



### JAN-MARCH PROGRAMS BELOW!

605.394.2310 | [tocwest@state.sd.us](mailto:tocwest@state.sd.us)

- SEP 2024**  
**20**  
**FRI**  
 Introduction to Pheasant Hunting (230149)  
 The Outdoor Campus - Sioux Falls  
 4500 S Oxbow Ave  
 Sioux Falls SD, 57107  
 Edit View
- SEP 2024**  
**21**  
**SAT**  
 Harvest Festival (230147)  
 Fort Sisseton State Park  
 11907 434th Avenue  
 Lake City SD,  
 Edit View
- SEP 2024**  
**26**  
**THU**  
 Custer State Park's Buffalo Round Up GFP Volu  
 Custer State Park Visitor Center  
 13400 US Hwy 16A  
 Custer SD, 57730  
 Edit View



### NEW REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Registration for our programs is now all in the same location as buying your hunting/fishing license and camping reservations. Make sure you have a Go Outdoors account for your whole family and check out our winter programs.

### NEW FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

Hear from our senior fisheries biologist about some new and improved fisheries to hit this ice fishing season. The biologists have been working hard to create some great opportunities year round and the winter time is one of the best times to access any part of the lake.

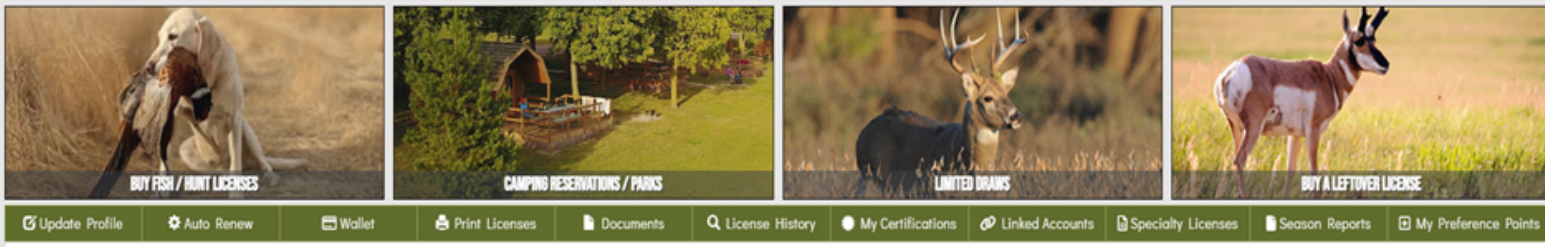
### NEW STAFF!

We are excited to bring on board our new schools program coordinator to start working with our school age students and providing new and unique opportunities.

### THIS ISSUES THEME: NO WINTER BLUES FOR US

Days are short this time of the year and temperatures tend to keep us by our fireplaces but this is not the time of year to put on your quitters (sweat pants) and not get out and enjoy the great outdoors that South Dakota has to offer. In this issue we have classes and things to help you find your fit in the woods and on the water this winter.





# NEW REGISTRATION SYSTEM



by Lacy Elrod (Campus Director)

We have now transitioned to our registration system over to Go Outdoors South Dakota. What this means for you is you will be able to do everything Game, Fish and Parks has to offer from one place. You will be able to purchase your hunting or fishing license, reserve a camp site, and register for an educational program and at one place at one time! For those of you who already have an account, you do not need to do anything, unless you will need to link kids or others to your account (see step 3). Need to set up an account? Check out the steps below to prepare you for the switch.

1.) You can follow the directions in this short video on how to set up an account: Watch this for [Click Here to watch](#) or log on to <https://gooutdoorsouthdakota.com/> and click through the steps to set up your account.

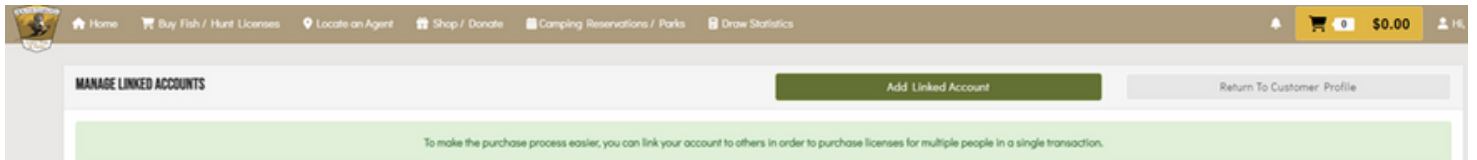
2.) Once you have created an account you should be able to log on to Go Outdoors.

\*\*\*Parents or caregivers there is an additional step needed to register for program for your kids. Each kid will need an account. You will follow the same process you do for yourself to set up an account but do so for each of your kids. This will allow you to link their account to yours.

3.) To link kids or others to your account:

Log into your Go Outdoors South Dakota account and click the linked account green tab. (see photo above.)

Next click add linked account



Link Customer: search for accounts you wish to add. Keep doing this until you have added all people you wish to be able to register or make purchases (licenses) on their behalf.

You will only have to do these steps once. From this point on if you wish to register for a class, you will log in to your account on Go Outdoors South Dakota and register for programs for yourself and/or anyone you linked to your account.

To register you will need to go to <https://gooutdoorsouthdakota.com/> and search for education programs. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to our regional office for assistance. Rapid City Outdoor Campus/Region 1-605-394-2310

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

Customer Last Name

Last Four of SSN

More Login Options -

## CLASSES TO LOOK FOR IN JANUARY - MARCH

by *Clint Whitley (Naturalist)*

We have some high quality educational opportunities coming up this quarter that you do not want to miss. We have invited a host of experts in their field to share their knowledge for what they are passionate about. Here are few programs to get yourself registered for.

- Coyote Hunting Seminar
- Making Deer brats and sausage
- Mountain Lion Hunting
- Fly Casting
- Ice Fishing
- Intro to Archery
- Hunting gear pack dump
- Fly Tying
- Hunt Planner
- Long Range Shooting
- Boone and Crocket Club
- Intro to Archery
- Intro to Firearms
- Wild game cooking
- Wild game canning

If there are more hunting/fishing/trapping classes that you would like to see just reach out and we will try to provide some options. [brett.johnson@state.sd.us](mailto:brett.johnson@state.sd.us)



## NEW STAFF!!

by *Daniel Cox (School Programs Coordinator)*

Hello, I'm Daniel Cox, the new schools program coordinator here at the Outdoor Campus for the Game, Fish, and Parks department. I grew up in central Utah where I learned how to hunt and fish, as well as many other recreational activities. I am joining the education team with a bachelor's degree in Outdoor Recreation with an emphasis in outdoor education. With a deep-rooted love for the natural world, I'm committed to fostering a connection between people and nature, especially among our younger generation.

Through a variety of engaging programs and experiences, I strive to inspire curiosity, environmental stewardship, and a lifelong appreciation for the wonders of the outdoors. Whether it's exploring the majestic Black Hills, catching your first fish, or learning about our local wildlife, I'm dedicated to providing opportunities for everyone to experience the beauty and diversity of our state's natural resources.

Join me, starting this January, as we embark on unforgettable adventures, learn about wildlife and ecosystems, and develop essential outdoor skills. Together, let's create a brighter future for our environment and inspire the next generation of conservationists. If you have a school group you would like to register for a program please reach me at [daniel.cox@state.sd.us](mailto:daniel.cox@state.sd.us)





# GEAR DUMP

by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

## LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS

by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

For this next quarter of classes we have reached out to some local experts to bring their knowledge to our campus participants. These programs are all posted on our Go Outdoors registration page as well as on our fliers below. Make sure you don't miss these because it might be your only opportunity.

Jan 6th we will have one of our state trappers in attendance sharing his knowledge and experience with coyote hunting. He will go over how to setup, where to setup and the regulations, safety and tactics for using thermals. The coyote population in SD is pretty prevalent so take advantage of this learning opportunity to put some great fur in your trap shed.

Mountain lion season is almost here and we have a successful mountain lion hunter (Sean Fulton) coming on Jan 21st from 6:00-8:00 to share his experience hunting mountain lions in the hills without the use of dogs. He will go over as many strategies as he can fit in a 2 hour seminar. No need to register, just show up to the campus and be ready to learn.

March 6th we will have Mike Kuzara the new shooting range complex supervisor. He has been working hard to create some really cool opportunities for not just our western SD shooters but for shooters all over the country to use this facility. After touring this property the other day, it is very exciting to see what an awesome facility this will be. Mike will go over all the great things that can be done there and as many details as he can as to when it will open and how the public can use this free facility.

March 20th we are pleased to have Josh Cluff from H.S. Precision bring his knowledge of long range shooting to the campus. This is a new opportunity for the campus and we look forward to learning from him on how to become a better rifle shooter.

March 27th we will have Gary English and official scorer from Boon and Crockett Club. He will be sharing all about the club and how to score your deer or elk.

We are very excited to have all these individuals willing to donate their time. We will be scouring the community to see who else we can find so if you have leads, reach out to us, we would love to have a conversation about it.

The main hunting seasons are over and a lot of our hunter gear might just get thrown in some bins and the safe for it to be next years problem. We have a better solution that will help maintain your current gear and spread out the expenses of much needed new gear.

The first step to take is to organize all your hunting gear now. Get your guns cleaned and everything put away nicely. Make a list of those things you wish you would have had for your hunt so you have a bit of a budget and purchasing plan for your next season. For the new gear items you are wanting, there are a bunch of sales that run between now and next fall. Sign up for newsletters from companies you are wanting to make a purchase from and watch for those sales to happen. It could save you hundreds of dollars.

If you don't know what you need for gear, sign up for one of your programs we have coming up Feb. 19 at 6:00. We will go through all kinds of gear options to help you get setup for the season. Don't miss this one and happy shopping.



# MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING

by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

The Black Hills is home to a healthy population of mountain lions and to manage them effectively GFP has been able to use hunting as a tool to do that. Hunting lions in the hills is no easy task. In fact is down right challenging both physically and mentally. Early mornings in dangerous temperatures and miles upon miles trudging through the snow is what many hunters experience trying to catch up to the most elusive critters we have around. Here's a few simple steps to utilize this lion season to see if you can't get some of that tasty pork like meat this winter.

1. Time out the weather. If there's a spot in the hills that got a dusting of snow to just a couple inches, get out early that morning. You can't hunt that lion until legal shooting hours but it helps to go drive the miles looking. The Black Hills is very roaded so after cutting a track, do your best to box that cat in to one specific area. No need to hike 3 miles if it ended up crossing the another road later on.
2. As long as the track is a single cat track, get on it and start following to see what it's doing. If it's a traveling cat, you may not catch up but if it's a hunting cat, that's the one you want.
3. Once your on the track, if it is looking really fresh, then sit down in some cover. They may not want to run out into an opening. Put your predator call out a little ways and start playing some sounds. Sit back and don't move. Cats are visual hunters and may sit and watch an area before coming in.
4. Use some unique sounds. The usual jackrabbit in distress may not be the most effective.
5. Keep your eyes pealed and hopefully you are dressed for a cold sit.
6. If you find yourself a lion kill, those can be another good place to sit to see if that cat will come back to stuff his belly again.

Remember to read up on those regulations and make sure to keep your self safe as you go out. Be prepared for the worst so you can survive an emergency. If you want more tips on lion hunting check out our lion hunting seminar happening Jan. 21st at the Outdoor Campus.



## NEW FISH SPECIES TO TARGET THIS WINTER

by Jeremy Kientz (Senior Fisheries Biologist)

As we hit the month of December many of our western South Dakota lakes have started to ice over and some are starting to provide winter recreation opportunities for ice anglers. Ice fishing can be a great time to target trout, panfish, Walleye, and Northern Pike. Those are all great options, but we also want to educate folks about some of the unique species we have in the Black Hills region for those looking to try something new this year. First, let's talk about some of the unique ice fishing opportunities on our larger Black Hills reservoirs. One species that can only be found in these reservoirs is Lake Trout. Lake Trout often exceed 30 inches total length in Pactola and Deerfield reservoirs and a stronger rod is suggested, as well as a larger reel with more line capacity, as these fish often inhabit deeper water, sometimes over 100 feet down. Tactics for Lake Trout include jigging large spoons or using large baitfish, both live and frozen. Also, a newer addition to Pactola is Kokanee Salmon which were reintroduced to the lake in 2022. Kokanee also prefer deeper waters and are often caught in 30-60 ft of water. Anglers targeting Kokanee often use spoons or small dodgers as an attractor, with a small jig rigged up 8-12 inches below the attractor. Combining this rig with other scent and bait combinations is also common. For those looking for some other unique species in the Black Hills consider trying out Center Lake or Sylvan Lake in Custer State Park. These lakes are two of a select few locations in the Black Hills where you can target Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and Tiger Trout, a hybrid Brown x Brook Trout. Regardless of whether you are chasing Walleyes, Bluegill, or Trout this winter, make sure to be safe on the ice. Always fish with a friend, and if you are unsure of the ice thickness be sure to take a spud bar and drill holes early and often to assess ice conditions!





# COYOTE HUNTING SEMINAR

by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

Coming up on Jan 6th we will have a seminar all about coyote hunting. Western South Dakota has some of the best looking coyote pelts in the country and when you get those handled properly and tanned they can make some amazing garments or wall hangers.

Collin will go over some setup tactics, calling techniques and locations that he uses to place yourself in the right spot to be a successful coyote caller.

Next we will go over the use of the ever popular thermal. Thermals are gaining popularity and increasing folks ability to be successful calling coyotes under the cover of night. It still isn't as easy as it sounds so we will go over some more night hunting tactics, regulations and safety factors to keep in mind when hunting coyotes using thermal imaging. Scan this code below to see all these awesome opportunities.



## WINTER TRAPLINE

by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

Trapping is the next activity to help break those winter blues. I believe trapping is one of the outdoor activities that takes some of the most determination, time and grit. However there are some great kid opportunities as well that don't require as much work. Some may think that if you set a trap out in the woods that it is guaranteed to trap the next critter that gets anywhere close to it but in fact, you are trying to convince a pretty smart animal to step just right on the smallest of spots. If you left a little scent behind then they will outsmart that. Trapping requires an ability to read animal sign and be able to predict those animal movements.

Trapping has a variety of different skill levels required so to help determine your quarry here's some things to consider. Coyotes are among the smartest and the toughest to catch. Bobcats can be tricky not because there isn't plenty of them but that they cover a larger area so the densities of them isn't comparable to others like a racoon where there might be dozens in one small stretch of river bottom. Raccoons, skunks and muskrats are some great additions to the trapline because they can be plentiful depending on the area and it's nice to have something caught instead of week after week of empty traps. Beaver are another great opportunity without too much difficulty but important to be able to read animal sign to see if they are around.

January 9th we are hosting an intro to trapping class that is a great opportunity to pick up a few skills to get started. Make sure to check out that class coming up very soon.



# BEST WAY TO USE GROUND VENISON

by: *Clint Whitley (naturalist)*

If you had a successful freezer filling fall like I had, you may have more meat than you know what to do with. I can only eat so many burgers per week and casseroles with wild game but to give you even more options this new year, this is what I do;

Brats - I do a 50:50 mix of pork to venison, some seasoning and high temp cheese to make feeding a couple kids as well as myself very easy for quick evening meals and summer grill outs. Brats are always on our menu at home and can't get enough of them.

Deer Bacon - It's not what it sounds like. Its actually made from ground venison. A mix of 40% pork to 60% venison, some seasoning and cure in a tinfoil pan. Then putting on the smoker for a few hours and sliced thin. Its a great addition to breakfast or a hot bacon and cheese sandwich for lunch.

Summer sausage and deer sticks. While working in the office, we often get our 10:00 and 2:00 cravings. These mixing up some summer sausage or sticks to the mix is another way to mix up those mid day cravings. With a sausage stuffer and vertical smoker you can make just about anything. To learn how to make your own sign up for our classes in January and February.

## FOLLOW US!

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



[@outdoorcampus\\_rapidcity](https://www.instagram.com/outdoorcampus_rapidcity)



[Game, Fish & Parks Outdoor  
Campus-Rapid City](https://www.facebook.com/Game,Fish&ParksOutdoorCampus-RapidCity)



[South Dakota Game, Fish &  
Parks-Education](https://www.youtube.com/SouthDakotaGame,Fish&Parks-Education)



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

by *Clint Whitley (Naturalist)*

RMEF has had Elk as its focus for 40 years now and has done lots to benefit the species. Some of the projects RMEF has done is promote wildlife friendly fencing, wildfire restoration, land acquisition, education and more.

Every year there is a banquet to attend and this year, mark your calendars for the Northern Hills Chapter Banquet on March 8th and the Black Hills Chapter Banquet here in Rapid City on April 10th. Follow your local chapters on social media or visit [RMEF.org](https://RMEF.org) to see event details.

RMEF is another great organization to volunteer your time with. Helping out at fundraisers and projects are a great way to meet people and see where the money goes.

Working with RMEF is another way, you can be heard as a hunter to help be a voice for all sportsmen and the wildlife we all love. Get in touch with your local chapter and become a member. The Bugle is one of the best publications out there and has some really good articles.

<https://rmef.org/>





# OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

## JANUARY PROGRAMS

### **Intro to Archery**

Learn the basic techniques of archery, learn the parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Children must register accompanied by a registered adult. Ages 8 and up.

*Jan 2nd 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Coyote Calling/Thermals Seminar**

Learn from one of our state trappers about coyote hunting both day and night by use of calls and thermals. We will go over regulations as well as tactics to help you get fur in the shed.

*Jan 6th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Intro to Trapping**

Learn basic equipment and techniques needed for furbearer trapping. We will be spending some time outdoors so dress for the weather. No other special gear or clothing items needed to attend.

*Jan 9th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Intro to Archery: Homeschool**

Home school students are welcome to come learn about the fun sport of archery. We will learn the safe and property way to shoot a compound bow.

*Jan 14th 9:00-10:30 AM*

### **Making Wild Game Brats and Sausage**

One way to utilize a lot of your wild game from this fall is to make some deer sticks and summer sausage. We will go through a variety of recipes and strategies while making some tasty snacks that you can enjoy for the entire year.

*Jan 15th 6:00-8:00 PM*

### **Intro to ice fishing**

Get hands on experience with fishing equipment and learn ice fishing techniques

*Jan 16th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Intro to firearms and fundamentals of safety**

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

*Jan 17th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Mountain Lion Hunting Seminar**

Join an accomplished mountain lion hunter to learn techniques for boot hunting mountain lions in the Black Hills

*Jan 21st 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.

*Jan 23rd 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Ice fishing at - Sheridan Lake**

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. Dress accordingly for the weather.

*Jan 25th 8:00-12:00 PM*

### **Intro to Fly Casting**

The Black Hills is an amazing place to flyfish. Join us to learn the basics of Fly-Casting and Fly-Fishing gear. Class is held inside our climate-controlled Hunter Educating building. Ages of 12 and up.

*Jan 28th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Coyote Skinning, Fleshing and drying**

Get hands on experience skinning, fleshing and drying a coyote pelt.

*Jan 29th 6:00-8:00 PM*

**\*ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT\***

**Register @<https://license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx>**







# OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

## FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

### **Intro to Ice Fishing**

Get hands on experience with fishing equipment and learn ice fishing techniques

*Feb 4th 6:00-7:30 PM*

*Feb 20th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Making wild game sticks and summer sausage**

One way to utilize a lot of your wild game from this fall is to make some deer sticks and summer sausage. We will go through a variety of recipes and strategies while making some tasty snacks that you can enjoy for the entire year.

*Feb 5th 6:00-8:00 PM*

### **2025 Hunt planning**

Do you have an interest in hunting South Dakota? This class will discuss regulations, finding a place to hunt, licenses, understanding tag options, draw odds and preference points

*Feb 6th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Intro to Archery**

Learn the basic techniques of archery, learn the parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Children must register accompanied by a registered adult. Ages 8 and up.

*Feb 8th 9:00-11:00 AM*

*Feb 18th 6:00 - 7:30 PM*

*Feb 28th 6:00 - 7:30 PM*

### **Intro to Archery: Homeschool**

Home school students are welcome to come learn about the fun sport of archery. We will learn the safe and property way to shoot a compound bow

*Feb 10th 9:00-10:30 AM*

### **Intro to Fly Casting**

The Black Hills is an amazing place to flyfish. Join us to learn the basics of Fly-Casting and Fly-Fishing gear.

Class is held inside our climate-controlled Hunter Educating building. Ages of 12 and up.

*Feb 11th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Canned Deer Meat Quesadillas**

Join the Campus crew for a night of cooking with canned deer meat- Quesadillas. Get your hands on all the equipment for canning your own wild game meats.

*Feb 13th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Pack Dump**

See what gear is best to have for a typical SD deer hunt. Take the time this off season to refine your gear list.

*Feb 19th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Ice fishing at - Center Lake**

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. Dress accordingly for the weather.

*Feb 22nd 8:00-12:00 PM*

### **Intro to 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. Class held in the PR room.

*Feb 25th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Intro to Firearms**

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

*Feb 26th 6:00-7:30 PM*

**\*ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT\***

Register @ <https://license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx>





# OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

## MARCH PROGRAMS

### **Cooking - Pheasant white chili**

In this class you will learn to use a grinder to produce beautiful ground meat while cooking our famous White Pheasant Chili.

*March 4th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **SDGFP State Shooting Sports Complex -show and tell.**

Mike Kuzara, our State Shooting Sports Complex Coordinator will be giving us a status update. Mike will be providing a presentation on everything our shooting complex has to offer such as trap, skeet, sporting clays, long distance, pistol, archery and so much more!

*March 6th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Intro to Archery**

Learn the basic techniques of archery, learn the parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Children must register accompanied by a registered adult. Ages 8 and up.

*March 8th 9:00-11:00 AM*

*March 13th 6:00-7:30 PM*

*March 22nd 9:00-11:00 AM*

*March 31st 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Intro to Fly Casting**

The Black Hills is an amazing place to flyfish. Join us to learn the basics of Fly-Casting and Fly-Fishing gear. Class is held inside our climate-controlled Hunter Educating building. Ages of 12 and up.

*March 11th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **2025 Hunt planning**

Do you have an interest in hunting South Dakota? This class will discuss regulations, finding a place to hunt, licenses, understanding tag options, draw odds and preference points

*March 12th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Intro to firearms**

Come learn how to safely handling a firearm

*March 15th 9:00-11:00 AM*

### **Fly Tying**

Come learn the basics of fly tying and 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 15 and up, youth need to be accompanied by a parent.

*March 17th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **H.S. Precision - Long Range Shooting Class**

What goes into making a 1,000-yard shot? In this class we will discuss the various types of equipment needed to extend your long-range capabilities. We will also discuss ballistic solutions, caliber/ bullet selection, environmental conditions, and shooting fundamentals.

*March 20th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Cooking Elk Tacos**

In this class you will learn to use a grinder to produce beautiful ground meat while cooking our famous tacos!

*March 25th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Intro to Turkey Hunting**

Get prepared for spring turkey season! Learn hunting tactics, tag options and practice with multiple turkey calls in class so that you are ready to hunt! The Campus will have different calls to practice with.

*March 26th 6:00-7:30 PM*

### **Antler Scoring Master Class by Boone and Crockett**

The Outdoor Campus in Rapid City is excited to host an instructional seminar with an official Boone and Crockett measurer. Rapid City's very own, Mr. Gary English will be providing hands on instruction, Club history and insight how conservation through hunting works. Rumor has it that some B&C swag will be given away!

*March 27th 6:00-7:30*

**\*ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT\***

Register @ <https://license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx>

