

Summer 2024



**OUTDOOR
CAMPUS**

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

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Spring 2024 Recap

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2024 Program Highlights

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Region 3

Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

As we turn the calendar page into the summer months, we're fortunate to look back on the springtime as a season of much-needed rain! The southeast area of the state is no longer on the drought monitor, which is good news for our lake and rivers. Although some lakes are still lower than normal, we're heading in the right direction toward filling them up. The spring rains are also good news for wildlife, especially pheasants, as those rains help grow vegetation that will serve as beneficial nesting and brood rearing cover. This all gives us a lot to look forward to as another memorable hunting season draws closer! Until then, there will be plenty of camping, fishing, and hiking to enjoy throughout the summer. As always, we're going to stay busy doing our best to connecting people to the great outdoors of South Dakota!

Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

It is Summer and that means kids out from school! This probably also means that if you are a parent, you are probably looking for some fun activities for you and your family. Our summer booklet is already out and is packed with some very fun and accessible classes for your family!

Another exciting thing about summer is our no-registration required Super Summer Saturdays! These are Saturdays we dedicate to summer fun with no registration required, these are great for folks of all ages and is open to anyone who would like to attend. No experience or gear required.

A final note of excitement is how close we are getting to construction on our expansion. Be looking for more details on our social media over the summer.





Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

As summer approaches we encourage you to take advantage of the various programming available at the Outdoor Campus. It is a great way to experience the outdoors right in the middle of Sioux Falls. Don't miss the opportunity to learn a new skill or start a new hobby.

We continue to work with the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation to complete the capital campaign to expand the facility. This will provide the additional space needed for expanded education and programming opportunities.

The first phase of our expansion, the outdoor archery range, will start mid-summer. Watch for groundbreaking details and we encourage you to join our celebration.

Board Members

Tim Kromminga - Chair
Emmett Keyser - Vice Chair
Amanda Oines - Member
Eric Olson - Member
Derek Maassen - Member

Royce Meritt - Member
Jeff Scherschligt - Member
Cheryl Ulvestad - Member
Eric Kurtz - Member
Kathy Anderson - Member

Jamie Simko - Member
Brian Klatt - Member
Kristina Coby - Ex Officio
Kip Rounds - Ex Officio
David Parker - Ex Officio

A Look Back at Spring 2024



One thing we love, is being able to partner with local entities. One partnership is with the Harrisburg Parks, Recreation and Forestry. On April 13th, we partnered to offer a Community Fishing Program at Lake Ole. Lake Ole is a quality community fishery in Harrisburg, that is used quite a bit by the public. During the 2 hour community event, about 40 kids and 40 adults participated.

On March 28th, the group formerly called the Fall Flyrodders Club held its inaugural meeting. The purpose of this GFP Outdoor Campus Club is to help connect adults interested in fly fishing and broaden their skills.

Since this inaugural meeting with 15 participants, the group has met at a variety of other times locally to fly fish. The group has also started partnering with the Friends of the Big Sioux River and changed its name to the Big Sioux Fishing Club.

If you are interested in joining or learning more, email Jason at Jason.Nelson@state.sd.us



Campus Updates - Update to Life Jacket Loaner Program

The Outdoor Campus/Region 3 Wildlife Office was recently awarded life jackets from the Sea Tow Foundation. These #yellowlifejackets are located at our facility and are able to be checked out for free to anyone in the public for boating, fishing, or swimming.

We encourage anyone who is planning a summer trip to come and check these out! They are available from May 1 - September 30 every year.



Campus Updates - HuntSAFE in the Schools



Photo by Michael G. Brown

Spring 2024 marked the 2nd HuntSAFE in the Schools Program here in Sioux Falls. This program is a unique partnership between the Sioux Falls YMCA Afterschool Program, the Sioux Falls School District, and the GFP Outdoor Campus. The program was held April 8-11 and April 15-18 during the afterschool program. Students spent the first week in the classroom learning about hunter safety and the second week was spent at the Izaak Walton League in Sioux Falls practicing safe firearm handling.

Campus Updates - Expansion



Notes from the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation Director

by Kristina Coby

By now you know that we are in the home stretch of the Outdoor Campus - Sioux Falls Expansion campaign. This campaign creates more space to learn more outdoor skills for our participants like YOU. With indoor and outdoor archery/bb gun ranges, additional classroom space, a teaching kitchen, and a game processing space, participants can continue to take advantage of our FREE programs throughout the year. We hope you are as excited as we are!

As we have been on the road to raising \$3,000,000, we know for sure that it takes a true team effort. We hope you can help. Have you been waiting for the perfect time to give? THAT TIME IS NOW!

Campus Updates - Expansion

The South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation's Mission is to enhance outdoor recreation for future generations and preserve our parks and wildlife. They do this through partnering with the SD Game, Fish and Parks to expand outdoor recreational opportunities.

