



#### JANUARY - MARCH PROGRAMS BELOW!

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## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

We're excited to have school programs back up and running at the Campus starting in mid-January! P. 02

## STAYING SAFE ON THE ICE

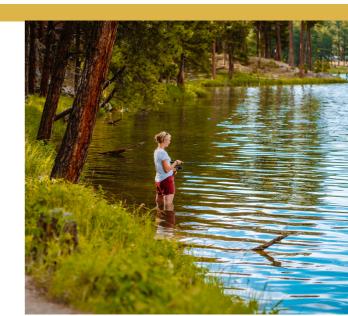
January-March is prime ice fishing season in the Black Hills. While fun and rewarding, it is good to keep in mind that fishing on ice comes with a unique set of hazards. P. 03

## PREDATOR CALLING

Read on to learn what predator calling is and how it is an effective tool to manage predator species, such as coyotes. P. 04

#### FISHING 101

Interested in getting into the sport of fishing but don't exactly know where to begin, where to go, or what all you need? Our new Fishing 101 program is a free, in-depth series-based program specifically designed to teach adults, young adults, and families how to go fishing. P. 06





#### SCHOOL PROGRAMS

by Cheyenne Parke

With the second half of the school year approaching, I am excited to announce that school programs will be back up and running in mid-January! The Outdoor Campus took a short break this fall from offering our school programs, as we were in the process of hiring a new Schools Coordinator. The position is a result of a partnership between South Dakota State University Extension and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

We will start accepting registration for the school programs in early January. The programs will run Tuesday-Friday. Students will have a chance to learn about and experience a wide range of topics and activities, such as fishing, habitats, wildlife, outdoor skills and more! We are excited to offer these educational opportunities to students in grades K-12, including home-schoolers, from across the area -- Spearfish to Wall, Milesville to Hot Springs, and everywhere in between. We have been working hard on planning and contacting schools and can't wait to start!



## WHAT EXACTLY IS THE HABITAT STAMP?

by Lacy Elrod

Have you ever wondered why you were charged \$10 for a Habitat Stamp?

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) focuses its work on four priorities. One of those is Habitat and Access. GFP is constantly working to improve habitat on public land and provide public access to private land. Since July 1, 2020, those 18 and older who buy a hunting, fishing or trapping license have been required to also buy a Habitat Stamp. Revenue from this stamp goes directly toward improving and providing access to more land and aquatic areas.

Since 2020, GFP has been working on or completed roughly 444 habitat and access projects costing approximately \$5.05 million. More than 44.6 thousand acres of private land has been made accessible for public hunting or fishing with the Habitat Stamp funding.

Habitat is critical for our fish and wildlife populations and the activities we are all passionate about. Your support creates and protects habitat on the ground and in the water, and makes access to these areas possible as well. Habitat Stamp funds will help to keep quality habitat -- and its inhabitants -- available for all to enjoy.

To learn more about projects funded by your Habitat Stamp purchase, click <u>here</u>, to view the GFP webpage.

# WATER CHEMISTRY IN WINTER WEATHER

by Louise Swanson (Intern)

Water is the only liquid known to expand when it freezes. This expansion reduces the water's density and explains why ice floats on water and why bodies of water freeze from the top down rather than the ice sinking and filling from the bottom up.

When water freezes, its hydrogen bonds organize themselves into the most stable arrangement rather than the most compact one. These bonds form the solid crystalline structure we know as ice.

Moving water typically takes longer to freeze than still water because movement generates thermal energy, keeping the water molecules from freezing and sticking together. In addition, bodies of water freeze from the edges, whether the water is shallower and cooler, toward the warmer center.

Because 70% of Earth's surface is covered with water, these impressive scientific facts are important to life on our planet. For example, as a lake or ocean freezes, fish find pockets below the ice where they can live for the winter.

In our case, these phenomena allow us to play hockey, figure skate and cut a hole in the ice so we can catch fish all winter long.





#### STAYING SAFE ON THE ICE

by James Willmus (Intern)

January-March is prime ice fishing season in the Black Hills. While fun and rewarding, it is good to keep in mind that fishing on ice comes with a unique set of hazards. Taking proper precautions will ensure a safe, fun ice fishing season on our area lakes.

It is important to make sure that the ice is thick enough to safely walk on. A minimum of 4 inches is required for safely walking on ice; 6 inches is recommended for ATVs and snowmobiles, and at least 12 inches -- preferably, 16 inches or more -- is needed for pickups.

When venturing onto the ice, be sure to let someone know where you will be headed and when you plan to return. Falling through the ice can happen at any time, and it is important to get out of the freezing water as quickly as possible. So, keep a pair of long nails in your pocket as makeshift ice picks.

Most common injuries on the ice aren't life-threatening. Slips and falls are inevitable, but wearing nonslip footwear is the best way to minimize the chance of such mishaps. There is a lot more that can be done to minimize risk, and The Outdoor Campus in Rapid City offers many ice fishing and winter sports classes that cover safety on ice and snow.





## PREDATOR CALLING: COYOTES

by Allie Fischer (Intern)

Coyotes are well-known to outsmart trappers and to be highly adaptable, smart creatures. But without apex predators around to keep their numbers down, they can alter the natural balance of prey animals. When there are too many coyotes in one place, they can decrease the populations of small prey such as rabbits, game birds, and rodents, and they can even prey on fawns and turkeys.

One way to help control these common predators is through predator calling, the technique of using prey distress calls or same-species mating calls to attract a predator to hunt. With coyotes, this can be an easier way to hunt them than trapping. Coyotes have an incredible sense of smell and can usually detect a trap and avoid it.

In our region, January-March is the best time to call in coyotes, since it is their mating season. So, if you are interested in getting into predator calling there are many resources out there. YouTube can be a great place to start, but our classes here at The Outdoor Campus provide in-person instruction for beginners. Coming up we will offer a predator-calling class and even a one-on-one coyote hunting series. We hope to see you there!



## WATERFOWL IDENTIFICATION

by Laurie Root

What kind of duck is on that pond? That is a common question this time of year because we get many species coming to our open water. I always take the opportunity to have the visitor make some observations before I help them find out what kind of duck it is.

There are many apps, but I love the book *Waterfowl Identification* in the Central Flyway, printed years ago. You can find it online by clicking here.

Something that's noticeable right away in trying to identify a duck is whether it dives underwater or just tips its bottom up. Ducks that dive are called -- wait for it -- "diver" ducks! The other ducks are referred to as "puddle" or "dabbling" ducks.

Diver ducks usually swim with their tail held close to the water and need to take off by "running" along the surface of the water for quite a distance. Their legs are set near the rear of their body, and they have large feet, with the hind toe lobed.

Puddle ducks usually swim with their tail held clear of the water and can simply spring into the air on takeoff. Their legs are in the center of their body, and they have smaller feet than divers, with the hind toe not lobed.

A great way to learn how to identify ducks is to go to Canyon Lake and observe the ducks' colors and behaviors and make notes. Then go home and identify them. I find if someone just finds a match in a book, they don't remember the name. If you really take time to observe, you will enjoy trying to figure out what kind they are!

## SAUCY APPLE GOOSE

#### by Laurie Root

I used this recipe on the first Canada goose I shot with my muzzleloading shotgun. The recipe was in my favorite wedding gift, *Cooking the Sportsman's Harvest*, published by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks in 1974.

That year I was feeling very domestic and made applesauce with our tiny crabapples and currant jelly with wild berries harvested in the Black Hills. It turned out so moist and tasty, I cook all of my geese like this now!

#### Ingredients:

- 1 whole plucked wild Canada goose
- 2 apples, cored and sliced
- 1 (14-oz.) can applesauce (or homemade)
- 1/2 cup corn syrup
- 1/4 cup currant jelly (can substitute grape or blackberry)
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. nutmeg

#### **Instructions:**

- 1. Place goose in a roasting pan. Add apples to cavity. Bake at 350 F, allowing 20-25 minutes per pound.
- 2. Combine remaining ingredients in a saucepan and heat for a few minutes. Pour over goose and baste goose frequently with the applesauce mixture. Serve remaining sauce over carved goose.

To view a video of this recipe, click here.





## HUNTING 101 & BOWHUNTING 101 RECAP

by Clint Whitley

The 2022 Bowhunting and Hunting 101 program seasons went great. This year we had a mix of families and adults with a range of levels of success. The archery hunting proved to be a challenge, as our bowhunters came out with a 60% success rate. Our rifle hunters found great success as well, and as of Dec. 1 were projected to be 100% successful. Participants not only were able to go on a deer hunt but also acquired valuable knowledge along the way. Discussion topics included access to hunting property, handling firearms, shot placement, regulations and hunting tactics, and participants gained experience in a hands-on setting during the 15-25 hours of programming.

Many participants are moving on to purchase other tags and extend their seasons on their own. In such a short program, participants still lack some experience in various situations that can arise in the field, but we work to remove as many barriers as possible that keep folks from giving it a try. I remind hunters that every year I am humbled by my target species, and they make me feel like a new hunter at times, despite my extensive experience.

Hunting is a skill that takes a lifetime to master, and yet we will never master it. This program encourages participants that they can do this and that they do have the tools and knowledge to give it a try.





#### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

by Pat Moore (Volunteer Mentor)

## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Are you looking for a way to give back to your community? Do you like recreating in the outdoors and want to share your skills with others? Volunteer with us!

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Naturalist Assistant
- Landscaping/Gardening
- Information Desk/Greeter (18+)
- SD Wildlife Interpreter
- School Programs Assistant
- Volunteer Instructor
- Volunteer Mentor

The mission of volunteers at The Outdoor Campus is to cultivate stewardship and safely connect people with the outdoors by supporting and leading educational opportunities.

For more information on the volunteer program or to apply, click <u>here</u>.

Learning any new skill is a challenge. When you combine a precision-shooting sport with the less-than-optimal weather we have in South Dakota, along with pursuit of a wild animal in its home territory, it can be nearly overwhelming. This is the reality that anyone new to hunting faces. Compound this with the never-ending onslaught of marketing for gadgets, gizmos, and easy buttons and you have a recipe for disaster that could be difficult or even impossible to overcome.

Most of us who have grown up as hunters can point to at least one or more of our friends or family members who helped us burn through this confusion. For me, it was my father and his friends with whom I hunted white-tailed deer in the thick pine forests of Alabama. I spent 10 years as a child learning the behavior of our prey, understanding their habitat and how to turn your target into something more than than antlers for the wall. While many are fortunate enough to have this mentorship as children, not everyone is so lucky.

The Hunting 101 Mentorship program through The Outdoor Campus-Rapid City provides prospective hunters from all walks of life with an opportunity to partake in one of the most natural events in human history, the pursuit and harvesting of wild game to nourish your family. Applicants are brought together to learn the basics of hunting and gain exposure to the process from initial planning through processing and packaging. This hands-on mentorship allows students to focus more on learning from the experience, rather than trying to develop their own training plan in a vacuum.

I joined this program as a mentor because my favorite memory in the woods was watching my son successfully stalk and take his first deer. Knowing that I have an opportunity to teach others a skill they may never otherwise learn, and that will allow them the same opportunity to teach their children or grandchildren, is fulfilling beyond anything I could have ever imagined. The efforts put forth in Hunting 101 have produced, and will continue to produce, more educated, safe, and ethical hunters, adding more advocates to stand up for the way of life that I hold so dear.

## HAPPENINGS IN SIOUX FALLS

Check out our sistercampus in Sioux Falls!

Outdoor Campus-Sioux Falls 4500 S Oxbow Ave Sioux Falls, SD 57106 toc@state.sd.us | 605.362.2777

Here is a list of just some of the community programs the Sioux Falls campus will be offering. For the entire program booklet and more information, click <a href="here">here</a>.

#### **Rabbit Hunting**

• January 7, 1:30-3:00 pm

Predator Calling and Hunting

• January 26, 6:30-8:00 pm

### Deer Processing-Breaking Down the Quarters

- January 17, 6:00-8:00 pm
- January 28, 1:00-3:30 pm

### Spinning & Casting Rod Building

January 7, 14, and 21, 9:00 amnoon

#### Snowshoeing

- January 21, 10:00-11:30 am
- February 18, 10:00-11:30 am

#### Raptor Rendezvous

 February 3, 5:00-6:00 pm OR 7:00-8:00 pm

#### **FOLLOW US!**

Stay up to date on program information in Rapid City by following us!



@outdoorcampus\_rapidcity



<u>Game, Fish & Parks Outdoor</u> <u>Campus-Rapid City</u>



South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks-Education



### FISHING 101

by Clint Whitley

Fishing 101 will be a new addition to our 101 series programs. Just like the other 101 programs we offer here at The Outdoor Campus, Fishing 101 will aim to remove as many barriers as possible that keep people from hitting the water in the spring and summer.

The course will start with the basics and end with multiple fishing trips that teach how to target fish in different types of water and different approaches to catching them. Participants will have a chance to learn how to make their own fishing rod, find fishing locations, use various fishing techniques with different types of equipment, and clean, fillet and prepare fish for the table.

Families with kids ages 10 and older, as well as adults, are welcome to join the program. Everyone who attends will be considered a participant. Like all programs here at The Outdoor Campus, the class is free, thanks to revenue from hunting and fishing licenses. Participants will not need to provide any of their own gear.

If you are interested in signing up for this program, please reach out to Clint and he will add you to the list to contact later this winter. He can be reached at clint.whitley@state.sd.us





#### **JANUARY PROGRAMS**

#### **Family Intro to Dutch Oven Cooking**

Learn how to cook with and care for cast iron Dutch ovens. Closed-toed shoes are required for safety. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

January 5 4:00 - 5:30 PM

#### Intro to Ice Fishing

Learn the basics of ice fishing, including ice safety, equipment needed, and techniques. Participants will have the opportunity to fish at a Black Hills Lake with GFP staff at a later date.

January 6 6:00 – 7:30 PM January 17 6:00 – 7:30 PM January 25 6:00 – 7:30 PM

#### **Date Night: ART-chery**

Shoot paint filled balloons that drip onto canvas to make paint pour art by using your target shooting skills. Take home your creations.

January 9 6:00 – 7:00 PM

#### **Celestial Navigation**

Learning about celestial navigation and the importance of the night sky on the great plains. Use this information on a hike around campus.

January 11 5:00 - 6:00 PM

#### What's for Dinner? Venison Stir Fry

In this hands-on cooking class learn tips and techniques for cooking venison. These are small portions and not meant to be a full meal.

January 12 6:00 - 8:00 PM

#### **Brunch Dutch Oven Cooking**

Learn how to cook with and care for cast iron Dutch ovens. Closed-toed shoes are required for safety.

January 14 10:00 - 12:00 PM

#### **Family ART-chery**

Shoot paint filled balloons that drip onto canvas to make paint pour art by using your target shooting skills. Take home your creation.

January 17 6:00 - 7:00 PM

#### **Hunting Skills: Predator Calling**

Learn about types of calls and techniques for calling in predators.

January 18 6:00 - 7:00 PM

#### **Dehydrating Meals**

Learn how to dehydrate then assemble meals from common ingredients such as noodles, hamburger, lunch meat, instant mashed potatoes, frozen vegetables, gravy packets, quick oats, powdered milk, rice, and fruit.

January 18 5:30 - 7:00 PM

#### **Wild Game Preservation: Canning**

Learn tips and techniques to preserve food, including venison.

January 19 5:30 - 7:00 PM

#### **Pellet Gun Shooting**

Learn basic gun safety and how to shoot pellet guns in our Hunter Education Building. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

January 21 10:00 - 11:00 AM

#### Intro to Snowshoeing

Come learn about the basics of snowshoeing and give snowshoeing a try, weather permitting.

January 21 1:00 – 2:00 PM

\*ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT \*



#### JANUARY PROGRAMS

#### Wild Game Preservation: Dehydrating

Learn tips and techniques to dehydrate foods to help increase shelf life of foods and make them easier to take along on hiking and hunting trips. January 26 5:30 – 7:00 PM

#### **Building Wood Duck Houses**

Join us as we assemble wood duck houses to hang on the Outdoor Campus grounds to encourage wood ducks to nest. January 28 10:00 – 1:00 PM

#### **Raptors and Owl Pellets**

Raptors are a primary part of South Dakota ecosystems. Learn about these birds and what they eat by dissecting an owl pellet. January 28 10:00 – 1:00 PM

## CALL TO SET UP YOUR OWN GROUP PROGRAM!

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#### FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

#### **Wild Game Preservation: Pickling**

Come learn about the basics along with tips and tricks of pickling.

February 2 5:30 - 7:00 PM

#### **Hunting Skills: Gun Cleaning**

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

February 3 6:00 - 7:00 PM

#### **Wild Edible Plants**

Learn common edible plants found in our area. Be ready this spring when they start appearing!

February 4 10:00 – 11:00 AM February 4 1:00 – 2:00 PM

#### **3D Archery Shoot**

Learn how to shoot and practice on our 3D animal targets. Equipment provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. All children must be accompanied by an adult. (8 to adult) Close toed shoes are required.

February 6 6:00 - 7:00 PM

#### Wild Game Preservation: Sausage

Have some wild game and don't know what to do with it? Participant in hands-on basic techniques of sausage making.

February 8 5:30 - 7:00 PM

#### What's for Dinner? Bighorn Sheep

This hands-on cooking class will introduce participants to a Scandinavian meatball dish made with bighorn sheep simmered in a rich creamy sauce with a hint of black currant jelly. Participants will participate in preparing and assembling the meal while learning about cooking with wild game and various techniques that can be used. These are small portions and not meant to be a full meal.

February 9 6:00 - 8:00 PM

#### **Date Night: ART-chery**

Shoot paint filled balloons that drip onto canvas to make paint pour art by using your target shooting skills. Take home your creations.

February 13 6:00 - 7:00 PM

#### **Wild Game Cooking**

Learn tips and techniques for cooking wild game. Hands-on class will prepare several types of meats.

February 15 5:30 - 7:00 PM

#### **Hunting Skills: Turkey Fan Taxidermy**

We will take a turkey fan and preserve it so that it can be hung on the wall for many years to enjoy.

February 15 5:00 - 6:00 PM

#### **Dehydrating Meals**

Learn how to dehydrate then assemble meals from common ingredients such as noodles, hamburger, lunch meat, instant mashed potatoes, frozen vegetables, gravy packets, quick oats, powdered milk, rice, and fruit.

February 16 5:30 - 7:00 PM

#### **Intro to Coyote Hunting Series**

This series is designed to help you learn tips and techniques for calling coyotes. Participation in all three classes is required. Saturday will be a hunt for the participants from the first class and Sunday will be a class to learn how to handle the hides.

February 17 5:30 – 7:00 PM February 18 3:00 – 8:00 PM February 19 10:00-12:00 PM

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REGISTERED ADULT \*



#### **FEBRUARY PROGRAMS**

#### **Backpacking Series**

This series is for participants who want to learn about backpacking, packing a pack and then spending a day hiking with the pack and setting up a camp.

> February 18 2:00 – 3:00 PM February 24 5:30 – 7:00 PM February 25 10:00 – 5:00 PM

#### Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques you need to get involved in the sport of archery. Participants will learn the parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot a compound bow. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Ages 8 and up.

February 23 6:00 - 7:00 PM

#### **Know Your Birds**

Learn tips and tricks for identification of birds that you see in your backyard or on hikes. Bring binoculars if you have them.

February 25 10:00-11:00 AM February 25 1:00-2:00 PM



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605.394.2310

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#### MARCH PROGRAMS

#### **Know Your Knots**

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

March 2 3:00 - 4:00 PM

#### Couples in the Wild: Fishing

Learn how to safely rig a pole, cast, hook a fish, unhook and clean it. All materials will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own gear to practice. Hats, and eye protection are encouraged.

March 3 6:00 - 7:00 PM

#### **Dehydrating Meals**

Learn how to dehydrate then assemble meals from common ingredients such as noodles, hamburger, lunch meat, instant mashed potatoes, frozen vegetables, gravy packets, quick oats, powdered milk, rice, and fruit.

March 7 5:30 - 7:00 PM

## Women's Outdoor Skills: Dutch Oven and Shooting

Learn how to cook with and care for cast iron Dutch ovens. You will be cooking the food, so come hungry! While the food cooks, learn basic gun safety and shooting techniques. Adults only.

March 8 5:00 – 7:30 PM

#### Wildlife Track ID

Add more adventure to your hikes by learning some basic animal track id. Is it a dog or a mountain lion? Learn the difference.

March 9 6:00 - 7:00 PM

#### What's for Dinner? Elk

Participants will prepare and assemble the meal while learning how to cook elk backstrap with Cumberland sauce. The sauce hinges on tartand-sweet red currant jelly. These are small portions and not meant to be a full meal.

March 9 6:00 - 8:00 PM

#### Couples in the Wild: ART-chery

Shoot paint filled balloons that drip onto canvas to make paint pour art by using your target shooting skills. Take home your creations.

March 9 6:00 - 7:00 PM

#### **3D Archery Practice**

Learn how to shoot and practice on our 3D animal targets. Equipment provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Close toed shoes are required.

March 11 10:00 - 11:00 AM March 11 2:00 - 3:00 PM

#### **Hunting Skills: Hunting Regulations**

Have questions about hunting regulations? Bring them to this class and learn how and why regulations are made.

March 16 6:00 - 7:00 PM

#### Couples in the Wild: Canoeing

Learn techniques to safely paddle canoes on the Campus pond. Lifejackets will be provided.

March 16 6:00 - 7:00 PM

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#### MARCH PROGRAMS

#### Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques you need to get involved in the sport of archery. Participants will learn the parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot a compound bow. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

March 18 2:00 - 3:00 PM

#### Intro to Fishing

Learn how to safely rig a pole, cast, hook a fish, unhook it and clean it. All materials will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own gear to practice. Hats, eye protection and sunscreen are encouraged. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

March 18 2:00 - 3:00 PM

#### Intro to Modern Muzzleloaders

This two-day class will explore the history of muzzleloaders and black-powder hunting, using a muzzleloader in the field, cleaning and safety tips, and rules and regulations for muzzleloader hunting. Practice at a secluded range in the Black Hills on Sunday.

March 18 10:00 - 12:00 PM March 19 10:00 - 12:00 PM

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#### **Hunting Skills: Fur Handling**

We will show you how to properly flesh, stretch, and dry your catch so that it is prepared for the tanning process.

March 23 2:00 - 4:00 PM

#### Couples in the Wild: Dutch Oven Cooking

Learn how to cook with and care for cast iron Dutch ovens. You will be cooking the food, so come hungry! Adults only.

March 23 5:00 - 7:00 PM

#### Intro to Fishing

Learn how to safely rig a pole, cast, hook a fish, unhook it and clean it. All materials will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own gear to practice. Hats, eye protection and sunscreen are encouraged. Children must be accompanied by an adult. (Ages 8 to adult).

March 25 10:00 – 11:00 AM March 25 1:00 - 2:00 PM

#### **Pellet Gun Shooting**

Learn basic gun safety and shooting with pellet rifles.

March 29 6:00 - 7:00 PM

#### **Dutch Oven Cooking**

Learn how to cook with and care for cast iron Dutch ovens. You will be cooking the food, so come hungry! Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

March 30 5:00 - 6:30 PM

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