

Winter 2024



Photo by 605 Video Co.

605-362-2777 TOC@state.sd.us



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —



Fall 2024 Recap

Read about what happened this past Summer for Outdoor Campus programming
P. 4

Campus Updates

Learn about what new things are happening at the Outdoor Campus P. 5-13

2025 Program Highlights

Find out what exciting classes are coming up for Fall 2024 and
P. 15-17



Photo by 605 Video Co

Region 3

Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

Winter is my favorite time to reflect on the year and be thankful for the memories made in the great outdoors of South Dakota. Looking back on 2024, it was a year to remember here at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls. We experienced near-record flooding that submerged our parking lot and brought the Big Sioux River within feet of our building. We celebrated a groundbreaking event to mark the beginning of our Outdoor Campus expansion project and completed Phase 1 of the project, a brand-new outdoor archery range! Perhaps most importantly, our staff once again had the honor of introducing the outdoors to hundreds of individuals throughout the year and starting them on a life-long journey of outdoor adventures. As we make plans for a busy 2025, we hope you can join us here at the Outdoor Campus to make more memories in the outdoors!

Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

Winter is almost here, but the fun outside does not end! From cross country skiing and snowshoeing to ice fishing, the opportunities to get outside in the winter abound. This fall we were lucky enough to be stocked with Trout, Atlantic Salmon, and Coho Salmon! We are looking forward to some great ice fishing classes!

As a reminder, the trails here in Sertoma Park are groomed by the city. They are groomed for skate skiing, traditional cross country skiing, and for folks to walk on. Remember if you are walking or snow shoeing to stay off the main groomed area. Trails are only groomed a few times per week, so please be respectful of all of our trail users (p. 14).

We are once again checking out snowshoes to anyone who would like to use them in the park. We just ask that you have them back to the Campus 30 minutes prior to close.





Photo by Travel South Dakota

Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

As we are entering the holiday season, the Friends of the Outdoor Campus are grateful for your support of our facility expansion and programming. The outdoor archery range is nearly complete, and we hope it will be available for you in the very near future so you can take advantage of one more beautiful fall day and shoot your bow at our new range.

We recently learned that our application for matching funds received final approval and the expansion of additional classrooms, and an indoor archery range will begin next spring. This expansion will provide the space for additional outdoor education and indoor shooting experiences no matter what the weather brings.

Don't let the changes in seasons force you indoors. Enjoy the Outdoor Campus for a brisk walk or when that first snow flies take advantage of the snowshoes that are available to check out free of charge or take part in a cross-country skiing or ice fishing class. There are no better activities to keep you active or to shed those few extra holiday pounds during these next few wintery months.

We wish you a special Holiday season and thank you for your support. As you consider your year end contributions, please consider supporting the Outdoor Campus.

Board Members

Tim Kromminga - Chair

Emmett Keyser - Vice Chair

Amanda Oines - Member

Eric Olson - Member

Derek Maassen - Member

Drew Woelfel - Member

Royce Meritt - Member

Jeff Scherschligt - Member

Cheryl Ulvestad - Member

Eric Kurtz - Member

Kathy Anderson - Member

Ritchie Hutchinson - Member

Jamie Simko - Member

Brian Klatt - Member

Josh Johnson - Ex Officio

Kristina Coby - Ex Officio

Kip Rounds - Ex Officio

David Parker - Ex Officio

A Look Back at Fall 2024



Wild game cooking is a favorite class we get to hold. This Fall we taught how to make Venison Egg Rolls, Pheasant Tortellini (showcased in picture), and Goose Poppers. It is fun to be able to show that wild game doesn't just have to be turned into ground meat, there are so many recipes available to change the way you view wild game cooking.

Be on the look out this winter for more wild game cooking classes!

Hunting 101 - Deer

This Fall Hunting 101 season was off to a slow start, but is now moving smoother with the cooler weather. To date, we have had 39 successful hunts. Of these 39, 2 were part of our Disabled Veteran Program that is in partnership with the Grey Ghost Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation.

This program would not be possible without the generous help of 8 landowners and 7 volunteer mentors!



Campus Updates - Registration Platform Change

On November 5th, we sent out exciting news about our event registration system. Officially on November 15th we had completely transitioned over our event registration system to the Go Outdoors South Dakota System. This system is what the Game, Fish and Parks Department has been using as the platform for purchasing a hunting and fishing license, a state park pass, and a camping reservation. This system now also houses the event registration system.

We want to remind folks, if you already have an account with Go Outdoors South Dakota, you do not need to do anything, unless you need to link kids or others to your account (see step 3). If you do need to create an account for yourself, start at step 1 below to make the switch to our new registration system.



The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of the Go Outdoors South Dakota website. The left screenshot is the login page, titled "WELCOME TO GO OUTDOORS SOUTH DAKOTA". It features a "Login to:" section with three options: "Purchase and View / Print Licenses", "Purchase and Manage Reservations & Park Entrance Licenses", and "View and Manage Your Customer Account". Below these is a "log in" button with the "mySD" logo and a "Help Logging In" link. The right screenshot is a mission statement page, titled "Go Outdoors South Dakota!". It includes the text: "For any issues accessing or creating customer profiles, please call 1-800-238-4168 for assistance!" and "Mission: We serve and connect people and families to the outdoors through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries, and wildlife resources." At the bottom, it says "For more information on Licenses, Fees, and Regulations: Click Here".

To Create an Account

1.) You can follow the directions in this short video on how to set up an account ([Click here to watch](#)) or log onto <https://gooutdoorssouthdakota.com/> and click through the steps that the Go Outdoors System prompts you to complete to set up your account.

2.) Once you have created an account, you should be able to log on to Go Outdoors. If you are not planning to use your account to register anyone else up (such as your child), then you are now complete and ready to sign up for classes that are posted or future ones that will be posted.

3.) *If you are a parent or caregiver*** - There is an additional step needed to register for programming for your student. Each student will need an account. There are two options for creating your student an account:**

- a. If your student has an email address or you would like to get your student an email address, follow the same process you did for yourself to set up an account but do so for each of your students. This will allow you to link their accounts to yours (see step 4 for linking accounts).
- b. If your child does not have an email address and you do not desire them to obtain one at this point, you will need to visit the Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls or give us a call at 605-362-2777 so we can create your child an account that does not have an email address connected to it. You can also call 1-800-238-4168 number and a Go Outdoors employee can help.

Campus Updates - Casting for Recovery

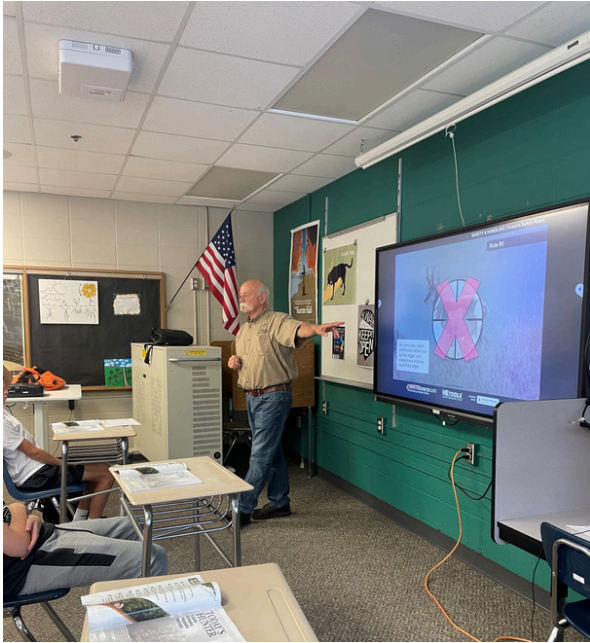


On October 4-6, the second ever Casting for Recovery South Dakota was held at NeSoDak Bible Camp in Waubay. This program focuses on providing a retreat for breast cancer survivors. Throughout the weekend, participants spend time getting to know each other, learning about fly fishing skills, and also meeting with medical professionals about breast cancer. The capstone of the program is a fly fishing experience where participants are matched with a guide to spend time fishing.



Applications are currently open for the 2025 retreat which will be held at Outlaw Ranch in Custer, SD on September 12-14. To learn more or apply, go to: <https://castingforrecovery.org/>

Campus Updates - HuntSAFE in the Schools



HuntSAFE in the Schools

This Fall marked the 3rd ever HuntSAFE in the Schools program offered in the Sioux Falls area. This year we expanded the program to include both Ben Reiffel Middle School and Patrick Henry Middle School. The program involves 2 weeks of training. Week 1 is in the classroom and is learning about laws, regulations, and safety. Week 2 is hands on time including understanding how to safely handle a firearm, cross a fence, and finally a live fire opportunity. We had 27 total participants take part in this experience.

We want to give a huge thank you to: the Sioux Falls School District, the Sioux Falls YMCA, and the Izaak Walton League for their support in this program!

Campus Updates - Action Trackchair[®]



Photo by Michael G. Brown



Photo by 605 Video Co.

Action TrackChair[®]

The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls has joined the ranks of Game, Fish and Parks locations that offer an Action Trackchair[®] for check out. These chairs are all-terrain, rugged wheelchairs that are on tracks. They are built so that folks of all abilities can enjoy the outdoors through hunting, fishing, and recreation.

The Sioux Falls Action Trackchair[®] can be checked out for FREE and taken anywhere in the state. The chair comes with a trailer for hauling, as well as attachments for the chair for hunting as well as fishing.

To learn more or to reserve the chair, call 605-362-2700 or visit our webpage at gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/

Campus Updates - Expansion



This Holiday Season, Help Us Transform the Outdoor Campus!

by Elena Dagit (Exec. Assist.)

We're so close to an exciting milestone! Thanks to generous donors, we're nearing our goal to expand the Outdoor Campus and create even more opportunities to connect with nature. But we need your help to cross the finish line.

This \$7 million project will bring amazing new features, including indoor and outdoor archery ranges, classrooms, a teaching kitchen, a game processing area, and more. These additions will allow us to offer programs like HuntSAFE courses, outdoor cooking, shooting sports, fishing, kayaking, and snowshoeing—helping people of all ages learn, grow, and connect with the outdoors.

We're less than \$200,000 away from hitting our \$3 million fundraising target. This season of giving is the perfect time to make a difference. Every gift matters—whether it's \$25 or \$25,000!

Your support will help us create a space where screen time is replaced by hands-on experiences and families can build lasting memories. Let's come together to preserve our outdoor heritage and inspire the next generation of nature lovers.

Give the gift of the outdoors this holiday season!



Campus Updates - Expansion Construction

The Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus Archery Range is near completion!

As you can tell from the photos, all concrete is poured, the archery shed is complete, the firing line structures are complete, and safety fences are up. The final piece we are waiting on is the metal roofing and signage. Once that is complete, Phase 1 of the Campus Expansion Project will be complete.

Our plan with this range is that anyone in the public will be able to bring their own bow and use it during normal Sertoma Park hours (5:00 am - 10:00 pm).

Keep looking toward our social media page for an official opening day once the project is fully complete!



Campus Updates - Outdoor Range Targets



The Outdoor Campus Archery Range is near completion. Meaning that folks in the public will be able to come to Sertoma Park and target shoot their Bows.

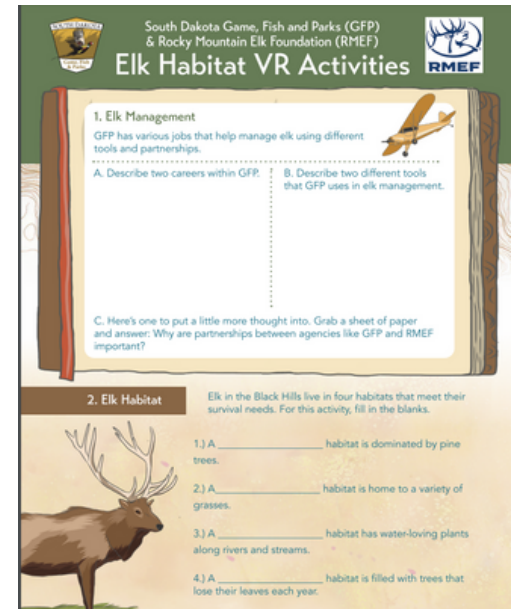
In preparation of opening, the Outdoor Campus has partnered with the Harrisburg School District CTE Program.



The Harrisburg CTE program has worked extremely hard to create a total of 12 target holders that will be placed on the outdoor archery range.

A huge thank you to the CTE Program for creating these target holders to exact specs as well as in such a quick fashion!

GFP Update - Elk Virtual Reality Tour



Over the last year, Game, Fish and Parks Education staff have worked to create a unique educational opportunity. Through a generous grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the “Elk of the Black Hills Virtual Reality Tour” was created. This program immerses the user in a manipulative, digital environment allowing learning through video, text, and more.

The program walks students through what elk are, the habitats they can be found in, as well as jobs and organizations that work to help maintain elk populations.

Along with the immersive video, a 2-sided worksheet can be downloaded and used to gauge student retention of information. If a student completes the program, they are eligible to request a ELK VR Program sticker.



To learn more, go to: gfp.sd.gov/elk-vr/

GFP Update - BOW

BOW or Becoming an Outdoor Woman, is a national education program that strives to make women more comfortable in and more aware of the outdoor world around them. Game, Fish and Parks hosts this event every Fall.



This year, BOW was held at Outlaw Ranch in September. Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls staff helped in teaching a variety of classes including: wild game cooking (pictured below), game processing, outdoor cooking, and shotgun shooting.

To learn more about this program, visit gfp.sd.gov/bow/



Reminder on Trail Usage:

WELCOME TO SERTOMA PARK MULTI-USE TRAILS



FOR THE SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT OF OTHERS PLEASE RESPECT THE TRAIL ETIQUETTE



FOOT AND SNOWSHOE TRAFFIC
AVOID GROOMED CLASSIC LANES.

SKATE SKIING
STAY IN THE MIDDLE. AVOID GROOMED CLASSIC LANES.

