



OUTDOOR CAMPUS
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

THE WEST WORD

THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS WEST

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

APRIL - JUNE 2026 PROGRAMS BELOW

TURKEY TIME

The 2026 Spring Turkey season is here! Several articles will be centered and focused on these big game birds. Make sure to check out Recipe Roost to get creative with your newly filled freezer!



OTHER HAPPENINGS



Intern Sendoffs

As they finish up their internships, our interns describe their experiences at the Outdoor Campus West. Read more throughout the newsletter.



Wildlife Action Plan

Senior Wildlife Biologist Mandy Pearson introduces the 2025 South Dakota State Wildlife Action Plan.



Volunteering

Naturalist Aaron Schone describes the importance and uniqueness of the many different volunteering opportunities at the campus.

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Intern Sendoffs

My name is Devyn Born and I am a Naturalist Intern with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. I have lived in the Rapid City area all my life and have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with GFP. I'm currently attending my final semester at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. I'll graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and hope to further my career in a biology related field. After graduating I will move to Washington to live with my wife.



In my free time I enjoy exploring the Black Hills. I have enjoyed hiking and backpacking throughout the Hills and always try to stop and fish across the many lakes and streams available to me. I have also enjoyed taking advantage of the many hunting opportunities provided in western South Dakota, with archery deer as a personal favorite.

During my time with Game, Fish and Parks, I taught a myriad of classes related to hunting, fishing, trapping, and outdoor skills. Of the classes I was able to provide, archery and reloading programs quickly grew to be a few of my favorite.

However, before my internship I was not proficient in both of these activities. Professional development opportunities allowed me to become adept in both hobbies, as well as several other outdoor activities. I've really enjoyed the opportunity to share outdoors skills with others and have found great satisfaction in sharing my knowledge with other likeminded individuals. In the future I hope I can contribute meaningfully to organizations like GFP and further conservation practices.



The Joy of Turkey Hunting

By KayCee Smith | Naturalist

My first big game hunt was for deer. It was exciting and gave me a sense of self-fulfillment that I think all hunters can identify with. Turkey was not a species I would have considered to be big game at the time. When the opportunity presented itself to go on a mentored turkey hunt, I thought sure, why not. I was trying to dive head into the whole “hunting thing” and this was another day in the field for me as a new hunter.

Within the first hour of the hunt, it hailed, the sun shined, and the wind blew upwards of 20 mph as it does in South Dakota. Watching a turkey run full speed across a field at a decoy you carefully set out and to the calls you’re making from a ground blind with bated breath was exhilarating in a way that kayaking, hiking, camping, upland or deer hunting never gave me. After successfully harvesting that first turkey, I was hooked.

Learning about the bird that I had often just regarded as another wild thing living where I do has provided me a new appreciation for the wild spaces in our state. The “bird of courage” has upwards of 6,000 beautiful feathers, communicates through a variety of calls, and has an incredible conservation story after near-extinction in the early 1900’s.

As a woman, it combines my love of the outdoors by exploring new areas in the state, cooking by trying new recipes and sharing with loved ones, honing my hunting techniques through calling, observation, scouting, and endurance, artistic abilities by making fan mounts, earrings, and feather frames, and develops my shooting skills with shotguns and rifles. I didn't think turkey hunting was going to be my favorite season of the year but I can't wait for April to roll around. Consider turkey hunting and how spending more time outdoors with them can bring you the joy it has brought me.



Making Turkey Calls

By Brian Wallace | Naturalist Intern

Turkey hunting has been a significant hunting activity in South Dakota for several decades now. This is in part because of the successful reintroduction and expansion of wild turkeys in the late 1940s into the early 1950s. My name is Brian Wallace and my wife, Jocelyn, and I recently moved to the area from Indiana. I am a junior at Black Hills State University earning a degree in Outdoor Education. I have the privilege of being a naturalist intern here at The Outdoor Campus West for South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

After I found out how popular turkey hunting is in this state, I thought having a class on something to do with turkey hunting would be awesome. I decided I wanted to figure out a way to have a class on making turkey calls. I had never made a turkey call and knew very little about them. I learned about box calls and something I had never heard of - a turkey wing bone call.



Box calls were first patented over 125 years ago, while turkey wing bone calls date back as far back as 4,000 years! I was able to learn how to make both calls, and they work! Now I want to share that knowledge and provide a way for others to make them as well.

We will be offering two different classes. One is Making a Turkey Box Call, and the other is Making a Turkey Wing Bone Call. Participants will make calls and will be able to take them home and use them to call in turkeys! Class size is limited. Sign up quickly! Please visit license.gooutdoorssouthdakota.com for registration and class information.

Turkey 101 by Clint Whitley | Naturalist

The 2025 hunting season just ended but we are already looking ahead to what is going to be our most successful Turkey 101 season to date. Well, at least that's how I approach every season and that pea sized brained bird teaches me otherwise every year. Turkey 101 could be underway by the time you read this but if you haven't ever hunted turkeys and don't know where to start, reach out to the campus and sign up for our March 28th or 29th Turkey 101 program.

To make it that successful season, I have already done some e-scouting to determine some possible roost locations. Every time I have found a roost in the past, I marked it on onX. That has proven to be a helpful thing as I was seeing some trends in where those roosted birds were. With the bird number's doing well and conditions lining out to be another great year for turkeys, it should be easier and easier to locate that gobbling tom.

