

Fall 2024



Photo by 605 Video Co.



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

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Summer 2024 Recap

Read about what happened this past Summer for Outdoor Campus programming
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2024 Program Highlights

Find out what exciting classes are coming up for Fall 2024 and
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Region 3

Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

Fall is upon us and what a special season to spend in South Dakota! This is the time of year that so many look forward to making memories with family and friends in the great outdoors. Those memories might be walking the fields for roosters, camping in our state parks, or enjoying the cool, crisp air on the lake chasing walleye. We're fortunate here in South Dakota to have such a variety of incredible outdoor opportunities throughout the state. There's no better time than now to get outside and enjoy those opportunities! Archery big game seasons are already underway, and it won't be long until folks are hitting the fields of South Dakota to enjoy the best pheasant hunting in the world! So get outside, make some memories, and enjoy everything our great state has to offer this fall!

Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

It's Fall! Which means school is back in session and hunting season is almost upon us. Both of these will be keeping the Outdoor Campus busy this season.

Our Fall, Winter, and Spring is always busy with a variety of schools coming to the Campus for a field trip or the Campus coming to schools for a program. We greatly encourage these programs. These programs can be so beneficial to traditional classroom education because they: (1) reinforce classroom learning, (2) create connections between the theoretical and applicability in life, and (3) empower students to learn about career paths they may not have considered.

With hunting season, the Campus offers a Hunting 101 Program. To learn more about this unique and comprehensive program, see page 14.





Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

We celebrated the groundbreaking of the outdoor archery range on Friday, July 12th. What an exciting event to kick off the expansion of The Outdoor Campus (p. 7). This was made possible by the generous support of the community, and we want to thank our donors for their generous support to make our dreams come to fruition. Provided the weather cooperates, we anticipate completion this fall so if you are new to archery plan to sign up for an introductory class or if you are an experienced archer, stop by to shoot your bow on the range later this fall.

The Friends of the Outdoor Campus board was instrumental in raising the funds to support the current expansion efforts and I want to personally thank them for their efforts to make this happen. We are pleased to welcome the following new members of the Friends Board, Josh Johnson with Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation, Ritchie Hutchison with the Sioux Falls Public Schools and Drew Woelfel with First National Bank.

The Outdoor Campus building expansion continues to make progress. The design and plans have been reviewed and we are currently waiting for the approval of a matching grant. Once that is received, we will be ready to bid on the project and our hope is that will occur yet this year with construction beginning early next spring.

As the summer transitions to fall, come out to The Outdoor Campus to watch that transition take place in nature. Be sure to check out the web site for various classes and experiences to expose you to a new adventure in the outdoors.

Board Members



Tim Kromminga - Chair	Royce Meritt - Member	Jamie Simko - Member
Emmett Keyser - Vice Chair	Jeff Scherschligt - Member	Brian Klatt - Member
Amanda Oines - Member	Cheryl Ulvestad - Member	Josh Johnson - Ex Officio
Eric Olson - Member	Eric Kurtz - Member	Kristina Coby - Ex Officio
Derek Maassen - Member	Kathy Anderson - Member	Kip Rounds - Ex Officio
Drew Woelfel - Member	Ritchie Hutchinson - Member	David Parker - Ex Officio



A Look Back at Summer 2024



Hunting is more than just getting into the field and having a successful harvest. It also includes the time preparing and cooking your quarry.

On August 9, the Outdoor Campus hosted a “Kids Cooking with Wild Game” class. This class taught students (age 8-15): knife skills, keeping workspace clean, safety with hot appliances, reading recipes, and how to properly cook wild game.

The class had 15 students and was led by a Campus volunteer family.

In July we hosted a “Wet and Wild” Class. The focus of this class is to help students, age 5 and up to learn more about aquatic habitats.

During the 2 classes we hosted in July, 21 students learned about aquatic habitats through reviewing what a Benthic Macroinvertebrate is and how they can be an indicator of water quality. Students got to dawn rubber boots and go searching for these critters in our local pond.



Campus Updates - AIS Curriculum Training



Over the past year, the Game, Fish and Parks, South Dakota State University, and South Dakota State University Extension Office have been collaborating to create a Middle School level Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Curriculum. The goal of this curriculum is to help students across the state better understand what AIS is, what role state level managers play in slowing the spread of AIS, and what they as students can do to slow the spread.

In conjunction with these efforts, a \$34,820 grant was awarded this group to print the curriculum, develop video aids, create loaner kits, and host a 2 day training for teachers to learn about how to use the curriculum. On May 29 and May 30, 9 teachers attended this pilot training and were given resources to be able to take home to their classrooms.

To learn more about this curriculum or view the videos, go to:

gfp.sd.gov/fishsd/

Campus Updates - 'hood's Familyfest Fun Cruise

On June 1st, The Outdoor Campus hosted the Familyfest Fun Cruise “Swag Bag” Stop. 'hood Magazine puts together this event as a way for the public to get to know the variety of opportunities in Sioux Falls for family based fun.

The Outdoor Campus was one stop on this adventure where participants could pick up a goody bag filled with items from the local stops.

Aside from being the “Swag Bag” stop, the Campus held its Super Summer Saturday Fishing Program. This is a no-registration required, free fishing program.

Through the course of the event all 500 bags were given away and 1,177 individuals came through our facility.



Campus Updates - Groundbreaking

On July 12th at 11:30am, The Outdoor Campus held its Golden Shovel Groundbreaking. This event marked the beginning of construction for Phase 1 of the Expansion. Phase 1 is the 60-yard Outdoor Range (see page 10), which will be completed this Fall.

At the Golden Shovel, GFP Secretary Kevin Robling, Lieutenant Governor Larry Rhoden, Friends of the Outdoor Campus Board Chair Tim Kromminga, Executive Director of the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation Krsitina Coby, Director of the Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Don Kearney, and the Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce member Jason Herboldt all spoke at the event.

A huge thank you to the Sioux Falls Development Foundation for hosting this event and helping to make it such a success!



Campus Updates - 3rd Annual Gear Giveaway



On August 10th, the Campus hosted its 3rd Annual Gear Giveaway Program. Since it's inception in 2022, the goal of this program has stayed the same: provide an opportunity for the public to recycle their outdoor gear they no longer use, and give it to the next generation of outdoorsmen and women.

This year, we had over 53 donors that gave over 1,000 items such as lures, fishing poles, hunting clothes and boots, canoes, decoys, and cross-country skis. We are so very thankful to each and everyone of these donors who brought gear out to be repurposed.

This event started at 10am and ended at 12pm. We also hosted open house archery from 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm along with open house fishing from 1pm-3pm. By the end of the day, we had 980 different individuals come out to enjoy the event!

Campus Updates - Expansion



Notes from the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation Director

by Kristina Coby

July 12th was a VERY exciting day at the Outdoor Campus – Sioux Falls as we broke ground for the outdoor archery range. Phase One of the greatest expansion project since the doors were opened in 1997 is underway!

The SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation, along with the Friends of the Outdoor Campus set a goal to raise \$3,000,000 and we have reached 92% of our goal and we couldn't have gotten this far without generous donors from the community and surrounding area. Can YOU help us cross the finish line?

As you know, all programs offered to the public are free of charge and for all ages. If you've ever taken a class or participated in programming, you surely have fond memories of your experience. Help us keep building memories for future generations of outdoor enthusiasts by giving a gift today. Any gift, large or small, can help us reach our goal. Please stop into the Outdoor Campus to donate or visit us online by scanning the qr code below and visiting our website today.



Campus Updates - Expansion Construction

Construction on the outdoor archery range is in full swing!

As you can tell from the photos, the work is moving quite quickly going from July 24th with preparation of the construction site, to leveling and foundation work (photo on August 9th), to framing of the range storage building (photo on August 28th).

Still to come will be work on the shooting line, preparation of the range area, creation of a baffle, installation of a security fence, and finally seeding.

A big thank you to all the donors who have given to help make this project a reality and the contractors doing the construction!



2024 Sioux Falls Area HuntSAFE

Traditional Classes

September 10, 12, 14

September 24, 26, 28

October 1, 3, 5

Field Day Only

September 14

September 28

October 5

***Requires successful completion
of the online course.**

To Register: <https://gfp.sd.gov/hunter-education/>



Fall 2024 Programming

Our Fall 2024 Program Registration is live and ongoing.

If you are looking to learn more about hunting, fishing, trapping, outdoor skills, or conservation, The Campus has a class that is right for you!

Scan to Register:



Fall 2024 Programming Highlights

Waterfowl Management Overview

Thursday, October 10 from 1pm-2:30pm

Join Senior Waterfowl Biologist, Rocco Murano, to learn about harvest and habitat management as it relates to waterfowl. The class will also discuss: the Central Flyway Council, federal frameworks, and more!

Need Help with Registering?

Give us a call at 605-362-2777

or

Give the Kalkomey Help Desk a call at 1-800-684-9541



Fishing from a Kayak

Saturday, September 21
from 10am-11:30am

Learn the tips and tricks of paddling and fishing at the same time on our pond. Instruction for both fishing and kayaking will be provided with an emphasis on safety.

Fall 2024 Programming Highlights



Big Sioux Fly Fishing Club

This club is an ongoing partnership between the Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus and the Friends of the Big Sioux River.

The purpose of the club is to gather together anyone who wants to learn about or share their passion for fly fishing. The club also focuses on making fly fishing fun and approachable.

No registration is required. To learn more contact Jason Nelson:

Jason.Nelson@state.sd.us
605-940-8486

Our Living Prairie

Thursday, September 19

10am-11:30am

Jeff Zimprich from Pasque Hill on Beaver Creek will be presenting on how soil is alive, the importance of grasslands, and prairie plant root systems.

The program will be packed with hands-on activities and will wrap up with a hike exploring the Outdoor Campus prairie while learning about the animal diversity that call the prairie habitat home.

Register today for this class!



Hunting 101 - Fall Deer Hunts



Every fall, the Outdoor Campus offers the Hunting 101 Program. This program walks students through the process of learning:

1. How to purchase a Youth, Mentored, or Apprentice Deer Tag.
2. How to site in a gun at the range.
3. Spends time in the field attempting to harvest a deer.
4. If successful, how to field dress and process the deer.

Applications opened in June, and are open until the program fills. To learn more, go to: <https://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/> and click on “programming” or check out this video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEazROSVfxo>) to learn more.

Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Happy fall! I can't believe summer is already over. We had an amazing summer of classes, interns, and volunteers. Our volunteers worked hard this summer and donated over 1,500 hours to the Outdoor Campus. I loved seeing the friendships and camaraderie flourish among volunteers all summer long.

In early July, we had the honor of presenting Cheryl Ulvestad with the Helpline Center's Volunteer of the Month Award. We are incredibly lucky to have her at the Outdoor Campus. Cheryl is a critical team member, so much so that the interns rightfully awarded her the "Backbone of TOC" award at our end-of-summer volunteer party.

I'm excited to see what fall brings us. Hunting mentors will be busy with the Hunting 101 program. School and homeschool programs will be in full swing and need lots of help from volunteers.

We are so lucky to have such knowledgeable and insightful volunteers. Thank you, volunteers, for all that you do! We love having you at the Outdoor Campus!