

Spring 2025



Photo by 605 Video Co.



# OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

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## Winter 2024 -2025 Recap

Read about what happened this past Summer for Outdoor Campus programming  
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## Campus Updates

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## 2025 Program Highlights

Find out what exciting classes are coming up for Spring 2025.  
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# Region 3

## Wildlife

### Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

As much as we enjoy the wonderful outdoor opportunities that a South Dakota winter provides, the spring season is always a welcome change of scenery! Soon we'll experience the annual smell of lilacs blooming, the sound of turkeys gobbling, and the sight of waves on the lakes that were ice-covered all winter. It's a refreshing time of year that is filled with endless outdoor opportunities and excitement. Game, Fish and Parks staff couldn't be more excited to share those outdoor experiences with others! At the Outdoor Campus, we have a busy season planned with outdoor learning classes in full swing, as well as getting started with Phase 2 of our expansion project! We hope to see you soon to join the excitement!

### Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

Spring is nearly here after having such a unique winter. We were blessed to have some snow in February, so we could break out the Snowshoes and offer a few opportunities to the public prior to things warming up.

This Spring we are excited that we will be able to open our new Archery Range. The Range will be fully completed this spring, so be watching our social media for an official open date! This space will be free for anyone in the public to use during normal hours for Sertoma Park.

This Spring will also mark the beginning of construction on the Outdoor Campus building. Check out p. 7 to learn more about this exciting Phase 2 project.

One final item you may see changing at the Outdoor Campus is the move of our butterfly garden. We are shifting it further south, so there will be lots of work on the garden this spring and summer!





# Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

We are excited that The Outdoor Campus expansion continues to make progress. We have completed the bidding process and expect construction to begin as soon as the weather permits this spring. The addition of an indoor archery and BB gun range, additional classrooms, expanded kitchen facilities and additional space to process game will permit the staff to enhance and offer additional outdoor programs to introduce children and adults to the great outdoors.

The outdoor archery range is almost finished. An announcement will be made once it's open to the public. Bring your bow or join an introductory class if you're new to archery and enjoy a fantastic outdoor activity.

We extend our gratitude for your support. These campus improvements are made possible by your generosity and financial contributions. With your continued support, we can provide a range of complimentary outdoor introductory educational programs to thousands of children and adults from across the region. As spring approaches, we invite you to visit the campus and enjoy the outdoors or enroll in a class to enhance your outdoor experience.

## 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 Winter 2024/2025



## Raptor Rendezvous

On February 7th, the Outdoor Campus hosted its annual Raptor Rendezvous event. This year featured the F.A.R.E Group which brought a variety of birds including a Great Horned Owl, Peale's Peregrine Falcon, Swainson's Hawk, N. American Kestrel, Western Screech Owl, Harris's Hawk, and a Red-Tailed Hawk.

Along with these two presentations, hands on activities such as SD Owl ID and owl pellet dissection were included with the event.

## Ice Fishing

Despite the odd winter weather this year and the overall lack of snow, the ice held up well for numerous fishing classes. Thanks to the efforts of the Fisheries Department, both trout and salmon were stocked in the Campus Pond, leading to a lot of opportunity for ice fishing classes.

A couple of the homeschool ice fishing classes also involved an element of cleaning and cooking the fish that were taken from the pond.



Photo by 605 Video Co.



# Campus Updates - Hunting 101



## Traditional Hunting 101

This past Fall/Winter, the Outdoor Campus completed another successful Hunting 101 Program. This year we took out 74 hunters with 58 of these being youth and 16 being adults. On top of this, 51 of the 74 were first-time hunters.

During the course of the program 72 deer were harvested allowing many participants the opportunity to harvest a deer, learn to field dress it, and then learn how to process the deer into meat for the table.

## Disabled Veteran Hunting 101

Another unique opportunity the Outdoor Campus gets to help with is a Disabled Deer Veteran Hunt.

Once again, the Grey Ghost Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation sponsored the tags for 10 disabled veterans. Along with sponsoring the tags, a couple of the chapters members helped out as Volunteer Mentors for the program to help with the hunts.

8 out of 10 of these folks were able to successfully harvest a deer.





# Campus Updates - Hunting 101 Blind



## Brendan Peterson

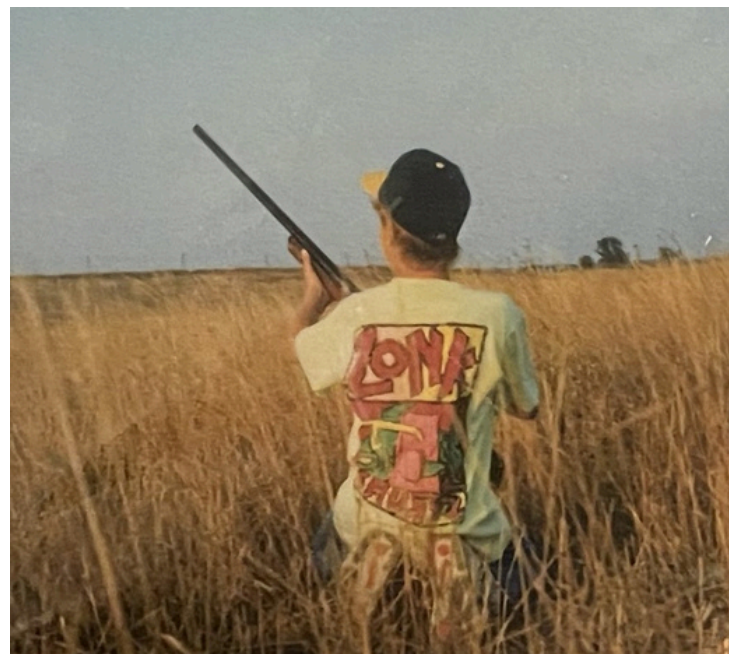
Brendan Peterson was a Wildlife Damage Specialist for the SD Game, Fish and Parks from 2009-2024, tragically passing away in 2024.

Brendan worked hard serving the people of South Dakota through his work in helping to manage South Dakotas Wildlife. His efforts and service to the state were exemplified through a 2016 GFP Award for Excellence and again in 2017 with the Wildlife Damage Specialist of the Year Award.

Brendan Peterson grew up with a rich history of hunting with his Grandfathers, Uncles, and Cousins. All of these family members mentored Brendan, and made him the outdoorsman that he was.

In memory of Brendan, his family chose to support the continued enjoyment of hunting in the outdoors through the donation of a hunting blind to be used in the Outdoor Campus Hunting 101 Program.

A plaque will be placed in this blind explaining where the donation came from and numerous mentored youth will be able to learn the activity of hunting because of resources such as this blind.





# Campus Updates - Expansion Construction

## Phase 1

The Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus Archery Range will be opening this Spring! Final touches are being done to the facility, and an announcement will be made via social media once the facility is open for use.



## Phase 2

On another note, the indoor phase of the expansion will be starting this Spring as well. This is the addition of a 20/30-yard indoor archery range, new classroom space, a game processing space, remodel of the original classrooms to be a cooking classroom, new restrooms, a nursing mother's room, and a family restroom.

This new addition will allow for more programming as well as more space for the general public to utilize the facility.





# Spring 2025 Programming

Our Spring 2025 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:



## Spring 2025 Programming Highlights



### Firearms Cleaing/Maintenance

Saturday, March 8 from 1-2:30pm or

Thursday, March 13 from 6:30-8pm

Learn how to properly care for and maintain firearms in this 1.5 hour class.

Class will include lecture and hands-on portions with explanation on cleaning rifles and smooth bored firearms.

### Archery Basics

Saturday, April 12

10-11:30pm or 1-2:30pm

Learn how to shoot our compound and long bows. Equipment, safety instruction, proper stance, and ethical shot placement will all be discussed and demonstrated at our archery range using 3-D targets.



## Need Help with Registering?

Give us a call at 605-362-2777

or

Give the Brandt Help Desk a call at 1-800-238-4168



# Spring 2025 Programming Highlights



## Channel Catfish and Walleye Talks with Ted

**Saturday, May 10 from 12-3pm**

Ted Ellenbecker, multi-species angler, multiple world record holder, nationally renowned speaker, and developer of "The Theory of Three" is presenting three individual seminars in person and streaming live on Catfish Weekly @ <https://www.catfishweekly.com>

High Percentage Bank Fishing  
12:00-12:45PM

On shore or in a boat who really has the advantage may surprise you. From beginner to expert this seminar information will up your game!

Fishing Walleyes Simplified  
1:00-1:45PM

Proven technique, rigs, baits, and common sense. Catching walleyes doesn't need to be complicated if you understand the basics.

Channel Catfish from A to Z  
2:00-2:45PM

These fish are available, willing, and fun. We will talk baits, rigs, and how to find these great sport fish. Then...hold on to your fishing rod!!!



# **HUNTSAFE TRADITIONAL COURSES**

## **TRADITIONAL HUNT SAFE WITH A LIVE FIRE DAY**

**APRIL 15, 17, 19**

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

**MAY 13, 15, 17**

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

**JUNE 3, 5, 7**

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

**JUNE 24, 26, 28**

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

**JULY 8, 10, 12**

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

**JULY 22, 24, 26**

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

**AUGUST 5, 7, 9**

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

**AUGUST 19, 21, 23**

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

**SEPTEMBER 2, 4, 6**

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

**SEPTEMBER 16, 18, 20**

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club

**SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 2, 4**

Outdoor Campus and Crooks Gun Club



# Hunting 101 - Spring Turkey Hunts



Are you looking to learn how to turkey hunt? The Outdoor Campus is once again hosting its Hunting 101 Turkey program this spring. This program is similar to the Hunting 101 Deer program in that you will learn the basics of purchasing a tag, spend time at the gun range, and also spend time in the field working to harvest a turkey.

Students will also get the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of turkey hunting such as using a turkey call and using decoys.

Applications are available now for the Spring 2025 Hunting 101 Turkey Season. Deadline to apply is March 20th, at 4:00 PM. To learn more and download the application, visit [gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/](http://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/) and click on "Programs".



# GFP in Brookings

Since the fall of 2022, the Outdoor Campus in collaboration with the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center and the Dakota Nature Park, has placed 2 Outreach Interns in Brookings. These interns offer programming, free to the public, at both locations and work to garner participation from both local families and college students.



This Spring, be watching for plenty of opportunities to get outside at the Brookings County Adventure Center and the Dakota Nature Park. There will be a variety of Open House Archery Programs, Study Nights, along with classes such as paracord bracelet making!

Our interns have also set up a permanent orienteering course throughout the hiking trails of the nature park and they have seen quite a few people take on that fun challenge. Keep an eye out for winter programs including archery, animals of South Dakota, and trapping.

## Brookings Happenings:

Intro to Archery 3/5 from 3-5pm	Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center
SD Fish 3/10 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
Intro to Archery 3/12 from 3-5pm	Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center
Leave It To Beaver 3/24 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
Intro to Archery 3/26 from 3-5pm	Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center

Be watching the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center and the Dakota Nature Park social media pages for more updates on classes!





# Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Welcome, Spring!

Spring is a season of change, and at the Outdoor Campus, that means anything from snowshoeing in April to kayaking—I'm crossing my fingers for kayaking!

A heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who spent countless hours helping with ice fishing this winter. We heard so many stories from excited participants who were thrilled to be part of the experience. We also had the chance to recognize our Hunting 101 mentors at the annual Hunting 101 Social. In 2024, seven incredible mentors gave nearly 890 hours to introducing new hunters to the field—a truly generous gift of time and knowledge.

As spring unfolds, so does a busy season of programming. We love seeing more volunteers and participants through our doors each day. And with Volunteer Appreciation Month in April, we look forward to celebrating the people who make all this possible.

Thank you, volunteers—you are the heart of the Outdoor Campus!



Interested in Volunteering?

Scan the  
QR Code:

