



# OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —



## 2024-2025 | School Program Guide

4500 S Oxbow Ave | Sioux Falls, SD | 605.362.2777

[gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/](http://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/)



# OUR GOAL



Our goal for school programming is to provide exciting and fulfilling educational opportunities enrich the concepts teachers are already covering in the classroom. Our programming is designed to align with state/national standards and give students the opportunity to learn and experience activities that they may not typically receive in the classroom.



**Other Opportunities:** Your class has the opportunity to do a field trip to The Outdoor Campus where you can experience the programming in a novel setting, we can bring the programming into your classroom, or we can deliver the class via Zoom. Each programming opportunity is experientially based to support your traditional classroom education.

The programs listed in this booklet are great options and many can be delivered in the classroom as well. However, we are flexible and open to ideas. If you don't see something that you would like your students to experience or have an idea how we could help provide programming for your students please feel free to reach out.

For questions about programming opportunities please contact us at  
TOC@state.sd.us or call 605.362.2700

# SCHEDULE PROCESS



**\*\*\*ONLINE SIGNUP NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME\*\*\***

For questions or to register contact:  
TOC@state.sd.us or call: 605.362.2777

**Class Size:** The maximum class size for most programs is set at 30 students, minimum number is 10.

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

**Cancellations:** Please notify us of all cancellations or adjustments that may be needed.

**Chaperones:** We encourage chaperones' participation to assist with supervision of students. We request a 1 to 10 ratio for all field trips.

**Confirmation:** Following scheduling of an Outdoor Campus Class, we will confirm with you the details and keep you updated on items to bring to the campus.

***\*We do NOT allow groups to eat lunch in the building. There is a large, covered area in Sertoma Park with many picnic Tables. Please have a plan for where your students are going to eat in the event of inclement weather.\****

## Self Tours



Explore our two miles of walking trails, nature playscape area along with Sertoma Park's excellent multi-age playground, sound tubes, whisper dish and geodome.

\* The bridge has just recently been re-opened. Check it out!

\* Our museum is now being used for classroom space.

\* Students are welcome to check out our classroom animals in small, supervised groups.

## Animals in South Dakota



This program will be personalized to meet your classroom needs with age appropriate learning activities to learn animal identification and adaptations, management, food chains, movements and habitat. Specialized programs

can be led for bats, beavers, birds, amphibians, reptiles and insects. (1.0—2.0 hours)

## Nature Track and Scat Hike

A naturalist will lead you on a hike of our trails to observe the seasonal changes. Look for signs of active wildlife by the tracks and traces they leave behind. (1.0-2.0 hours)

## 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 do activities that highlight some of South Dakota's disappearing wildlife. Learn what you can do to help. (1.5 hours)

## Lewis and Clark Adventures

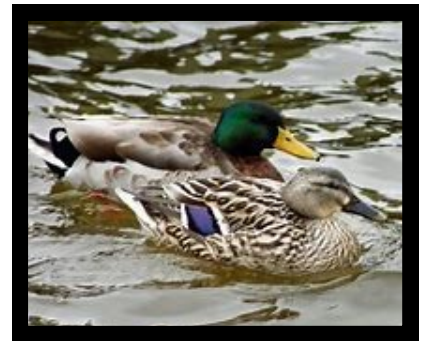
Two hundred years ago, Lewis and Clark made their way along the Missouri River through today's South Dakota. Come along with "Capt. Lewis" and "Capt. Clark" to learn the history and some of the skills it took to be an early explorer. Learn to navigate by magnetic compass, describe plants and find out about the animals the Corps of Discovery encountered as they went hunting and discovered what President Jefferson bought with the Louisiana Purchase.

(2.0 hours)

## Wetland Biology (Spring and Fall)

Learn all about wetlands and the important role they play in our ecosystems. Students will discover all the various species dependent on wetlands and how they help humans as well. Students will learn how human activity impacts wetlands and ways that impact is mitigated. They will also get to play a kid favorite, the habitat game!

(1-1.5 hours)



## Orienteering

This is a sport that uses a detailed map to select routes while navigating through unfamiliar terrain. Orienteering will help with your students' map reading skills, concentration and the 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.

(1.0 to 1.5 hours)





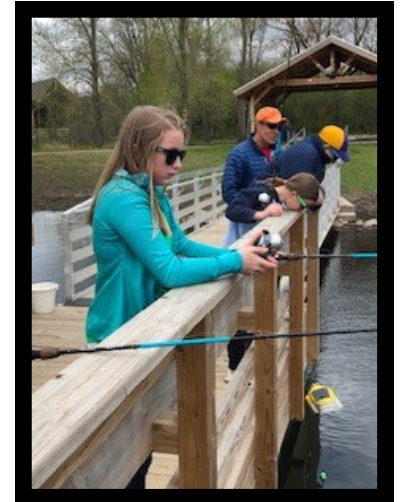
# Elementary & Middle School



## Fishing/Ice Fishing

Fishing is another great lifetime sport that people all over South Dakota enjoy. Learn the basics of fishing, necessary equipment, casting techniques and how to bait your hook. Then try your luck fishing in our pond.

(1-1.5 hours)



## Introduction to Archery

Introducing students to a lifetime sport such as archery has benefits inside and outside the classroom. This class will teach your students the basics of archery in a fun and safe environment. Getting kids active in the outdoors makes it more likely that they will serve as stewards of our state's bountiful natural resources as well. (1– 1.5 hours)

## Home Is Where the Habitat Is

Get to know South Dakota's wildlife and what habitats they call home through games and hands-on activities.

Learn what wildlife and people need to survive. Go on a habitat hike outdoors and discover signs of wildlife. (1 hours)

## Owls and Owl Pellet Dissection

Learn all about owls, their habitat, and their amazing adaptations that makes them the amazing predators they are. Students will also get to dissect their own owl pellet and explore all of the exciting parts that may be hidden in one. (1 hour)



## **Fishing Basics**

Get an introduction to fishing equipment, casting skills, fish species, knots, and more, then go fishing at our pond. (1-2 hours)

## **Fish Cleaning/Anatomy**

Come learn about fish inside and out. We will go over a couple methods on how to prepare them for the frying pan, and learn about some basic fish anatomy as well. (1-2 hours)

## **Archery/Bow hunting**

Join us as we learn all about the fascinating sport of archery and bow hunting. We will learn all about the fundamentals including safety, equipment and ethics with archery equipment. We will try your skills with 3D targets on our range. (1-1.5 hours)

## **BB Guns Basics/Safety**

Join us as we learn basic safety, shooting positions and techniques used while shooting and hunting. Improve your accuracy with tips and tricks on how to improve your aim in a safe environment. (1-1.5 hours)

## **Kayak and Canoeing**

Learn basic safety and paddling strokes, and then practice your new skills on our pond in canoes and kayaks. Wear sandals or shoes that can get wet. (1-1.5 hours)

## **Cross Country Skiing**

Learn the basics of the sport, then go outdoors to practice your skills on our trails. Skis, poles and ski boots are provided by The Outdoor Campus. Must have at least 4" of good snow to ski. (1-1.5 Hours)

## Orienteering/Map and Compass

Learn the basics on how to read a map and use a compass. We will learn about all of the parts and tips and tricks to be able to navigate in the backcountry hunting, in orienteering meets or in adventure races.

## Ice Fishing

Learn the basics of what it takes to ice fish in SD and how to do it safely. We'll talk about basic equipment, safety, and ethics before heading out to the pond and dropping a line. **Bring warm winter clothes.**

## Snow Shoeing

Snowshoeing is a fun way to explore the outdoors in winter! Learn about appropriate clothing and technique, then hit the trails to test your skills on a trek. Wear warm clothes and waterproof boots.

## Conservation History

The history of conservation in the US is an 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.

## Endangered Species

Students will learn all about how species become endangered, how endangered species are protected, and what endangered species we have here in South Dakota. Learn about the history of conservation in the United States and how humans impact populations and how wildlife is managed today.

## Career Pathways

The natural resource field provides a ton of fun and exciting career opportunities. Learn all about what careers are possible and the pathways you can take to find a job that's right for you.



# Critter Crates



## THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS CRITTER CRATE USE POLICY

**"Teacher Resources & Critter Crates."**

### CRITTER CRATES AND ACTIVITY CRATES

- Bat Crate
- Fishing Crate
- Binocular Crate
- GPS Crate (2 available)
- Camera Crate
- Snowshoe Crate (5 available)
- Mammal Crate (3 available)
- Track Sack
- Tree Trunk

Reserve early. Spring and fall months are heavily booked.

For more info: go to [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) -> "education" -> "Outdoor Campus" -> "Outdoor Campus—Sioux Falls" -> "Loaner Equipment" -> "Critter Crate Booklet"

### SNOWSHOE CRATES\*

(\*Must have 3 inches of snow on the ground before release)

**Must be picked up, not mailed**

**Reserved by any adult for a period of one week**

If you would like to see the inventory sheet for any of the crates listed above, call 362-2777 or email [toc@state.sd.us](mailto:toc@state.sd.us). We will be glad to send what you need or to answer any questions about Critter Crate contents or use.

# Teacher Professional



## Project Wild



This workshop will train participants to use Project Wild and Growing Up Wild curriculums. This class qualifies participants to receive resource guides and materials. These are nature-based programs that relate to South Dakota Content Standards requirements. The workshop includes classroom



instruction, an opportunity to practice activities, and engage in outdoor field experience. South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks will provide the resources for Project Wild and are funded through hunting and fishing license fees. For more information contact: Sandy Richter at [Sandy.Richter@state.sd.us](mailto:Sandy.Richter@state.sd.us)

## HuntSafe Instructor

This workshop will train participants in how to run a HuntSafe class at their school. HuntSafe is the only firearms safety course recognized in the State of South Dakota to fulfill the requirement in law for young hunters (ages 12 and up) to obtain a hunting license. For more information contact Brandon Maahs at [Brandon.Maahs@state.sd.us](mailto:Brandon.Maahs@state.sd.us)



## NASP

This work shop will train participants to run their own NASP program at their school. NASP stands for National Archery in the Schools Program and is the largest youth archery program in history. If you

are interested in this workshop contact Brandon Maahs at [Brandon.Maahs@state.sd.us](mailto:Brandon.Maahs@state.sd.us)



**These workshops can be eligible for Continuing Ed Credits,  
Undergraduate Credit, or Graduate Credit**

# Be a Volunteer!



## Volunteer Opportunities

By becoming a volunteer at The Outdoor Campus, you will experience a variety of opportunities that will increase your own and other's awareness of South Dakota's great outdoors!

### Examples include:

- Program Assistance (fishing, paddling, outdoor cooking, archery, etc.)
- Gardening
- Animal Care
- Special Events
- Front Desk Duty



## How To Get Started!

- 1) Submit a completed application form on The Outdoor Campus website.  
[gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/](http://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/)
- 2) The volunteer coordinator will call to set up an interview once your application is received and reviewed.
- 3) Once your interview is completed and a background check is completed, the volunteer coordinator will schedule an orientation to get you more familiar with The Outdoor Campus and what you'll be doing here!
- 4) Finally, after the orientation, you'll be ready to start volunteering! You will be able to sign up online for whatever available programs you choose.

## Find Us Online



**Facebook @outdoorcampusSF**



**Instagram @outdoorcampus\_siouxfalls**



**Find our website [gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/](http://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/)**



# 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.

Founded by GFP in 1997



## 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.