





APRIL-JUNE PROGRAMS BELOW!









#### 101 SIGNUPS

April - June is the month to sign up for a variety of our indepth 101 classes. See the articles below to see how you can participate in one of these great programs.

#### **OPENING DAY**

The campus will open on Saturdays for the season starting May 31st. Join us for food trucks and a small 3D shoot to start the summer.

#### **CUSTER 3D SHOOT**

This year we are teaming up with Custer State Park to put on the biggest and best 3D shoot we have done yet. Read more about it below.

#### **SUMMER COURSES**

There is a whole host of spring and summer programs coming up that we are putting extra effort into this quarter. We want to provide a quality experience at an always FREE cost. Make sure to check out the program fliers at the end of this newsletter to see all the things we are going to have from April - June. We may even have some food trucks available to make it an enjoyable experience.





#### 101 OPPORTUNITIES

#### by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

101 opportunities have expanded to year round opportunities here at The Outdoor Campus. 101 opportunities consist of multi-session programs that end in field experiences. The best part is that they are free and have been paid for by hunters, anglers and target shooters.

If there isn't enough room in the program then we will have alternatives to accommodate everyone. All gear is provided. The only expense to you will be a hunting or fishing license. These programs are not designed for just youth. If you would like to sign your youth up for this program, we will require the parent or guardian to participate right along side. Adults and families with youth 12 yrs old or older are encouraged to apply.

**Turkey 101:** This application will only be open for a week after this newsletter gets out. If you miss it this year, please know that turkey 101 is an option for the following years. This 101 includes a Meet and Greet with classroom lessons, a turkey hunting seminar, a video call to get your license and learn to scout, a range day and 1-2 days in the field with a one of our mentors. **APPLY HERE** 

Fishing 101/Ultimate Fishing Experience: This program will be all about time on the water. Apply to be apart of this cohort as we add people each season to try ice fishing, spearing, boat fishing and any type of fishing I can think of. Our goal is to learn about the different gear used for each species and techniques to target them. We will fish many different reservoirs and streams to learn a wide range of fishing styles.

#### **APPLY HERE**

Fly Fishing 101: With just a few classes we can get you comfortable and proficient with a fly rod. This program will spend lots of time practicing that cast and putting that practice to work on reservoirs and streams in the area.

**APPLY HERE** 

# 101 OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

Hunting 101: Hunting 101 is our bread and butter 101 program. Participants usually spent an average of 21 hours in this program last year learning about wildlife management, gear, safe firearm handling, applying for tags, e-scouting, spend some time on the range and are guided on a deer hunt. This program is designed for folks wanting support in learning how to hunt. We understand the barriers of gun safety, knowing where to go and what the regulations are. Campus staff and volunteer mentors are here to help with that and guide you along the way. Our goal is to empower you with the knowledge and skills needed to become a hunter. APPLY HERE

Bowhunting 101: This program has very limited availability as bowhunting requires a lot of time and 1:1 attention. It is not required but hunting 101 is a preferred prerequisite to bowhunting 101 On night one we will be setting you up with a bow and fitting it to you. After that we will have multiple practices and honing our skills to work on shooting form to progress as a bowhunter. We then will spend some time in the field scouting and setting up stands and cameras before going on a deer hunt. **APPLY HERE** 



#### **GUN RANGE!!**

by Brett Johnson (Naturalist)

Pew-Pew.... Pew-Pew is the sound

that has been running through my head as we near the opening of the new South Dakota Shooting Sports Complex near Rapid City. The variety of shooting sports on this four-hundred-acre complex is exciting and has a lot of potential. I have yet to introduce someone to recreational shooting on the foundation of firearm safety. functional literacy and the equations for accuracy and they haven't become vested. Connecting individuals to shooting sports is good for my fun meter and even better for the work the Pittman-Robertson Act can do for everyone. Removing those uneasy mysteries of the "big bad gun" and watching those individuals transform into confidant advocates that can now talk about guns to their community, is important for the big picture of conversation. Shooting sports have a lot of diversity. They are a great entry point, they're a pathway to specialized shooting disciplines and they have a way of getting those lapsed outdoor enthusiasts excited again.

This complex is just what I needed to justify buying those PitViper sunglasses I have always wanted! I look forward to seeing everyone on the range.

Pull, Brett





# ENTRY POINTS INTO THE OUTDOORS

by Clint Whitley (naturalist)

We are gearing up for another summer of quality programs. There are lots of great things on the schedule from seminars, events with food trucks, shooting sports, rod building and lots of fishing. Over the course of the last 5 years, The Outdoor Campus west has taken a hard look at our programing to make it purposeful. We want to keep people engaged and come back for more. We call it our pathways. All sportsmen have a different entry point into the outdoors. An hour long class is our chance to snag a new fishermen or lifelong hunter so we aim to provide a quality experience but also attract participants in whatever way we can. That may be a kayaking class where participants are coming to paddle around the pond but when we ask those folks have they ever considered learning to hunt or shoot a bow, they jump right into that class. Most of our programs are going to be centered around hunting, fishing, trapping and shooting sports but every once in a while attracting the public with something other then that can bring us a new audience we may never have connected with. That allows them to start them down the pathway. We have seen it time and time again where a participant discovers the campus threw a simple hour long class and then they are taking everything we have to offer and buying every tag they can get. Some have even becoming friends and volunteers. If you are wanting to share the outdoors with someone, just remember that a pinnacle experience like an elk hunt or even a deer hunt may not be the best entry point for a new sportsmen. Take someone on a fishing trip for just a couple hours while the weather is nice, take them to one of our state parks to see the sights and fish while you're there or simply stop in to our office and walk around our habitats to observe the different wildlife we have in SD. Our education department is doing all it can to sustain our hunting and fishing heritage but the public is who will have the greatest impact. Many of us hunters may not want to see more hunters in our hunting spots but we do want to see support in all aspects for our activity and that comes from additional hunters and anglers





## TEACHER RESOURCES

by Daniel Cox (School Programs Coordinator)

Attention all teachers! With summer right around the corner, we know you will be looking for opportunities for teacher development. The Game fish and parks provides many opportunities for this, you can either deepen current skills or gain new ones. Programs offered are shown below and contact for those providing these opportunities.

HuntSAFE - 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 12-15) to obtain a hunting license. For more information contact Brandon Maahs at Brandon.Maahs@state.sd.us

NASP - This workshop 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

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

# SCHOOL PROGRAM FISHING AND LOCAL OPPORTUNTIES

by Daniel Cox (School Programs Coordinator)

With the weather warming up and the sun staying out longer, fishing season is coming into full swing. As the school coordinator I get the opportunity to help many kids catch their first fish and take part in the fun of doing so. After these kids leave our campus, I don't know if they will ever fish again unless they make it back here for another field trip. I hope to continue to work together with parents and educators to continue to provide and encourage opportunities for kids to get out and fish in the many ponds and lakes of south Dakota. For those who may not know kids under the age of 18 do not need a fishing license to fish in South Dakota. If your youth needs fishing equipment the Outdoor West campus has the option to loan the fishing equipment needed. With the many urban fisheries around Rapid City as well as the many lakes in the Black Hills and surrounding areas I hope to see a lot more young anglers fishing this summer!





SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS





# DEER BRATS AKA DEER DOGS

by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

Ingredients

- 17.5 lb ground deer meat
- 7.5 lb ground pork fat
- 32mm collagen casings
- Brat seasoning
- High temp cheese

If you are like my family, we grill year round and brats and hotdogs are a quick easy meal for a busy family. Store bought brats are great but I sure love making my own.

70% venison and 30% pork fat has been my favorite go to for a mixture so far but you can always tweak that. Grinding meat works best when it's semi frozen. Mix your favorite brat seasoning and the amount that the directions suggest for the amount of meat you have. I suggest the blue ribbon seasoning from Waltons. Grind both meats with a course grind, hand mix then grind through the medium plate. Then add the cheese until it appears it would make some cheese into each brat. Do not over mix. Avoid the meat getting sticky (protein extraction) For deer sticks and summer sausage this is important but not brats.

Load the meat into a sausage stuffer. The dual gear stuffers are worth any extra cost they may have. However a 5-7 lb. stuffer is sufficient. Make sure to avoid air bubbles but slowly turn the crank to fill the casings. This takes practice but keep them between splitting the casing and not full. It will still taste great no matter what.

I keep these raw and throw them right on the top rack of the grill as it's warming up. Rotate often and remove once they start spitting grease and cheese.



## **WOMEN IN HUNTING**

by Lacy Elrod (Campus Director)

Historically, women have long been considered gatherers, while males were considered hunters. Women are changing that perception in record numbers. Female hunters are one of the fastest-growing demographics in hunting. Providing food for their families, enjoying solitary time outside to connect with nature and learning about animals and their behaviors are just some of the reasons women are becoming hunters. The hunting industry has taken notice to this trend by providing hunting gear that is fitted especially for women making it easier for women to participate. There has even been a change in laws that allow fluorescent pink in addition to the traditional fluorescent orange as a legal exterior garment color (check regulations for examples of exterior garments and requirements).

More opportunities for women to learn hunting and fishing are also becoming more prominent. The Outdoor Campus continues to provide hunting education for everyone! In the past few years, we have seen more and more women participating in our hunting programs. Last year 13 out of the 28 participants were women in our Hunting 101 program. 100% of the women were successful in harvesting a deer and taking home some meat for their families. As we continue to provide hunting and fishing education, think about bringing the entire family! Hunting and fishing are great activities for the entire family. Women....if you are new to the sport and want to learn how to hunt or fish and don't see anything that works for you on our program schedule, get some of your friends together and let us plan a women's only program for you!





# OUTDOOR CAMPUS AND CUSTER STATE PARK 3D ARCHERY SHOOT

by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

We are doing it again. This event was such a hit last year that we have to do it again. We took over Center lake in Custer State Park for father's day weekend to host one of the biggest shoots in the area. We had over 60 targets last year ranging from 2 yards to 100 yards. We won't disappoint again this year with a spread of targets with some new challenges.

#### When - 2 day event

June 14th - Range opens at 8am and the last archers can start the course at  $5{:}00\mathrm{pm}$ 

June 15th - Range Opens at 8am and the last archers can start to shoot the course at noon. The range will start to be cleaned up behind the last archers at 1:00.

#### Where

13176 Center Lake Rd, Crazy Horse, SD 57730 Center Lake in Custer State Park. After you turn off S. Playhouse Rd on Center Lake Rd. follow the signs to check-in

#### **Shoot Details**

- Free Shoot
- 5-100+ yard targets
- Score cards available to challenge your group.
- No crossbows allowed
- No broadheads allowed
- Some beginner bows will be available with some short instruction for those interested in trying it out.
- No need to register

MORE DETAILS
SHOOT WEBSITE





#### **FALL INTERNSHIP**

#### by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

This is the opportunity for any college student to have an opportunity for the best job possible. Or should I call it a career. An old coach of mine use to say a JOB stood for just over broke. That may be in your salary or happiness. A career is something you invest in and my personal career started with Game Fish and Parks in the summer of 2007 and continued on until 2012. I will forever be thankful for that opportunity because it aided me in landing the position I currently hold and even was a factor in

If you want to start your career, here is a few things we are looking for.

meeting my wife! Fish

- Reliable
- Self-motivated and hard working
- Skilled hunters and anglers
- Personable and professional
- Public speaking skills





#### MAKE A SPLASH



Each year, South Dakota State Parks sponsors an annual activity to encourage everyone to visit and enjoy the parks. In 2025, we are making a splash! Get ready for a year filled with water adventures—whether you're paddling, swimming, or just dipping your toes, every moment on the water is one to remember. Follow us on social media and tag your posts with #SDInTheField to show how you're enjoying the water in, near, or around our parks.



#### **FOLLOW US!**

Stay up to date on program information in Rapid City by following us!



@outdoorcampus\_rapidcity



<u>Game, Fish & Parks Outdoor</u> <u>Campus-Rapid City</u>



South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks-Education



### ANTELOPE FOUNDATION

by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

We have conservation groups for just about all huntable big game species but we have been lacking a focus across the nation. A few conservation minded individuals stepped up to be only the 2nd state level Antelope focused foundation in the nation. South Dakota proudly now has the South Dakota Antelope Foundation. One of South Dakotas most almost prehistoric species needs some help. I can't say it any better then the foundation themselves so here is the reason they started.

Reason: The South Dakota Antelope Foundation was established with the aim of safeguarding the Pronghorn Antelope population in South Dakota. Our journey began with a vision to address the challenges faced by these magnificent animals and create a sustainable ecosystem for their thriving existence. We are committed to upholding the legacy of preserving the native wildlife and ensuring a harmonious coexistence between humans and the Pronghorn Antelope. (https://www.sdantelopefoundation.org/about-us)

Mission: The mission of the South Dakota Antelope Foundation is to dedicate our time and efforts to the welfare of Pronghorn Antelope. We actively seek to increase pronghorn populations in South Dakota through habitat improvements, education opportunities for hunters and non hunters as well as providing public comment on activities affecting pronghorn in South Dakota. As a 501c3 non-profit, all of our proceeds and donations help advance our mission. (South Dakota Antelope Foundation)

To get involved or support go to https://www.sdantelopefoundation.org/ and follow on Instagram and Facebook.

# **APRIL PROGRAMS**

#### **Entomology**

The Outdoor Campus is excited to host Hans
Stephenson with Dakota Angler and Outfitter. This
presentation will focus on insect identification, their
seasonal availability, life cycle and how to tie up a
handful of our local aquatic insects. We will be
providing a fly-tying supply list for the needed
materials, and he will have some tying vises on hand
for hands on tying instruction. Food trucks will be on
site for your personal purchase while you enjoy this
excellent seminar.

April 3 6:00 - 7:30 PM

#### Lady's Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Class is held in our indoor climate-controlled range for year-round comfort. Ages 8 and up, everyone must be registered, and youth must be accompanied by an adult. Ladies only

April 5, 10:00 - 11:30 PM

#### Fly Tying

Come learn the basics of fly tying and the tying equipment. We will be learning a great beginners fly pattern for year-round success right here in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 10 and up, youth need to be accompanied by a parent.

April 8, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

#### Intro to Shotguns

Learn how to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Rapid City Trap Club. Shotgun shooting is a great way to spend time with your family while developing safe firearms competency. Ages 12 and up.

April 9 5:30-7:30 PM April 23 5:30-7:30 PM

#### **Gun Cleaning**

Learn how to properly clean a gun. No materials needed. April 29 6-7:00 PM

#### Intro to Fishing

Learn how to cast, tie knots, ID different local species and learn techniques to catch fish followed by fishing in our Outdoor Campus pond. All gear will be provided. Hats, eye protection and sunscreen are encouraged. Ages 6 and up, children must be accompanied by an adult.

April 12, 9:00 - 11:00 PM

#### Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows.

Class is held in our indoor climate-controlled range for year-round comfort. Ages 8 and up, everyone must be registered, and youth must be accompanied by an adult.

April 15 6:00-7:30 PM April 29 6:00-7:30 PM

#### Fly Casting

Learn the gear and techniques needed to catch fish on a fly rod.

April 16 6:00-7:30

#### Intro to backpacking and ultralight fishing

Learn how to prep a pack for a several days trek, with the added bonus of catching your dinner ultra-light style. We will walk you through the process of fishing on the go, using a collapsible fishing pole, while presenting all the necessary safety procedures.

April 17 6-7:30 PM

#### Canning Deer Meat and Quesadillas

Learn to can deer meat and enjoy making quesadillas out of the high quality tender meat

April 22 6:00-7:30 PM

#### **Paddling**

Learn techniques to safely paddle canoes and kayaks on our Campus Pond. Lifejackets will be available. Must be 10 or older to participate and youth must be accompanied by an adult.

April 26, 10:00 - 12:00PM

# **MAY PROGRAMS**

#### **Spinning Rod Building**

In this class we will be building custom spinning rods for your summer fishing plans. We will meet multiple times to complete this project. There is no cost to you and the rods are yours to keep in the end. You must be able to attend all 3 dates to register for this event. Ages 16+, youth must be accompanied by an adult.

May 1,2,3 6:00-8:00 PM

#### Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Class is held in our indoor climate-controlled range for year-round comfort. Ages 8 and up, everyone must be registered, and youth must be accompanied by an adult.

May 5 6:00-7:30 PM May 16 6:00-7:30 PM

#### Intro to Fishing

Learn how to cast, tie knots, ID different local species and learn techniques to catch fish followed by fishing in our Outdoor Campus pond. All gear will be provided. Hats, eye protection and sunscreen are encouraged. Ages 6 and up, children must be accompanied by an adult.

May 6th 6:00-7:30 PM May 20th 6:00-7:30 PM

#### Intro to Shotguns

Learn how to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Rapid City Trap Club. Shotgun shooting is a great way to spend time with your family while developing safe firearms competency. Ages 12 and up, youth must be accompanied by an adult and only the shooter needs to be registered.

May 7 5:30-7:30 PM May 21 5:30-7:30 PM

#### Fly Tying

Come learn the basics of fly tying and the tying equipment. We will be learning a great beginners fly pattern for year-round success right here in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 10 and up, youth need to be accompanied by a parent.

May 9 5:30-7:00 PM

#### **Paddling**

Learn techniques to safely paddle canoes and kayaks on our Campus Pond. Lifejackets will be available. Must be 10 or older to participate and youth must be accompanied by an adult.

May 10 10:00 - 11:30 PM

#### **Backpacking**

If you are interested in learning the basics to take your camping trips to the next level, this class is for you. This class will cover all the basic gear you need to consider when going out on a backpacking trip Ages 8 and up.

May 17 10:00-12:00 PM

#### Canyon Lake Waterfowl ID

Join us at canyon lake with your set of optics to identify all the waterfowl hanging out on the lake.

May 22 6:00-7:00 PM

#### Fly Casting

Learn the gear and techniques needed to catch fish on a fly rod.

May 27 6:00-7:30 PM



# **MAY PROGRAMS**

#### 2025 Hunt Planner

Join us learn how to apply or buy a SD big game hunting license. We will show you how to navigate our website and a couple tips on how to be more successful in the draws.

May 28th 6:00-7:30 PM

#### Catch-it-Clean-it-Cook-it

Learn how to use fishing equipment to catch a fish in our front pond. Then learn how to clean your catch and cook it! Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

May 27 6:00-7:30 PM

#### **Opening Day Archery and Food Trucks**

You're invited to "Opening Day" of summer hours here at the Campus on Saturday May 31st. Come join the Outdoor Campus team for a day of archery and food trucks! We will have our 3D animal targets on our walk-through course and stationary field, along with intro to archery instruction with shooting at our indoor archery range (no equipment needed). Our Campus archery community is vibrant and welcoming, so come enjoy a day of food trucks and flinging arrows!

May 31 10:00-1:00 PM

# **JUNE PROGRAMS**

#### **Backcountry Hunting and Fishing**

Not all hunting and fishing opportunities exist within a short walk from the vehicle. Getting into the backcountry can get you away from the crowds and into some amazing country. Learn how to prepare for your next backcountry hunting and fishing trip.

June 3 6:00 - 8:00 PM

#### Intro to Hunting

If you are new to hunting and want to learn what it's all about to get a start into the hunting world this class is a great start. We will go hunting as a management tool, opportunities in SD and some discussion to get you going in the field.

June 5 6:00-7:30 PM

#### Intro to Fishing

Learn how to cast, tie knots, ID different local species and learn techniques to catch fish followed by fishing in our Outdoor Campus pond. All gear will be provided. Hats, eye protection and sunscreen are encouraged. Ages 6 and up.

June 7 10:30-12:00 PM June 24 6:00-8:00 PM

#### Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques you need to get involved in the sport of archery. Participants will learn the parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot a compound bow. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Close toed shoes are required. Ages 8 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

June 10 6:00 - 7:30 PM

#### Intro to Shotguns

Learn how to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Rapid City Trap Club. Shotgun shooting is a great way to spend time with your family while developing safe firearms competency. Ages 12 and up, youth must be accompanied by an adult and only the shooter needs to be registered.

June 11 6:00-8:00 PM

#### **CSP 3D Archery Shoot**

Join us for 50+ targets at center lake for this years campus 3D archery shoot. Preregistration helpful not required.

June 14 8:00-5:00 PM June 15 8:00-12:00 PM

#### **Paddling**

Learn techniques to safely paddle canoes and kayaks on our Campus Pond. Lifejackets will be available. Must be 10 or older to participate and youth must be accompanied by an adult.

June 18 6:00 - 8:00 PM June 23 6:00 - 8:00 PM

#### Fly Casting

Learn the gear and techniques needed to catch fish on a fly rod.

June 19 6:00 - 7:30 PM



# **JUNE PROGRAMS**

#### Family Animal and Fish Identification

Come learn all about the different species above ground and under the water that live here in SD.

June 20 10:30-12:00

#### Fly Tying

Come learn the basics of fly tying and the tying equipment. We will be learning a great beginners fly pattern for year-round success right here in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 10 and up, youth need to be accompanied by a parent.

June 21 10:30-12:00 PM

#### **Intro to Firearms**

The Outdoor Campus will teach you the operating components of different firearms and the fundamentals of safely. Class includes handling our inert safety guns. Youth must be accompanied by an adult, for ages 10 and up.

June 25 6:00 - 8:00 PM

#### Lady's Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Class is held in our indoor climate-controlled range for year-round comfort. Ages 8 and up, everyone must be registered, and youth must be accompanied by an adult. Ladies only

June 26 6:00 - 8:00 PM

#### Making Wild Game Brats and Sausage

One way to utilize a lot of your wild game from last fall is to make brats and sausage. We will go through a variety of recipes and strategies of making some great brats and sausage that you can enjoy for the entire year.

June 26 6:00-8:00 PM

#### On Location Kayak Fishing

Meet us for this destination fishing event. All equipment will be provided (or bring your own) along with advice on how to catch fish and use specific equipment. Participants must have taken an Intro to Paddling class to participate. June 27 6:00-8:00 PM

#### **Dutch Oven Tacos**

Learn how cook with and care for cast iron Dutch ovens. You will be making food, so come hungry! Closed-toed shoes are required for safety. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. We will be making tacos with some of South Dakota wonderful Wild game.

June 28 10:30-12:00 PM

# Range Day: Rifle and Centerfire Rifle Shooting at Fall River Gun Club

we will spend time at the rifle range getting comfortable handling firearms safely and learning how to shoot .22's and centerfire rifles

June 28 10:00 - 12:00 PM