Through their fundraising efforts, the Outdoor Campus Expansion project is almost fully funded. However, we still have need of \$500,000 to reach our goal of \$3,000,000. You can help us hit a bullseye on fundraising by scanning the QR code and donating.

Help us continue an over 25 year tradition of helping the public fall in love with the outdoors!



2024 Sioux Falls Area HuntSAFE

Traditional Classes

June 11, 13, 15

June 25, 27, 29

July 16, 18, 20

July 23, 25, 27

August 6, 8, 10

August 20, 22, 24

September 10, 12, 14

September 24, 26, 28

October 1, 3, 5

Field Day Only

June 15

June 29

July 20

July 27

August 10

August 24

September 14

September 28

October 5

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



To Register:

**[https://gfp.sd.gov/
hunter-education/](https://gfp.sd.gov/hunter-education/)**

Summer 2024 Programming

Our Summer 2024 Program Booklets came out April 24th! You can swing by the Campus to pick up a hardcopy or you can check them out online.

Registration for Summer Programming is unique:

- June Classes opened May 8
- July Classes opens June 5
- August Classes opens July 3

Scan to Register for Classes:



Summer 2024 Programming Highlights

Introduction to Turkey Hunting

Thursday, June 13 from 10am-12pm

This class will focus on learning how to turkey hunt. We will go over turkey calling, setting up decoys and blinds, scouting and more!



Ted Ellenbecker Summer Seminars!

Catching Channel Catfish

June 22 from 1-2pm

Locating summer channel catfish, understanding baits, and more!

Fishing for Walleye

June 22 from 2:10-3:10pm

Gain confidence with high percentage presentations without the fuss! Baits and locations.

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

Spring 2024 Programming Highlights



Women's Try It Night

This event is a fun ladies night out! The program includes a short presentation and a rotation of fire starting, fishing, archery, and paddling activities.

Registration is required for this event and fills up fast!

Participants must be 8 and up, youth with adult.

Date: Thursday, June 20, 5:30-9:00pm

Gear Swap and Giveaway

The 3rd Annual Gear Swap and Giveaway Event will be held on August 10 from 10am-12pm at the Outdoor Campus. No registration is required for this free event.

If you have found the cost of gear to be a challenge for getting into an outdoor activity, this event will help jump start your next hunting or fishing trip. Come take a variety of clothing, gear, rods/reels, etc. that you can use in the field. We will also have Open House Style Archery that day from 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm.



Programming Highlights - Open House Style

Open House Style Programming does not require any registration to attend.

Super Summer Saturdays

10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm

June 1	Fishing
June 15	Paddling
June 29	Archery
July 13	Fishing
July 27	Paddling
August 10	Archery



Fishing at Lake Lorraine

6:00pm-7:30pm

June 13, July 18, August 15

Note: this is an exclusive opportunity, that is first come, first serve. Fishing will be held on the Cars for Sale side of the lake. Fishing is not open to the public at Lake Lorraine, this is only allowed through a joint partnership of GFP and Lake Lorraine.

Fishing at Family Park

9:00am-11:00am

Saturdays, June 1-July 27

Come join us and the Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation at Family Park (300 North Ellis Road) for some free family fishing.



Hunting 101 - Fall Deer Hunts



This unique opportunity will walk students through safety, how to purchase a deer tag, how to shoot a rifle, time in the field, and if a successful harvest, time processing the deer.

Selection for this educational hunt will be based on an application that can be found online (gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/) or a hard copy can be picked up at the Campus. Applications will be available starting June 15th.

Students will only be allowed to hunt with a GFP Employee or GFP sanctioned Volunteer Mentor. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

Volunteer Highlight



On March 5th, Masako G. was awarded the President's Lifetime Achievement Award! This recognition is awarded to volunteers who exceed 4,000 hours of service to an organization. Masako has been a volunteer at the Outdoor Campus for 20 years and in January of 2024 surpassed 5,000 hours of service. This is the highest number of hours of any volunteers throughout the years at the Outdoor Campus! Masako has helped with everything from fly-tying and fishing classes to special events and the front desk. Masako is a friendly and familiar fact at the Outdoor Campus with a contagious smile, kindness, and generosity to all she meets.

Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Summer is here! Our volunteer program is gearing up for a busy summer of classes. Our volunteer coordinator intern, Sammie, started at the end of May. She's a great addition to our team, and I'm excited to see all she accomplishes this summer! We have our annual summer kickoff party on Thursday, June 6. At the party, we'll train volunteers how to help with classes like fishing, archery, and kayaking. At the end of the night, staff and volunteers join teams to play a fun kickball game.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your continued help at the Outdoor Campus! Your guys' help is essential for a successful summer of programming. Thank you, all, for continuing to inspire new outdoorsmen and women!