To get you started on that opening morning of The Hills season, jump on onX and find those ridge lines facing the south, southeast or east, and drop some points anywhere from halfway up to the top. Turkeys don't seem to use the same roost every night or at least their pattern of movement makes zero sense to me, but you have some starting points. From those points, think about where they would fly down to. They are a big bird so don't expect them to be flying up but more a few flaps to get themselves to the ground. They may take off right as they hit the ground and start cruising or if there is a bench in the topography they may start milling around there, working the flock.

If you didn't get setup in time for fly down, this is often where you can catch them being vocal and sneak into calling distance. The next connection I've made in hunting almost any species that you use vocals for to attract game, is that more is less. The more calling you do, the more chance you have to screw it up. Make them come find you and wonder what you are instead of begging for them to come in. With those tips in mind, good luck to you in the coming turkey season and be safe.



Intern Sendoffs



My name is Anya Johnson, and I will be graduating in May from Black Hills State with a bachelors in biology and environmental sciences and a certificate in science communication. Growing up in the Rapid City area, my family spent lots of time in the parks and on the trails. However, my passion for education started at a small show cave outside of Rapid City where I led informational and historical tours. There I learned my love of connecting people to the world around them and my curiosity about the natural sciences took off from there. I started at the Outdoor Campus West in September as a Naturalist Intern working on school programs.

Starting in the swing of fall field trips, I was quickly familiarized with lessons like Fashion-a-Fish, Animals of South Dakota, Intro to Fishing, Intro to Archery, Habitat Exploration, and Owls & Owl Pellets. The other school program interns and I were also in charge of programming for the homeschoolers.

Additional programming we did for homeschools were Raptors, Intro to Ice Fishing, Intro to Trapping, Scat and Tracks, and Grassland Investigations.

I did not grow up in a hunting family, and never did I think I would become a hunter. I had been curious in the last few years but was not sure where to start. Thanks to Clint and his Hunt 101 program, I can now call myself a hunter! We did target practice at the Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Sports Complex, learned how to use OnX, and talked about shot placement. It all led to a successful harvest of an antlerless whitetail button buck! Processing the deer and talking about the ways you can use the whole animal made me proud to be a conservationist. And in the upcoming months, I'm excited to participate in the Turkey 101 program!

Having the opportunity to grow my education skills has been valuable to my education and future career path. I now have solid skills with lesson planning, creating engaging and interactive presentations, and teaching audiences of wide age ranges. This summer, I will continue working for the state down in Custer State Park as one of their park naturalist interns and am very excited to see what opportunities it may bring. From there, I imagine I'll be doing lots of seasonal work but hoping to continue working in the educational and interpretive space. I will always appreciate my time with Game, Fish and Parks for giving me valuable work experience and a great starting point for my future career.



What to Know About Wild

Turkeys by Alec Baker, AWB | Resource Biologist



Black Hills/South Dakota Wild Turkey History

- The wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) is the largest native game bird in North America
- There are 5 subspecies of wild turkeys; The Eastern (*M. g. silvestris*), Florida (*M. g. osceola*), Merriam's (*M. g. merriami*), Rio Grande (*M. g. intermedia*) and the Gould's (*M. g. mexicana*).
- Of the 5 wild turkey subspecies, 3 were reintroduced into South Dakota (Eastern, Merriam's and Rio Grande). The Merriam's subspecies is found in the Black Hills region.
- In 1920, wild turkeys were likely extirpated from South Dakota due to unregulated hunting and habitat degradation.

- The first reintroduction of wild turkeys in South Dakota was in the Black Hills in 1848 when Merriam's wild turkeys (2 gobblers and 6 hens) were trapped and transferred from New Mexico and released west of Spearfish in Lawrence County.
- Two more reintroductions occurred in the Black Hills. In 1950, 14 Merriam's wild turkeys from Colorado were released near Hell Canyon and in 1951, 5 Merriam's wild turkeys from New Mexico were released west of Hot Springs.
- From 1951-1956 and in 1958 wild turkeys were trapped and transferred throughout the Black Hills.
- In 1963, the Rio Grande subspecies was introduced into several areas of South Dakota (Bon Homme, Day, Jones, Lyman, and Yankton counties). In 1965, subsequent transplants of Rio Grande wild turkeys occurred near Wessington Springs and Little Moreau Refuge.
- There have been over 30 transplants of Merriam's, Rio Grande, and hybrid throughout the prairie region of South Dakota.
- From 1990-2008, eastern wild turkeys were introduced in eastern South Dakota. These birds were trapped and transferred from Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky and Pennsylvania.
- The first turkey hunting season in South Dakota occurred in the Black Hills in 1954 following successful reintroduction efforts.

Black Hills/South Dakota Turkey Biology Facts

- Research has shown that in the Black Hills, Merriam's wild Turkeys typically use larger diameter ponderosa pine trees (> 11in. at breast height) for roost sites.
- In the Black Hills, nest site selection by hens is influenced by concealment cover from shrubs and down woody debris.
- Research has shown hens with poults in the Black Hills region utilize meadow and open pine forest habitats.
- In the central Black Hills the clutch size ranges from 7 - 13 eggs and 6 - 17 eggs in the southern Black Hills with hatch rates being high around 80%.
- There are two distinct peaks in gobbling activity for Merriam's turkeys in the Black Hills. The first occurs after the winter flocks break up while the second occurs just before or during peak nest incubation which is usually around mid-May.



Introducing the 2025 South Dakota State Wildlife Action Plan

by Mandy Pearson | Senior Wildlife Biologist

What is a State Wildlife Action Plan?

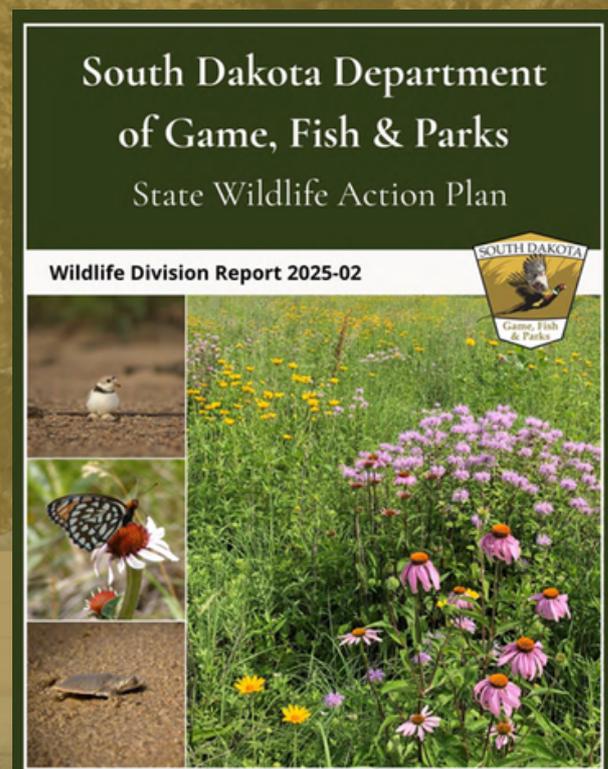
- The 2025 South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan (SDWAP) is a statewide strategic plan to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Developed by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP), the plan evaluates the health of species and ecosystems, identifies key conservation challenges, and outlines actions to support wildlife across the state. State Wildlife Action Plans are updated every 10 years to reflect new science and emerging conservation needs. South Dakota previously published SDWAP versions in 2006 and 2015.

Why do we need a State Wildlife Action Plan?

- The SDWAP guides efforts to conserve at-risk species before they become officially endangered or threatened. An approved plan also makes South Dakota eligible for funding through the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program, which supports conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). The 2025 plan was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in December 2025.

Highlights of the 2025 South Dakota State Wildlife Action Plan

- The 2025 SDWAP identifies 245 SGCN, including vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants. A new feature of this plan is individual species profiles for nearly every SGCN, outlining habitat needs, key threats, and recommended conservation actions. With the SDWAP now in effect, SDGFP and partners statewide will advance research, monitoring, and habitat restoration projects to put the plan into action. To view the 2025 South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan and other supporting documents, including the SGCN list, please use the QR code or visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-action-plan/>.



NASP and R3 Connections

by Abby Kovaleski | Naturalist Intern

The first two months of my naturalist internship at The Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City have represented a significant chapter in my professional and personal development. While I transitioned into this role during the writing-up period of my PhD thesis, with an academic background in the natural sciences, my immersion in the campus' educational programming has provided an unexpected and rewarding shift in focus toward outdoor recreation and hunter/angler recruitment.

A central element of this experience was participating in a formal training session for the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). This certification process was unexpected and transformative; receiving my archery license did not merely fulfill a job requirement but introduced me to a discipline that I have come to value deeply. My interest in the sport extends beyond the firing line; I find the technical maintenance of equipment in our Hunter Education Building to be a highly rewarding aspect of my daily responsibilities. The precision required for fletching and repairing arrows aligns with my detailed approach to naturalist work. I have also integrated regular walks of the outdoor archery range into my routine, utilizing the time to observe the intersection of recreational space and the local ecosystem. This engagement has motivated me to begin the process of acquiring my first bow to further my technical proficiency.

Perhaps the most significant realization of these initial months is my personal connection to the R3 mission: Recruit, Retain, and Reactivate. Growing up on the eastern side of South Dakota, my exposure to these traditions was limited. After a period of living abroad and eventually relocating to the western side of the state, I have found myself not just as a facilitator of this mission, but as a primary beneficiary. According to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks R3 Strategic Plan, the goal is to increase participation and decrease barriers to outdoor recreation. Through this internship, I have been recruited into a sporting tradition that was previously absent from my life.

My current trajectory, from a novice trainee to a bow owner, embodies the retention phase of this framework. This experience has underscored that the R3 mission is an ongoing process of connection that can impact lifelong South Dakotans as profoundly as the public we serve.



Intern Sendoffs

My name is Christian Valandra. I am 20 years old and currently working at The Outdoor Campus West as a Naturalist Intern while attending college. I am obtaining my Associates in Life Sciences, and my Bachelors in Nature Sciences through Oglala Lakota College. I am a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, and I plan on obtaining my master's in environmental sciences through OLC as well.

I was born in Phoenix, Arizona, and moved to the Black Hills of South Dakota when I was four years old. Since I can remember, this area has always been my home. Growing up in such a place as the Black Hills really connects you to nature, and because of that, I have decided that this is the path I want to go down in life. Whether it be hiking, fishing, kayaking, camping or anything outdoors, I have always enjoyed being able to be present in nature. When I got the opportunity to work for the Outdoor Campus, I was excited.

Since working here, I have learned so much as a intern working primarily with schools groups. My focus was trying to learn more about the region ecologically, and so far, I have learned more than I have ever known. Working with the staff here has been amazing, and teaching classes has been a major highlight. Not only have I been able to learn a lot, but I have also taught others a lot too, from wetland biology, to fishing, and even grassland conservation. I have learned more than I thought possible about hunting, fishing, and outdoors skills.

I plan on using the knowledge I have gained from this internship to educate others in the future, and to hopefully spread awareness for just how beautiful our planet can be, and why we need to protect it. I would ultimately like to work as a conservation scientist or a wildlife or behavioral ecologist so I can do my duty to take care of our world and hopefully change it for a better future. I have loved my time here at The Outdoor Campus West and would love to come back someday. I learned a lot, I taught a lot, and I think I benefitted from this internship beyond any point of what I thought was capable. I appreciated everyone being so kind, and I enjoyed being able to work doing what I love the most. I had a wonderful experience, and I would recommend it to anyone trying to find their path within a career involving nature and being one with it.



National Association for Interpretation Training

Recap by Daniel Cox | Naturalist

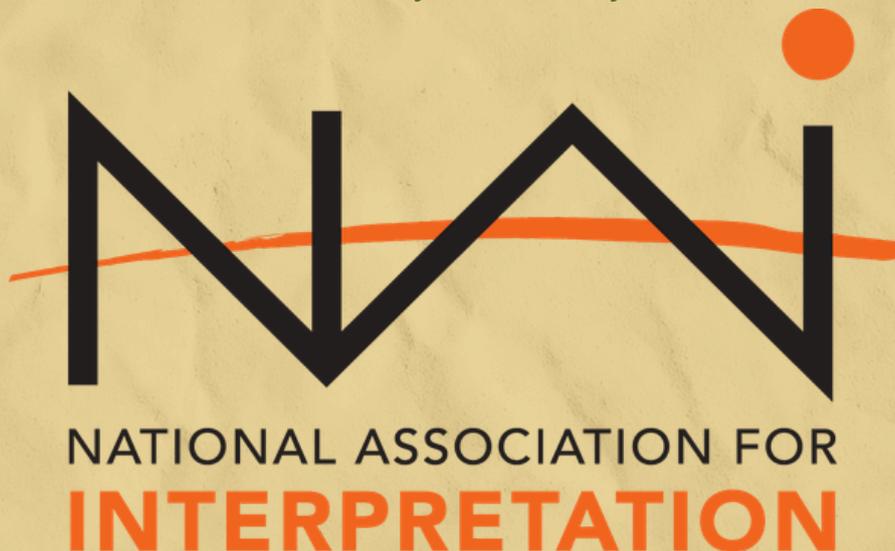
Recently, I had the incredible opportunity to attend a training course hosted by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI), an experience that has truly transformed the way I think about connecting people with the outdoors.

For those unfamiliar, interpretation in this context isn't about language translation. It's about creating meaningful experiences that inspire curiosity, foster understanding, and encourage people to engage with the world around them. It's storytelling with purpose - bringing nature, history, and culture to life in ways that resonate deeply.

The course I attended was focused on earning the Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) credential. My goal in taking this course was to sharpen my skills in crafting educational and engaging presentations that help others build a stronger connection to the natural world.

Over four immersive days, we explored the art and science of interpretation, learning techniques to make programs purposeful, organized, enjoyable, thematic, relevant, and uniquely personal. It is known and taught by NAI as P.O.E.T.R.Y. The training culminated in a ten minute presentation where we applied these principles, demonstrating how interpretation can transform a simple talk into an unforgettable experience.

This certification isn't just a title, it's a commitment to creating programs that inspire, educate, and connect. I'm excited to bring these skills into my work as the School Coordinator and Naturalist at the Outdoor Campus West and help others discover the beauty and significance of the outdoors in ways that truly matter.



Volunteering at The Outdoor

Campus by Aaron Schone | Naturalist

The Outdoor Campus is an often busy building, with all sorts of people roaming about. Some are busy at work, scrambling to make a phone call or complete their daily to-do list. Some are anglers that have come in to purchase their fishing license to prepare for a summer of chasing trout in the Hills. Some have simply come to enjoy our outdoor spaces and browse our taxidermy. Then there are those that have come in to share their time with us and volunteer!

Here at the Outdoor Campus, there is a variety of opportunities for you to spend your time with us so that others can enjoy the space and the knowledge that you may be able to share. We have our front desk staff that greet people at the door and help direct them throughout the building. There can be slow rainy days with no visitors, while other times you may be busy handing out scavenger hunts and answering questions about your favorite places to hike.

As you move through the habitat areas within the campus, you may come across a volunteer with Jake the Bull Snake within the Badlands habitat. She has built quite a relationship with him and feeds him every three weeks, while helping answer questions as visitors gather around. At the other end of the building, you may find someone tying flies. We often go through plenty in a summer and it's nice to know we have extras. As you leave the building, you might find another volunteer watering our plants.

While doing so, they're pulling back any weeds that creep into our landscaped areas. On an early fall morning, you may see one of our volunteer mentors with a mentee as they harvest a doe. After properly tagging, they will bring it back to the campus to hang until they can schedule a time to process the deer together. In all of these situations, we have individuals so passionate about what they know and love to do that they have come to freely give their time here at the Outdoor Campus West. We are so grateful for our volunteers here and we could not do what we do without them!

As the volunteer coordinator at the Outdoor Campus West, I do everything I can to empower those that wish to spend their time here with us, so that we can create a beneficial and enjoyable experience for both parties. Whether it's being a volunteer instructor, teaching a fly-fishing class to the community, or greeting those that come through our front doors, we can find an opportunity that works for you! If you have been looking for a meaningful way to give back, while learning new skills and working with others, we may be the place for you! Contact me by email if you'd like to set up a time to learn more about volunteering at the Outdoor Campus West! Aaron.schone@state.sd.us



Youth Conservation Camp -----

----- by KayCee Smith | Naturalist

Do you have a high schooler in your house? Consider sending them to the Youth Conservation Camp in June this year. Here is some information on the camp from the South Dakota Wildlife Federation's website:

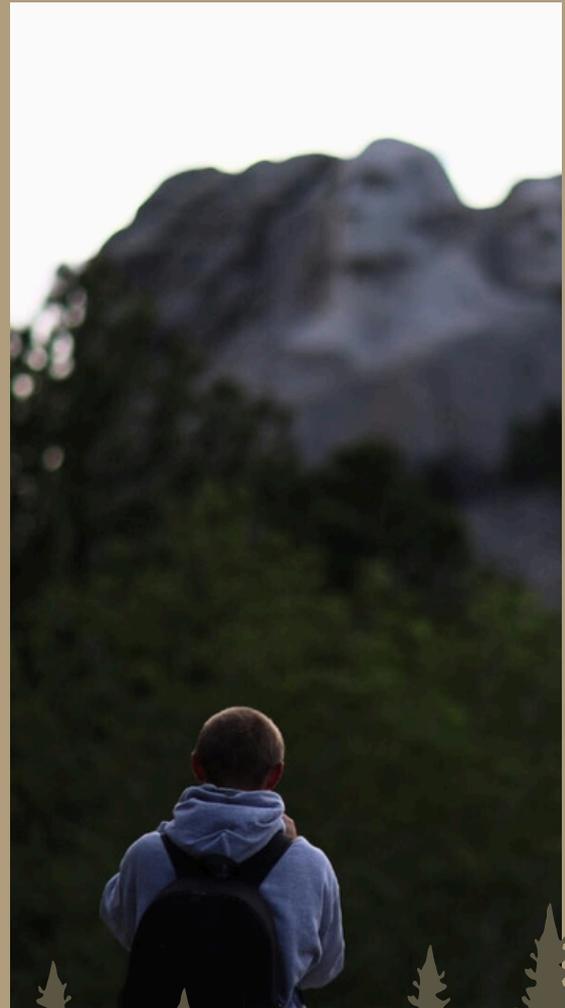
Imagine sending your teenagers on a week-long adventure where they can learn to hunt, fish, and enjoy the great outdoors! This once-in-a-lifetime experience is called Youth Conservation Camp and it's sponsored by the South Dakota Wildlife Federation.

Since the first camp was held in 1964, thousands of South Dakota youth have experienced the excitement of outdoor sports while learning the importance of conserving our natural resources.

The Youth Conservation Camp is held in early June at Camp Bob Marshall in the beautiful Black Hills. Camp participants are housed in rustic cabins with modern bathrooms and eating facilities. The camp has a director, two assistant directors, and two counselors for each cabin of 12 teens, along with other staff members. Transportation is available to and from the camp.



This is a great opportunity for high school students to spend a week in the Black Hills learning about conservation, resource management, shooting sports, hunting, fishing, hiking, and building life-long friendships with others from across the state. Youth Conservation Camp is run by volunteers dedicated to enriching the lives of those that show interest in wildlife and the outdoors. It does not discriminate against an individual's age, condition, creed, race, religion, gender, identity, or sexual orientation. We are proud to offer this camp to a wealth of young people from across the state of South Dakota year after year in an effort to broaden their conservationist and environmental horizons. Applications are open now until May 15th! Apply at sdwf.org/camp/



Ice Fishing Silver Linings

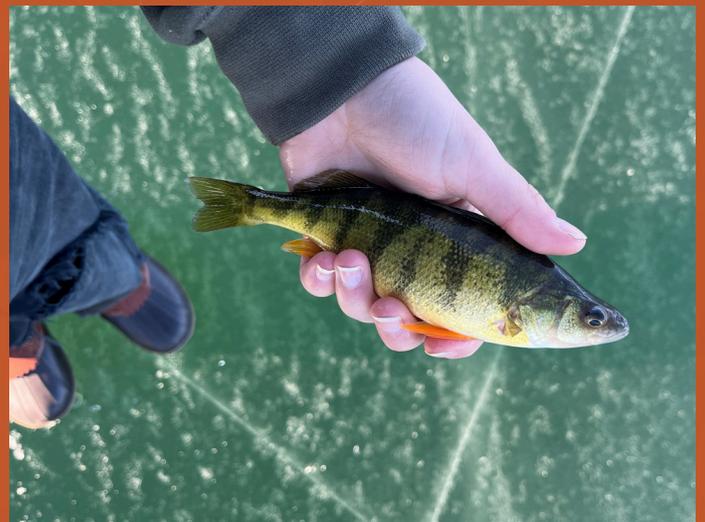
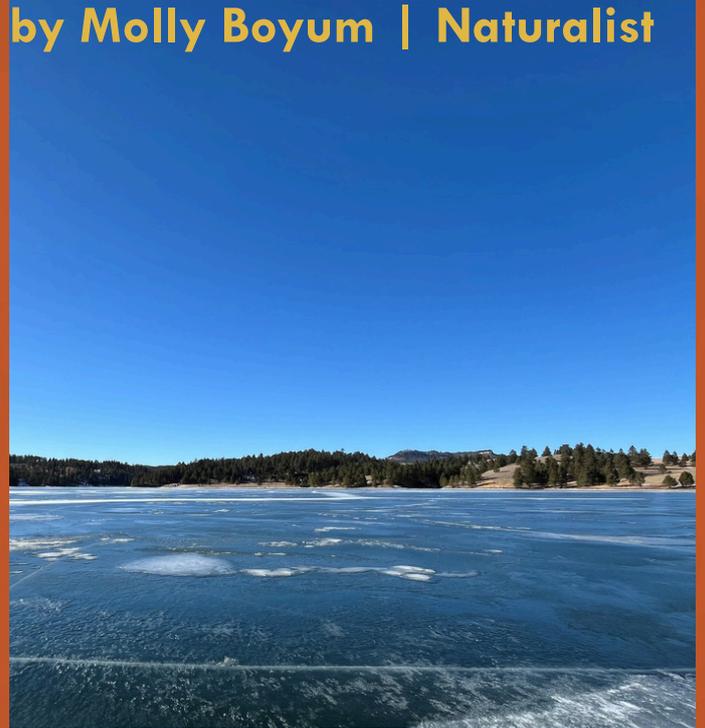
Ice fishing is one of my favorite things to do. I love getting outside in the winter, thanks in part to growing up in a household that lived by the saying, "There's no such thing as bad weather, just poor clothing choices and bad preparation." If I had a dollar for every time I had a conversation in the last few months about what an odd winter we had here in the Black Hills, I'd probably be able to buy a shiny new Vexilar. To have a shortened season due to weather, ice conditions, and general life happenings left me disappointed. My feelings of disappointment turned to satisfaction after some reflection and talking to some coworkers, family and friends. Nothing cures the blues faster than the great outdoors and good conversation.

While it may have looked different, it was far from a bust. I was able to safely hold a community ice fishing program at Sheridan Lake with the help of interns Anya and Devyn. Out of the eight participants, four of them had never been ice fishing before. We were able to help those four all catch fish! We had great discussions about safety, the importance of licensing, ethics and regulation and some even exchanged contact information to go fish together.

Our education team was able to teach a few classroom programs on ice fishing to familiarize people about safety, equipment, procedure and what resources were available to them in a more controlled environment. These classroom sessions were well attended, with one participant saying "...it made me feel safer and much more at ease before actually stepping on the ice for the first time."

Furthermore, KayCee Smith and I got the opportunity to guest teach an ice fishing course to students at Black Hills State University. Our first day was a six hour classroom session on January 24th, which consisted of a presentation covering Why Ice Fishing?, History of Fishing in South Dakota, Fishing in South Dakota, Local Access, Equipment, Safety, Techniques and Conservation Considerations. We ended the day with conversation and a small assignment where students had to consider and tell the class how what they learned from the course could be applied to their areas of study and future careers.

by Molly Boyum | Naturalist

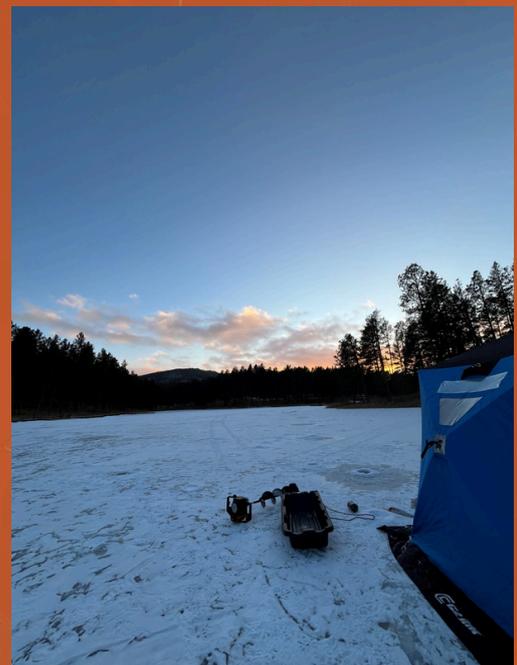


The students were then able to take what they learned from the classroom and apply it the next weekend at Sheridan Lake. The students came with a wide range of experience levels and all with open minds. It was encouraging to see the more experienced students help their less experienced counterparts, and for everyone to be curious and asking questions based on our discussions from our previous classroom session. While the fish catching was slow for most, KayCee and I were able to help a student who was fishing for the first time *ever* catch her first fish. It was a great catch: an 19.5 inch rainbow trout that was promptly released. Thank you to Greg Strobel and his students at Black Hills State for welcoming us into their classroom and allowing us to turn Sheridan Lake into our classroom.

I was also able to assist KayCee during the ice fishing portion of her Winter Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) Retreat. We took eight women to Deerfield Reservoir on March 7 for a few hours of instruction and experience. Everyone caught fish, including loads of perch and a stunning brook trout. It was fun to watch the women try and find techniques that they preferred, experiement with different jigs and bait, and cheer each other on when another fish was pulled up. It was a day filled with a lot of fish, smiles, and laughs.

Outside of work, I was able to hit the ice a handful of times with my loved ones. Not only does ice fishing get me outside and keep me active, but it allows me to to continue to provide for myself and my family, which is something I do not take for granted. Winter is not usually synonymous with fresh food, so filleting fish and trying a new recipe after a long day feels extra special to me. Even if no fish are caught or kept, being able to spend time with those I love the most in one of my favorite places in the world, the Black Hills, always leaves me feeling satisfied and connected to the world around me.

I want to thank the participants that came to our ice fishing programs we were able to hold, as well as thank those who were gracious and understanding when we had to cancel others. While I hope next winter allows for more ice fishing opportunities, I am so happy with the connections and memories made this season.



RECIPE ROOST: KOREAN BRAISE WILD TURKEY THIGHS

Ingredients:

- 2 wild turkey thighs

Marinade:

- ¼ cup tamari or soy sauce
- ¼ cup garlic, minced
- ¼ cup gochuchang
- ¼ korean chili pepper, ground
 - substitute: a blend of 1 part cayenne pepper with 4 parts paprika, or using crushed red pepper flakes (using 50% less) for heat
- 1 tbsp ginger
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 cup onions diced
- Green onions to garnish

Method:

Debone and chunk up the thighs into ~1 inch cubes. Mix the marinade ingredients, add the turkey meat and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for a couple of hours or overnight.

Add the marinated turkey to a heavy bottomed pan with a lid, add the onions, stir and add enough water to just cover the meat.

Bring to a simmer over medium high heat. Once simmering, cover with lid and reduce heat to a steady slow simmer. Cook for about 4 hours until the meat is fork tender.

Top with green onions and serve over rice or with your favorite sides.



Recipe inspired by and photo from elevatedwild.com

RECIPE ROOST: TURKEY & WILD RICE SOUP

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons butter or olive oil
- 1 small white or yellow onion, peeled and diced
- 2 medium carrots, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 6 cups chicken stock
- 1 pound wild turkey breast
- 8 ounces baby bella mushrooms, diced
- 1 cup uncooked wild rice, rinsed and drained
- 1 tablespoon finely-chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 cups plain milk (cow's milk or plant-based milk)
- 2 large handfuls fresh baby spinach, roughly chopped
- fine sea salt and freshly-cracked black pepper

Instructions

1. Sauté the veggies. Melt butter or oil in a large stockpot over medium-high heat. Add onion and sauté for 4 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add carrots, celery and garlic and sauté for 3 more minutes, stirring occasionally. Add in the flour and sauté for 1 more minute, stirring frequently.
2. Add in the next round of ingredients. Gradually pour in the chicken stock, stirring the soup frequently as you pour so that the clumps of flour can melt into the broth. Add the turkey breasts, mushrooms, wild rice, rosemary, bay leaves and stir to combine.
3. Simmer. Let the soup continue cooking until it reaches a simmer. Then reduce heat to medium-low to maintain the simmer, cover, and cook for 40-45 minutes or until the wild rice is tender — being sure to stir the soup every 5-7 minutes so that the bottom of the pot does not burn.
4. Shred or dice the turkey. Use tongs to carefully transfer the turkey breasts to a clean plate. Then you can either dice or use two forks to shred the turkey into bite-sized pieces, and stir it back into the soup.
5. Add the remaining ingredients. Stir in the milk and baby spinach until combined.
6. Season. Remove and discard the bay leaves. Taste and season the soup with however much salt and black pepper you think it needs.
7. Serve. Serve warm and enjoy!



Recipe inspired by gimmesomeoven.com



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

APRIL PROGRAMS

Making Turkey Box Calls

This is a hands-on class where we will make turkey box calls. All required supplies and PPE will be supplied. Ages 14+. Class limited to 8 participants. Donation suggested to cover material costs.

APRIL 2 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Adult Wilderness First Aid - Traumatic Injuries

Learn what to do if the unexpected happens when you're out enjoying South Dakota's wilderness. This dates class will focus on traumatic injuries. Ages 18+, please. Disclaimer: this is not a certification class.

APRIL 3 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 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. Ages 12+.

APRIL 4 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Intro to Shotgunning

Learn to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex. Ages 12 and up, youth must be accompanied by an adult.

APRIL 8 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Making Turkey Wing Bone Calls

We will be making a turkey call out of turkey wing bones. All supplies and PPE supplied. Ages 10+. Class limited to 8 participants. Donation suggested to cover material costs.

APRIL 9 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

Learn to catch a fish in our front pond, clean your catch and cook it! Youth must be accompanied by a registered adult.

APRIL 10 | 6:00 PM - 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. Ages 8+.

APRIL 13 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Dehydrated Meals for Outdoor Adventures

Replace expensive freeze-dried meals with your own dehydrated ones to stay full, healthy, and energized on any outdoor adventure! Learn how to dehydrate then assemble meals from common ingredients.

APRIL 13 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 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. Ages 12+.

APRIL 18 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

****POP UP CLASSES MAY BE ADDED PER INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION****



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

APRIL PROGRAMS

On Location Boat Fishing

This class is designed to expose individuals to the variety of fishing options, safe boat handling and doing some fishing. Location TBD, more communication to come.

APRIL 19 | 3:00 PM - Sunset

Hunt Planning and Scouting Basics

Just starting to hunt in South Dakota, but not sure where to start? This class will discuss regulations, basic scouting techniques, landowner relationships, and more to boost your confidence in the field. Ages 14+.

APRIL 21 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Intro to Shotgunning

Learn to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex. Ages 12+, youth must be accompanied by an adult.

APRIL 22 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Intro to Turkey Hunting

Be prepared for spring turkey season! Learn tactics, tag options and more so that you're ready to hunt! Ages 12+.

APRIL 23 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Firearms

Learn the operating components of different firearms and the fundamentals of safety. We will handle our inert safety guns. Youth must be accompanied by an adult, for ages 12+.

APRIL 23 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

On Location Boat Fishing

This class is designed to expose individuals to the variety of fishing options, safe boat handling and doing some fishing. Location TBD, more communication to come.

APRIL 24 | 6:00 AM - 12:00PM

Intro to Reloading

Learn the skills, process and equipment needed to reload your own bullets.

APRIL 24 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Adult Wilderness First Aid - Backcountry Medical and Environmental Illnesses

Learn what to do if the unexpected happens when you're out enjoying South Dakota's wilderness. This dates class will focus on backcountry medicine and environmental illnesses. Ages 18+, please. Disclaimer: this is not a certification class.

APRIL 24 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

Learn to catch a fish in our front pond, clean your catch and cook it! Youth must be accompanied by a registered adult.

APRIL 27 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Turkey Fan Mounting

Save a few dollars and do your own turkey fan taxidermy. We will take a turkey fan and preserve it so it can be hung on the wall for many years to enjoy. Ages 12+.

APRIL 30 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

****POP UP CLASSES MAY BE ADDED PER INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION****



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

MAY PROGRAMS

Intro to Shotgunning

Learn to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex. Ages 12+, youth must be accompanied by an adult.

MAY 6 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Mother's Day Archery

Kick Mother's Day weekend off early by spending Friday evening with mom shooting some bows! Learn the basic techniques of archery, parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Ages 8+.

MAY 8 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

Learn to catch a fish in our front pond, clean your catch and cook it! Youth must be accompanied by a registered adult.

MAY 12 | 6:00 PM - 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. Ages 8+.

MAY 14 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Lattes and Lures

Design your own custom fishing lure while enjoying local coffee. This event promises to be both educational and enjoyable for anyone interested in fishing and the great outdoors. This event will take place at Speed Goat Express Coffee in Rapid City. Ages 12+.

MAY 16 | 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Intro to Firearms

Learn the operating components of different firearms and the fundamentals of safety. We will handle our inert safety guns. Youth must be accompanied by an adult, for ages 12+.

MAY 18 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Hunt Planning and Scouting Basics Field Day

This class is an opportunity to get out into the field to get hands on experience in basic scouting techniques and more to boost your confidence. Location TBD (near Rapid City) and will be communicated closer to the event.

MAY 19 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

On Location 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. Dress accordingly for the weather. Location TBD.

MAY 20 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Intro to Shotgunning

Learn to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex. Ages 12+, youth must be accompanied by an adult.

MAY 20 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to 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 21 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

Learn to catch a fish in our front pond, clean your catch and cook it! Youth must be accompanied by a registered adult.

MAY 28 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

3D Archery Shoot in Custer State Park

Join us on May 30 and 31 in Custer State Park, 2.5 miles south of the visitors center on Barnes Canyon Rd off of the Wildlife Loop! There will be short range and long-range opportunities for all levels of shooters featuring over 60 targets. We will have shots for all levels of shooters! Come and go as you please. Bring water, hiking attire and your archery equipment. If you're new to archery, instruction and bows will be on hand.

May 30 | 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM (last check-ins at 5:00 PM)

MAY 31 | 7:00 AM - Noon (last check-ins at noon)

****POP UP CLASSES MAY BE ADDED PER INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION****

ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT

Go to the events tab at www.gfp.sd.gov to register.



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

JUNE PROGRAMS

Intro to Fishing: The Basics

Learn how to cast, tie knots, ID different local species and learn techniques to catch fish. Ages 6+, children must be accompanied by an adult.

JUNE 1 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Gun Cleaning

Learn basic techniques and tips for cleaning firearms. Try them out as we clean some of the Campus firearms. Ages 12+.

JUNE 2 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Shotgunning

Learn to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex. Ages 12+, youth must be accompanied by an adult.

JUNE 3 | 6:00 PM - 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. Ages 8+.

JUNE 4 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Wild Game Cooking

Learn cooking tips that are useful when cooking wild game. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

JUNE 5 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Fly Tying

Come learn the basics of fly tying. We will be learning a great fly pattern for year-round success in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 10+.

JUNE 8 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

Learn to catch a fish in our front pond, clean your catch and cook it! Youth must be accompanied by a registered adult.

JUNE 10 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 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. Ages of 12 and up.

JUNE 15 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Intro to Reloading

Learn the skills, process and equipment needed to reload your own bullets. Ages 16+, please.

JUNE 16 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

On Location Boat Fishing

This class is designed to expose individuals to the variety of fishing options, safe boat handling and doing some fishing. Location TBD, more communication to come.

JUNE 17 | 6:00 AM - 12:00PM

Intro to Shotgunning

Learn to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex. Ages 12+, youth must be accompanied by an adult.

JUNE 17 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to .22/Air Rifle

Meet out at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex. Ages 12+.

JUNE 18 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

On Location Fly Fishing

An opportunity to get out and chase some fish in town! We will cover fly fishing basics and then hopping into some waders to try your luck at landing a fish. All equipment will be provided and location details will be sent prior to evening of fishing. Location TBD.

JUNE 22 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to 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+.

JUNE 23 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Know Your Knots

Hunting, fishing, and camping all require some know tying knowledge. Learn how to tie some of the crucial knots for your next outdoor activity.

JUNE 24 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT

Go to the events tab at www.gfp.sd.gov to register.



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

JUNE PROGRAMS

Dutch Oven Cooking

Learn how to cook with and care for cast iron Dutch ovens. You will be making food so come hungry! Closed-toed shoes are required for safety.

JUNE 25 | 6:00 PM - 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. Ages 8+.

JUNE 26 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to 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 29 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Knife Sharpening

Learn the importance and basic techniques of knife sharpening. Ages 14+.

JUNE 30 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

*****POP UP CLASSES MAY BE ADDED PER INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION*****