OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2024





OCTOBER PROGRAMS BELOW!



Introduction to Pheasant Hunting (230149) The Outdoor Campus - Sioux Falls 4500 S Oxbow Ave

Sioux Falls SD, 57107

@ Edit i View



Harvest Festival (230147) Fort Sisseton State Park 11907 434th Avenue Lake City SD,

@ Edit i View



SYSTEM

Custer State Park's Buffalo Round Up GFP Volu Custer State Park Visitor Center 13400 US Hwy 16A

Custer SD, 57730



This last summer, biologists were doing pronghorn antelope counts to see what exactly is going on with our antelope. Check out this article by one of our biologist to learn more about one of SD's oldest residents.



PHEASANT HUNTING

There are many ways of enjoying SD's state bird. Our naturalist Brett shares a couple ways to approach the season to enjoy what SD is most known for in the hunting world.

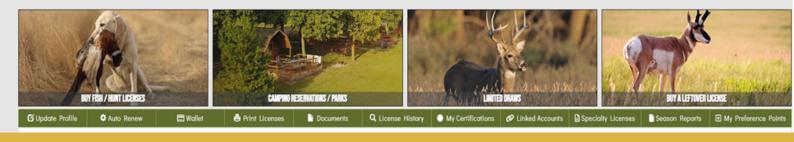
Starting in November, registering for classes will be all located in the same place you purchase your hunting/fishing license and

camping reservations. This will help make things easier for you and us. Read up on what you need to do to get setup right.

THIS ISSUES THEME: HUNTING SEASON AND REGISTRATION CHANGES

Fall is high on the list as one of our favorite seasons here at The Outdoor Campus. This issue is all about the fall hunting seasons and some changes we have coming to our system. We have perspectives from a new hunter, antelope population update from our wildlife biologists, trapping opportunities, and pheasant hunting techniques. Make sure to checkout the first article about some big changes happening with program registration.





NEW REGISTRATION SYSTEM



by Lacy Elrod (Campus Director)

You will notice in this newsletter our education programs looking a little light, there's an exciting reason for this! Starting November 1st, we are transitioning our registration system over to Go Outdoors South Dakota. What this means for you is November 15th you will be able to do everything Game, Fish and Parks has to offer from one place. You will be able to purchase your hunting or fishing license, reserve a camp site, and register for an educational program and at one place at one time! For those of you who already have an account, you do not need to do anything, unless you will need to link kids or others to your account (see step 3). Need to set up an account? Check out the steps below to prepare you for the switch.

- 1.) You can follow the directions in this short video on how to set up an account: Watch this for <u>Click Here to watch</u> or log on to <u>https://gooutdoorssouthdakota.com/</u> and click through the steps to set up your account.
- 2.) Once you have created an account you should be able to log on to Go Outdoors.
- ***Parents or caregivers there is an additional step needed to register for program for your kids. Each kid will need an account. You will follow the same process you do for yourself to set up an account but do so for each of your kids. This will allow you to link their account to yours.
- 3.) To link kids or others to your account:

Log into your Go Outdoors South Dakota account and click the linked account green tab. (see photo above.)

Next click add linked account



Link Customer: search for accounts you wish to add. Keep doing this until you have added all people you wish to be able to register or make purchases (licenses) on their behalf.

You will only have to do these steps once. From this point on if you wish to register for a class, you will log in to your account on Go Outdoors South Dakota and register for programs for yourself and/or anyone you linked to your account.

We do urge you to start this process now. Starting November 15th you will need to go to https://gooutdoorssouthdakota.com/ and search for education programs. You can use this time to get your accounts set up and linked together so you will be ready November 1st to register for all those amazing class options. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to our regional office for assistance. Rapid City Outdoor Campus/Region 1:605-394-2310

Keep your eyes open! November and December classes will be advertised through a mini newsletter we will send out mid-October.

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Customer Last Name	
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More Login Options →	

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE 4

CLASSES TO LOOK FOR IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

With a new registration system in the implementation stages, we will be putting out a mini newsletter and fliers in October to inform the public about those classes coming up and another reminder on how to register for those classes. A few programs that we are excited to offer include;

- deer processing
- fly tying
- trapping
- fly casting
- wing shooter series
- intro to shotguns
- intro to hunting
- intro to archery
- fishing
- wild game cooking
- Pheasant cape mounting
 - If you get a good pheasant this fall, save your capes to be mounted in a future class.

If there are more hunting/fishing/trapping classes that you would like to see just reach out and we will try to provide some options. brett.johnson@state.sd.us





SOUTH DAKOTA PRONGHORN POPULATION UPDATE

by Mandy Pearson (SDGFP Resource Biologist)

Each September, SDGFP staff across the state conduct pronghorn herd composition surveys. These surveys provide sex and age ratios. Biennially from May to mid-June, aerial surveys are flown to collect spring adult population estimates. Based on 2024 aerial surveys and 2023 herd composition surveys, the 2024 pronghorn preseason population is estimated at 34,737 (95% CI = 20,929 – 48,613), well below the objective (59,000 – 80,000). The low population is due to low adult survival documented in 2020 and 2023, as well as low fawn recruitment in 2021 and 2022. The ultimate cause of this decline is unknown but may be due to late winter storms, drought, or disease. Adult survival and fawn recruitment drive population growth and can vary substantially from year to year, highlighting the necessity for annual surveys. Population declines similar to this have been documented in the past and have recovered to levels within the objective. To help improve herd growth, "any antelope" licenses were changed to "buck only" for the 2022 and 2023 firearm seasons (except Landowner Antelope). In 2024, all licenses were changed to "buck only" to help further mitigate the population decline.

For more information, visit the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks website to read the "Pronghorn Population Status Update, 2024 Biennial Report".





PHEASANT HUNTING

by Brett Johnson (Naturalist)

September to January! Those are the months I look forward to every year. South Dakota really shines with hunter opportunity and diversity during these months, and you can chase roosters that whole time. September 28th is the start of our youth season. We then get the benefits from our conservation efforts and can hunt pheasants until the end of January.

Pheasant hunting changes over the course of the seasons. Warm days, warm dogs, families, and our South Dakota residents are the focus as we kick off the pheasant season. This year, October 19th is that exciting day when modern day conservation efforts bring people together from all over the world and reinforce just how valuable our time, families, habitats, and wildlife are.

As crops are harvested and the snow starts, again pheasant season changes. During the late season, the birds get smart, maybe even a little "cocky" as they maneuver out of range of our best tactical game plans. As much as I enjoy holding and admiring the brilliancy of a long tailed late season rooster after a lucky shot, I can't help but respect and take joy in knowing some of the birds get away. I know my head is in the right place when I can appreciate their Houdini act while murmuring..... well played!

To compete with those late season birds, pheasant season again changes for me. Often, I like bowhunting for roosters. What I mean by that is I leave the dog and hunting buddies behind, and I get stealthy. I feel that the rooster's ears and his quick feet are their greatest assists. My tactic; walking fast and as quite as I possibly can with the intent to surprise. I'm targeting the edges of cover while walking deer trails or the quietist of routes. As I move, I'm listening. I'm listening for them rustling in the cover after being surprised by my presence and I rush that sound forcing then to flush rather than keep running.

Pheasant hunting has a taster's choice of techniques, so cheers to the pheasant and their habitat.



FALL CAMPING

by Lacy Elrod (Campus Director)

It may not seem like it with our current warm temperatures, but fall is right around the corner. You may think that camping season ends when the temperatures start dropping, but really it just opens a new, fun camping season. With a few extra preparations your fall camping can be just as enjoyable as warm weather camping. It is highly recommended that you check the weather at your specific camping destination. The weather can change quickly so be prepared for the chance of snow, rain, or severe weather. Pack layers. Being able to strip or add layers will prepare you for temperature changes. Thermal underwear, sleeping cap, gloves, socks, and a winter jacket are some good options for layers. If you are planning to tent camp or sleep on the ground, make sure and bring a mattress pad or foam to provide an extra layer between your cold weather sleeping bag and the ground. If camping in a tent or a camper doesn't sound like your cup of tea, many of our state parks have camping cabins and modern lodging. Check out the Camping in South Dakota,

http://gfp.sd.gov/camp/

for campgrounds with the amenities that suit your family. Whatever camping style suits you, take your time and prepare for the fall camping season. Enjoy!

Game, Fish & Parks

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

MISSISSIPPI POT ROAST

Recipe Credit: Justin Townsend with Harvesting Nature Click here for the recipe Ingredients:

- 3 lbs venison roast
- 1 tbsp of Lawry's seasoning salt
- Dijon Mustard (enough to coat roast)
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 11/2 tsp of chives
- 2 tsp of parsley
- 1 tsp of oregano
- 2 tsp of fresh dill
- 3 diced garlic cloves
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 6 tbsp butter
- 1 cup diced yellow onion
- 3 tbsp flour
- 7 pepperoncini's
- 4 tbsp juice from pepperoncini's
- Hamburger Buns or Yellow Potatoes (your choice)
- 1.) Ensure venison roast is thawed, remove roast from fridge and allow to temper for a half-hour to an hour. Preheat slow cooker to a low heat.
- 2.) Once venison roast is tempered, Coat roast with mustard and season with Lawry's seasoning salt and black pepper.
- 3.) Bring a skillet to a medium-high heat, add oil to skillet, and sear roast on each side within the skillet.
- 4.) Add roast to slow cooker, reduce pan to a simmer.
- 5.) Melt butter in the pan and add diced onions and diced garlic, sautéing ingredients until translucent. Stir in flower and mix until all ingredients are incorporated. Add ingredients into slow cooker.
- 6.) Add in pepperoncini's, pepperoncini juice, chives, parsley, dill, and oregano.
- 7.) Cover cooker and allow meat to cook for six to eight hours. (Until meat can easily be shredded)
- 8.) Place your roast and liquids into a large bowl and shred the roast. Add shredded venison to buns or with mashed potatoes.



COMMENTS FROM A NEW HUNTER

by Ana Callahan (Intern)

This year I am going on my first hunting trip ever. I have gone to shooting ranges and done small scale things like shoot clay pigeons and prairie dogs, but I have never gone out to hunt for something bigger. I am taking the hunt 101 class that is offered here at the Outdoor Campus, and I am excited but also a bit nervous. It feels strange being my age and learning something completely new, but I am also really enjoying and appreciating all this new knowledge. I am excited to be able to try something new and hopefully feel somewhat confident in it after taking a couple of classes here. Something that really interests me in a deer hunt is after the shot. There's so much still left of the hunt after the shot that I'm not sure what to expect. One of my biggest concerns is that I am worried about getting to excited and either making a bad shot or not being able to find the deer. Either that or I am going to freeze up. They say it is different for everybody, so hopefully I can make the shoot count and will be able to update in a couple months! I hope this hunt goes well for me and everyone else in the class, but I am also glad I get to learn all this new information at the end of the day.



Photo Credit; Justin Townsend Harvesting Nature



TRAPPING

by John Hopple (former president of the SD Trappers Association)

Photo Credit: Scheels

So you want to trap? Before you start here are a few tips. Many of us consider ourselves good sportsman and believe we have a good grasp on the workings of the animal kingdom beyond the normal person and to an extent that is true.

Here are some facts. Trapping is hard work but lots of fun and rewarding time outdoors. There is an enormous amount of prep work both in readying traps and equipment as well as pre-season scouting. Once you make a catch there is more work in properly skinning and preparing your pelts for market or tanning for your own trophy.

Unlike hunting and fishing, trapping is not always an exact area of picking your catch. A hunter will have the chance to identify and take a shot or pass on a deer. A fisherman will be able to tailor his catch by choosing baits or lures and the manner in which they use it. A trapper who makes a dirt hole set could just as easily catch a skunk as a coyote however.

The one thing that sets trappers apart from others is the pre-season, in-season and after-season scouting. No matter what season it is if you have time you will find yourself stopping to "check what is out there". Trappers are outdoors in all seasons and all conditions. Trapping makes you a more in tuned all round outdoorsman. So go have some fun and joy the outdoors like you never have before!



RABBIT AND SQUIRREL HUNTING

by Jacob Zetocha (Intern)

Small game hunting can be a fun alternative when you may be getting burnt out from sitting in a blind or didn't get a big game tag. For the western region of South Dakota, some common small game animals to hunt would include Cottontail Rabbits, and Tree Squirrels. The Black Hills provide excellent habitat for these species to thrive. When hunting for small game a .22 rifle or a shotgun with 5-7 shot will work perfectly. Scouting or knowing areas where there is an abundant amount of food, and dense brush can help increase your chances of seeing something. Looking for tracks or signs like droppings, chew marks, and small burrows will also help with locating some animals. When moving through your area it is a good idea to move slowly and as quiet as possible, these animals have exceptional hearing. Rabbits and squirrels are most active during dawn and dusk, so these would be the ideal times to try and hunt them. Just like with most other hunting you will want to wear some kind of camo; this will help you be able to get closer and make better shots. Lastly, there are some calls available for squirrel hunting that could help call squirrels in closer to you.

> Game, Fish & Parks

CUSTER STATE PARK HAPPENINGS

by: Clint Whitley (naturalist)

There might not be a prettier place in the state then Custer State Park in the fall. Look at these great class opportunities happening this fall in the park.

October 18 5:30pm – 8:00pm & October 19 2:00pm – 5:00pm Halloween Night Hike: Inside Out-doors

November 28th Custer State Park Winter Hiking Challenge Begins

December 1-31 Festival of Trees & Geo-caching through the Snow

January 1st – First Day Hikes: Parks across the USA all join together in starting the new year off on the right foot. Multiple hikes are offered every January 1st within Custer State Park. Whether you prefer a challenging hike or a gentle stroll, we have a hike for you.

If you have questions please call 605-394-2693.

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



SOUTH DAKOTA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

by Clint Whitley (Naturalist)

The South Dakota Trappers Association's Mission is: to encourage, maintain and promote the spirit of brotherhood, to uphold the fundamental rights of the trapping fraternity, to promote fair and just trapping laws, open seasons consistent with good game management, conservation and promotion of American fur, to promote a fair price for all wild fur; to collaborate, cooperate, educate and exchange ideas with its members, manufacturers and the public to promote and establish information, procedures and events beneficial to trapping and to promote a program of continued education.

Becoming a member of the SDTA is just \$30/year and it includes "The Trappers Post" publication. This is a great way to connect with other trappers or learn how to trap. Trappers are among the most inviting to knew trappers and are willing to share their knowledge and even some traps to get you started.

Another great opportunity to learn from SDTA is the yearly rendezvous that is held in a different town each year. Check out the website for more information on how to get started. https://www.sdtrappersassociation.org/



OCTOBER PROGRAMS

Intro to Fishing

Learn how to fish and what your options are after the catch. All materials will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own gear to practice. Hats, eye protection and sunscreen are encouraged. Ages 6 and up, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Oct 8 9:00-10:30 AM

Oct 16 9:00-10:30 AM

Oct 28 10:00-11:30 AM

Oct 30 10:00-11:30 AM

Intro to Shotguns

Learn how to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Rapid City Trap Club. Shotgun shooting is a great way to spend time with your family outside while developing safe firearms competency. Ages 12 and up, youth must be accompanied by an adult and only the shooter needs to be registered.

Oct 9 4:30-6:30 PM Adults only

Intro to Trapping

Learn basic equipment and techniques needed for furbearer trapping. We will be spending some time outdoors so dress for the weather. No other special gear or clothing items needed to attend.

Oct 10th 5:30-7:30 PM

Trapping 101

Get an in-depth look at trapping in SD. You will get a hands on experience over a couple weeks by getting in the field, setting traps and handling fur. Apply to be in the first trapping 101 cohort. Accepting applicants until

Oct. 18th. Apply Here

Destination Fishing

Discover new locations and techniques at different locations in the Rapid City area. Equipment Provided.

Oct 18 8:00-12:00 PM Memorial Pond

Oct 25 8:00-12:00 PM Pactola Reservoir

Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, learn the parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Children must register accompanied by a registered adult. Ages 8 and up.

Oct 15 6:00-7:30 PM

Oct 23 10:30-12:00 PM

Oct 26 12:00-1:30 PM

Oct 29 6:00-7:30 PM

Where to Hunt in SD

Knowing where to hunt is one of the biggest barriers to learning how to hunt. If you are new to SD, new to hunting or thinking about learning to hunt this the class for you to learn what SD offers for places to go.

Oct 16 6:00-7:30 PM

Wild Game Cooking

Knowing where to hunt is one of the biggest barriers to learning how to hunt. If you are new to SD, new to hunting or thinking about learning to hunt this the class for you to learn what SD offers for places to go.

Oct 17 6:00-7:30 PM

Oct 22 6:00-7:30 PM

Intro to Cross-Country Skiing Part 1

Learn the basics of cross-country skiing including equipment, gear, locations and techniques

Oct 30 6:00-7:30 PM

Register at Eagle Cliff Trails - Seasonal Events

ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT





NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

Register for these programs through the link below

Intro to Fly Casting

Come learn the basic principles of fly casting and equipment.

Nov 1 6:00-8:00 PM

Intro to Trapping Class

Learn about the equipment and hands on techniques needed for furbearer trapping. We will be spending some time outdoors so dress for the weather. Leather gloves for setting traps is recommended.

Nov 4 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, learn the parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Children must register accompanied by a registered adult. Ages 8 and up.

Nov 2 1:00-2:30 PM Nov 8 9:00-10:30 AM

Nov 12 6:00-7:30 PM

Deer Processing

In this class we will show you how to butcher and process your deer, elk or pronghorn. A deer will be butchered from start to finish during this class. We will be cutting steaks, roasts and grinding burger. We will also discuss jerky, canning and recipes to help you use your harvest to its potential all while learning a valuable and cost-effective skillset. The whole family is invited!

Nov 6 6:00-9:00 PM

Fly Tying

Come learn the basics of fly tying and tying equipment. We will be learning a great beginners fly pattern for year-round success right here in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 15 and up, youth need to be accompanied by a parent.

Nov 7 6:00-7:30 PM

Canned Deer Meat Quesadillas

Learn how to can deer meat and try it out on some delicious wild game quesadillas.

Nov 12 6:00-7:30 PM

Where to Hunt in SD

Knowing where to hunt is one of the biggest barriers to learning how to hunt. If you are new to SD, new to hunting or thinking about learning to hunt this the class for you to learn what SD offers for places to go.

Nov 13 6:00-7:30 PM

Waterfowl 101

Learn the basics of waterfowl hunting, go to the range and then attend a 1/2 day waterfowl hunt. This class is open by application. Deadline is Dec. 6th.



ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT

Register @ http://southdakota.storefront.kalkomey.com/



NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

Register for these programs through our new registration system through the link below

Tree Saddle Hunting

Hunting from a tree saddle is a growing trend and a safe option. Come try one out and see if you like that style of hunting.

Nov 15 12:00-1:00 PM

Rod building

Build your own ice fishing rod to use this winter. All materials provided. Open for ages 16 and up.