CLASSIC SKIING
GROOMED CLASSIC LANES

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Ski in control and always yield to slower-moving recreationalists.
- When passing, slow your speed and politely call out, "On your left."
- Avoid skate skiing on or over the groomed classic lanes.
- Be respectful of wildlife and private property.
- Keep the trails litter free.
- Be courteous to other trail users.



Yield to grooming equipment at all times. For your safety, and the groomers safety, always move to the opposite side of the trail from the machine.



Dogs are allowed. Please keep them off the groomed classic lanes and scoop your poop.



Bicycles are not allowed on Sertoma Park's groomed trails.

Winter 2024 Programming

Our Winter 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:



Winter 2024 Programming Highlights

Ice Rod Building

Wednesday, December 18 and Thursday,
December 19 from 6pm-8pm

While you wait for the ice to thicken on the pond, get ready by building your own ice fishing rod. Participants will need to make sure they attend both classes. So if you have ever been interested in catching a fish with your own hand-built rod, this is the class for you!



Rabbit Hunting

Saturday, January 4
10am-11:30am

Cottontail rabbit hunting season continues through the end of March giving hunters the opportunity to enjoy the briskness of winter. This class will walk you through the basics of rabbit hunting, cleaning, and preparing

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

Winter 2024 Programming Highlights



Duck Camp - Jr. Duck Stamp

Saturday, January 25

1pm-3pm

The Outdoor Campus is thrilled to partner with USFWS to create Duck Camp! The camp will include a rotation of activities including learning duck ID and markers for classification, a nature hike with duck calling, and time to create your entry for the 2025 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Kindergarten through 12th grade are eligible to participate and all the supplies will be provided.

Shotgun and Rifle Cleaning

Thursday, January 9

6pm-7:30pm

Join HuntSAFE instructors Hunter Cole and Steve Gaspar to learn about proper maintenance of firearms. Participants will learn proper cleaning and storage of shotguns and rifles through detailed instruction, demonstration, and hands-on opportunities. All materials will be provided.

Participants must be 14 and up. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.



Winter 2024 - Special Event

Raptor Rendezvous

Friday February 7 from 5pm-8pm

Raptor Rendezvous is back in 2025!

This year's event will feature two opportunities to watch a presentation by Tanya McCarlson, a South Dakota licensed falconer and leader of the F.A.R.E Group. Each presentation will feature live birds!

In between the presentations, participants can enjoy various raptor-themed open-house activities. Those attending the second presentation are encouraged to come early to participate in the open-house activities.

Registration is required for this event.

Order of events:

- **5pm-6pm** Presentation
- **6pm-7pm** Activities
- **7pm-8pm** Presentation



Hunting 101 - Spring Turkey Hunts



Every Fall the Outdoor Campus hosts Deer Hunting 101. This program takes students of all ages through a comprehensive how to hunt and process a deer. Every Spring we work to offer a similar opportunity with Turkey Hunting. To learn more about this program, visit: gfp.sd.gov/toc-east and click on “Programming”.

The Outdoor Campus Internal Application for this program will open in February 2025. Candidates chosen for the program will need to purchase a Spring Mentor Tag or successful draw a turkey tag.

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.

The 2024-2025 season in Brookings has started off with a bang. They took advantage of the mild weather and offered numerous kayaking, hiking, and fishing classes around the Dakota Nature Park. These opportunities are split between the greater Brookings community, as well as the students of SDSU to ensure all have access to programming. With the recent stocking of trout and salmon, more classes including ice fishing will certainly be on the horizon.

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:

SD Mammals 1/13 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
SD Herps 1/27 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
SD Waterfowl 2/10 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
SD Upland Birds 2/24 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
SD Fish 3/10 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park
Leave It To Beaver 3/24 from 5-6:30pm	Larson Nature Center at Dakota Nature Park

Be on the look out for Open Archery Days this Winter/Spring!



Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Winter is just around the corner! A heartfelt thank you to all our incredible volunteers who dedicated so much time this fall. Since September, our volunteer hunting mentors have worked tirelessly, with no plans to slow down until the season's close. Your dedication over these past weeks has been invaluable, and both staff and Hunting 101 participants are deeply grateful. You've helped create cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

This November, we celebrated some of our outstanding volunteers with a special fishing rod-building class. Six dedicated fishing mentors had the chance to craft their own ice, fly, casting, or spinning rods—a small token of our appreciation for their ongoing contributions.

As we transition into winter programming, we're excited for weeks filled with ice fishing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Here's hoping for enough snow to bring back our Snow & Go events! Thank you once more to all our volunteers for sharing your passion for the outdoors with us. We're fortunate to have such a dedicated team!



Interested in Volunteering?

Scan the
QR Code:

