our website (gfp.sd.gov/volunteer-toc-east/) or contact our **Volunteer Coordinator, Paige**, at Paige.Schultz@state.sd.us if you have any questions.



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Instagram @outdoorcampus_siouxfalls



Find our website gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/

THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS



Founded by SDGFP in 1997

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) 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.

The purpose of The Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls is to provide hands-on experiences in hunting, fishing, outdoor skills, and conservation science through free educational classes. Visitors can explore our indoor exhibits, an outdoor playscape, and enjoy over 2 miles of trails for walking and cross-country skiing.

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