Nov 16 10:00-12:00 PM

BB Gun and Firearm Safety

This is not a class to get your HuntSAFE certification. It is designed for individuals who would like to learn more about different types of guns and what they are used for. Practice handling, loading and unloading non-firing guns to become more comfortable around guns. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

Nov 18 10:00-11:00

Deer Processing

In this class we will show you how to butcher and process your deer, elk or pronghorn. A deer will be butchered from start to finish during this class. We will be cutting steaks, roasts and grinding burger. We will also discuss jerky, canning and recipes to help you use your harvest to its potential all while learning a valuable and cost-effective skillset. The whole family is invited!

Nov 20 6:00-9:00

Wild Game Cooking

Do you have some wild game and don't know how to cook it? Learn cooking tips that are useful for wild game. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

Nov 21 6:00-7:30 PM

Fly Tying

Come learn the basics of fly tying and tying equipment. We will be learning a great beginners fly pattern for year-round success right here in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 15 and up, youth need to be accompanied by a parent.

Nov 21 6:00-7:30

Homeschool - Carnivores

Home school groups are welcome to come and learn about South Dakota Carnivores.

Nov 25 10:00-11:30

How to Skin, Flesh and Board a Coyote

Coyote often produce a really great pelt to hang on the wall this time of the year and this class can help you preserve that pelt

Nov 26 6:00-8:00

Waterfowl 101

Learn the basics of waterfowl hunting, go to the range and then attend a 1/2 day waterfowl hunt. This class is open by application. Deadline is Dec. 6th.





https://uatlicense.gooutdoorssouthdakota.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx



DECEMBER PROGRAMS

Register with the new registration system link below

BB Gun and Firearm Safety

This is not a class to get your HuntSAFE certification. It is designed for individuals who would like to learn more about different types of guns and what they are used for. Practice handling, loading and unloading non-firing guns to become more comfortable around guns. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

Dec 2 10:00-11:00 Dec 16 10:00-11:00

Fly Tying at the bar

Come learn the basics of fly tying and tying equipment. We will be learning a great beginners fly pattern for year-round success right here in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Location will be communicated out.

Dec 5 6:00-7:30

Women only intro to Archery

Join this women's only intro to archery class to shoot a compound bow inside our archery building.

Dec 6 6:00-7:30

Homeschool - Birds

Home school groups are welcome to come and learn about South Dakota birds

Dec 9 10:00-11:30

Canned Deer Meat Quesadillas

Learn how to can deer meat and try it out on some delicious wild game quesadillas.

Dec 9 6:00-7:30

Wild Game Cooking

Knowing where to hunt is one of the biggest barriers to learning how to hunt. If you are new to SD, new to hunting or thinking about learning to hunt this the class for you to learn what SD offers for places to go.

Dec 10 6:00-7:30

Rabbit preparing and cooking

Participants will be skinning and preparing a rabbit for a fine piece of table fare.

Dec 12 6:00-7:30

Home School - Herbivores

Home school groups are welcome to come and learn about South Dakota Herbivores

Dec 16 10:00-11:30

Intro to Fly Casting

Come learn the basic principles of fly casting and equipment.

Dec 17 6:00-8:00

Fly tying

Come learn the basics of fly tying and tying equipment. We will be learning a great beginners fly pattern for year-round success right here in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 15 and up, youth need to be accompanied by a parent.

Dec 19 6:00-7:30

ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT





DECEMBER PROGRAMS

Register with the new registration system link below

Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, learn the parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Children must register accompanied by a registered adult. Ages 8 and up.

Dec 19 6:00-7:30 Dec 27 1:00-2:30

Intro to Ice Fishing

Ice fishing season will be here before you know it. learn about all the gear you need and recourses to help you learn how to get out on the ice safely.

Dec 20 8:00-10:00 Dec 27 8:00-10:00

DIY pheasant taxidermy display

Learn a cool way of preserving your pheasant capes this fall with a creative display. In this class we will teach you how to do that so you can cherish the memory of the hunt.

Dec 30 6:00-8:00

Ultimate Fishing Adventure

Join our fishing cohort to try year round fishing opportunities. Shore fishing, boat fishing, summer spearing, dark house spearing, ice fishing and fly fishing. Open by application. Join the cohort at any time of the year.



ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT

