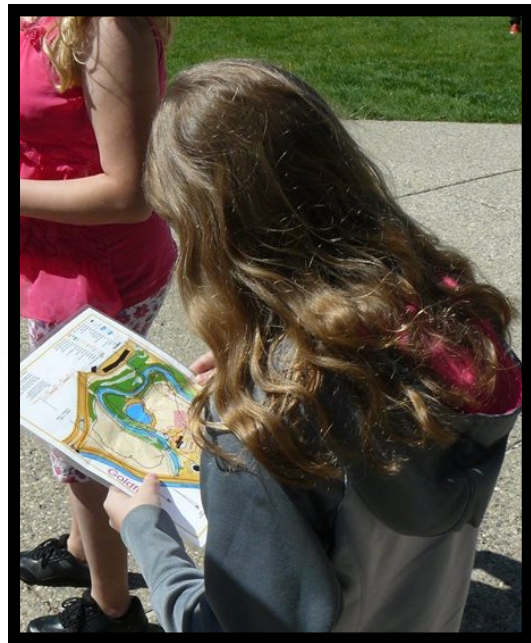




# OUTDOOR Campus



## 2018-2019 | Middle School Program Guide

4500 S Oxbow Ave | Sioux Falls, SD | 605.362.2777 | [outdoorcampus.org](http://outdoorcampus.org)

# How Middle School Days Works



One of our most popular programs for middle school students is Middle School Day.

Students spend an entire day at The Outdoor Campus, rotating through 4 or 5 different stations.

Be sure to read the registration information.

Call (605) 362-2721 for more information.

The mission of Middle School Days is to provide an opportunity for students in grades **6-8** to experience a variety of hands-on activities that will enhance their own sense of place in the natural world.

In addition, they will be exposed to several skills common to South Dakota outdoors, such as fishing, outdoor cooking, archery and hiking.

Scientific procedures will be used whenever possible; including observation, collection, identification and evaluation are also taught.

Once classes are selected you will need to decide which activities you would like in the event of inclement weather.

These classes are marked with an asterisk\*.

Alternative sessions will be planned at the discretion of The Outdoor Campus staff if needed.

**Most activities can be taught individually if your class was not selected for a MSD.**

## **How many students can come each day?**

The Outdoor Campus can accommodate up to **80 students** each day. Larger schools may need to come **two** separate days. Smaller schools can combine grade levels to bring the maximum number or may be able to join another smaller school for the day.

## **When are Middle School Days?**

Selected Thursdays, see page in booklet for actual dates.

## **How long will we be at The Outdoor Campus?**

Students will be at The Outdoor Campus from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. During that time, they will rotate through 5 stations, with the exception of a few winter activities. Also included is a lunch break. **Please be on time as we start promptly at 9:30.**

## **What are my responsibilities?**

In addition to preparing your students for this experience, you must provide at least 5 chaperones. The Outdoor Campus staff will briefly cover the roles of your chaperones the morning of your visit. Each student, chaperone and teacher must also bring a sack lunch. There is **not** access to a kitchen for students or teachers at TOC.

## **How many times can I come to Middle School Days?**

Due to the popularity of this day, schools are allowed to participate once a school year. We do offer these days every season. (Fall, Winter and Spring).

## **Requirements**

Because our building is funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses we require fishing and archery to be stations for Middle School Days.

**In order to have students full attention and engaged in our outdoor activities we request all cell phones remain at school or on the bus.** We have noticed that cell phones have become a distraction in our teaching as well as being damaged or lost therefore please abide by this request.

# Application Procedures

## To Register for Group Programs:

1. Fill out the application form **completely**. You can drop it off at The Outdoor Campus in person; mail it to 4500 S. Oxbow Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106; fax it to (605) 362-2704; pull up our web site at:<http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/outdoor-campus/east/classes-and-events/schoolprograms.aspx> and complete it online. After submitting online you should receive an automated confirmation email. You may want to call to make sure your application went through to the campus if you did not receive the automated confirmation email. **\*\*This must be done by 5:00 p.m. on August 23, 2018 to get in the first drawing.** Any slots still open will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Outdoor Campus school programs follow the Sioux Falls School District calendar.
2. On August 24, 2018 beginning at 8:00 a.m., Campus staff will select names randomly and number them in the order drawn. The schedule for the year will then be filled in, beginning with application number 1 and continuing until all slots are filled or all applications are scheduled. Any remaining slots will be filled on a first-come/first-serve basis.
3. Everyone will be contacted after the drawing and within the next few weeks concerning registration. If you sent in an application after the drawing you should receive an email or call about your request. If you do not hear from me, please call. I will do my best to get as many groups in as possible.

Descriptions for station options follow.

The following options will be available for participating schools.

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## **Introduction to Archery** (Required) (Fall & Spring)

Introducing students to a lifetime sport such as archery has benefits inside and outside the classroom. This class will teach your students the basics of archery in a fun and safe environment. Getting kids active in the outdoors makes it more likely that they will serve as stewards of our state's bountiful natural resources as well.



## **Fishing** (Required)

Fishing is another great lifetime sport that people all over South Dakota enjoy. Learn the basics of fishing, necessary equipment, casting techniques and how to bait your hook. Then try your luck fishing in our pond.



## **\*Wildlife ID** (All year)

This session will focus on identifying South Dakota's wildlife through the use of skins, skulls and mounts. After students identify each object, we will cover some of the adaptations of these animals. Students will also learn the importance of wildlife, such as why the state bird is responsible for bringing millions of dollars to our state.

## **Orienteering** (All year)

This is a sport that uses a detailed map to select routes while navigating through unfamiliar terrain. Orienteering will help with your student's map reading skills, concentration and the ability to make quick decisions about the best route to take. This sport can be enjoyed by a walk through the natural habitats at The Outdoor Campus or as a competitive race.



## **Haiku Hike** (All year)

This hike is for teachers who want to challenge their students as writers but also to enhance and facilitate outdoor recreational hiking for users with varying skills and abilities. Students will use their senses as they explore natural habitats while hiking around the campus. Students will create a haiku using the information that has been gathered on the hike. This is a great option if a language grade is needed.

## **\*Skins and Skulls** (All year)

Animal skulls can tell us many things about creatures and how they once survived in their natural environment. A few relatively simple observations of an animal's skull can tell us what the animal ate, whether the animal was predator or prey, and which senses were most important to the animal's survival. This activity will teach students some of the differences and similarities among animals. Later, the students will have the opportunity to put this new knowledge into practice with a "hands-on" activity.

## \*Mystery Tree Challenge (All year)

Students will be introduced to basic terms of tree identification and then be given a mystery tree sample in which they will identify by following a series of clues posted around the room. This activity introduces the concept of classification in a way that addresses all learning styles. It works well for auditory, kinesthetic and visual learners.



## Wetland Ecology (Fall & Spring)

South Dakota's wetlands are special habitats important to wildlife and humans. We will explore the ecology of our very own wetland environment at the campus while looking for macro-invertebrates to identify. We will also learn how pollution affects our precious natural resource-water.

## \*Owls: Who Gives A Hoot? (All year)

Here's real-life learning! Students can learn about food chains/webs, owl's adaptations and more through the investigation of *owl pellets*.



Students will dissect an owl pellet to determine what was eaten. The contents of a bird's pellet depend on its diet, this can include the exoskeletons of insects, indigestible plant matter, bones, fur, feathers,

## \*Native American Games (All year)

Go back in time and learn some of the old tribal games that taught values to the many Native American cultures. Honor, respect, courage, humility, persistence, tolerance and other skills are just a few features of these remarkable games. These games teach skills through movement, problem solving, patterns, estimation, intuition, eye-hand or eye-foot coordination, dexterity and speed. These shared survival and hunting skills use unique cultural expressions of the different tribes and will bring out the best in your students and their



## Outdoor Cooking (Fall & Spring)

Whether you are cooking in your own backyard, at a picnic area or in a campground, this session will focus on fire building, safety and the “how to” of outdoor cooking. Students will make some quick and easy snacks! **(ALERT: This class does include peanut butter; DO NOT sign up if your group has peanut allergies)** Substitutions will not be made.



## **\*Going WILD at TOC (All year)**

Students will participate in one or two team building activities. Students will use critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication in order to accomplish many of these activities. Many of the activities come from Project Adventure or Project Wild. An asterisk \* indicates that this activity can be played outside only during fall and spring months. Please indicate on application if there is a specific game you would like to participate in with your students.

### **Pick 2 of the following;**

1. \*Habitat Game/Project Wild
2. Save our Pheasant Eggs/Pipeline/Project Adventure
3. South Dakota Jeopardy
4. Save the Environment/Dots/Project Adventure
5. \*Slackline (Spring & Fall)
6. Escape Boxes (topics below)

Where in the World (Ecosystems)

Owl Bet You're a Hoot (Adaptations )

The Evil Switcharoos Zoo (Adaptations)

## Ice Fishing (Required / Winter)

Students will learn about the appropriate clothing and gear for an ice fishing outing. They will learn and demonstrate safety precautions necessary for ice fishing. Students will also apply the techniques of ice fishing as they participate in an ice fishing experience on the pond at The Outdoor Campus.



## Snowshoeing (Winter)

Snowshoeing is a great way to experience the outdoors in winter. Snowshoeing provides not only a way to enjoy nature, but also has physical health benefits as well. Snowshoeing health benefits includes cardiorespiratory conditioning and the development of lower body musculoskeletal tissue as well as several other benefits to the body and mind.



## Cross Country Skiing (Winter)

(4 classes with this activity due to finding shoes and ski size)

Understanding the basic techniques of cross country skiing, safety issues, and general know how will make this activity a pleasant experience for all. Students will focus on choosing the correct skis and shoe size, follow the general rules of marked trails and staying on track as they practice moving on the skis using very basic techniques.

These dates are available for  
middle schools.

<b>Fall</b>
September 13th
September 20th
September 27th
October 4th
October 11th
October 18th
November 1st
November 8th
<b>Winter</b>
January 17th
January 24th
January 31st
February 7th
February 14th
<b>Spring</b>
March 21st
March 28th
April 4th
April 25th
May 2nd
May 9th
May 23rd

# Application for Middle School

If you have not heard from me within a week please call Shelly at 362-2721.

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs: (Please indicate any students with mobility, health, allergies, disabilities or any other concerns.)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Circle the season you *wish to attend*:

***Fall***

***Spring***

***Winter***

Write down 3 date choices for your season.

1.

2.

3.

**Activity Choices:**

1. Fishing (Required)

2.

3.

4.

5.

**Rainy Day Choices:**

1.

2.

Archery (Required in Fall & Spring)

# Be a Volunteer!



## Volunteer Opportunities

By becoming a volunteer at The Outdoor Campus, you will experience a variety of opportunities that will increase your own and other's awareness of South Dakota's great outdoors!

### Examples include:

Give back to your com-



- Program Assistance (fishing, paddling, outdoor cooking, etc.)
- Gardening
- Animal Care
- Special Events (Outdoor University, Women's Try-It Day, Halloween Hike, etc.)
- Front Desk Duty

## How To Get Started!

1) Submit a completed application form on The Outdoor Campus website.

[www.outdoorcampus.org](http://www.outdoorcampus.org)

2) The volunteer coordinator will call to set up an interview once your application is received and reviewed.

3) Once your interview is completed and a background check is completed, the volunteer coordinator will schedule an orientation to get you more familiar with The Outdoor Campus and what you'll be doing here!

4) Finally, after the orientation, you'll be ready to start volunteering! You will be able to sign up online for whatever available programs you choose.



## How are these classes FREE?

Our funding comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses in South Dakota. If you like our classes thank a hunter or an angler.

## How can we support The Outdoor Campus?

Buy a hunting and fishing license in South Dakota. Nationwide the sale of licenses is declining rapidly as we lose the Baby Boomer Generation. They were the last large group of hunters and anglers. We need to replace the funds they put toward habitat, wildlife management, conservation, recreation and education. Every single license you buy in your family helps fisheries, pheasant habitat, and so much more—including The Outdoor Campus.

## Do you get any other funds?

We do receive some funding from a Federal excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment sales. A small portion of each fishing pole or shotgun you buy can go toward hunting and fishing programs here.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks provides sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardship

### 2018-19 Full Time Staff

**Thea Miller Ryan**, director

**Derek Klawitter**, Group & Homeschool Program Coordinator

**Sandy Richter**, Community and Special Events Coordinator

**Shelly Pierson**, School Programs Coordinator

**Jason Nelson**, Outreach Coordinator

**Kyle Grogan**, volunteer coordinator

**Tonna Hartman**, Senior Secretary

## Find us on Facebook @outdoorcampus

Our Facebook page is updated daily. Follow us for the latest in outdoor news, pop up classes and photos from our programs.

## Find us on Twitter @outdoorcampus

We've always got something to say! Tweet with us. We tweet back!

## Find us on Instagram @outdoorcampus

We post a lot of photos. Want to see what's happening out here? This is the place to look!

## Find us on Snapchat @outdoorcampus

Snapchat take-overs by interns? YES! Watch some of our activities as they happen here!

## Find our blog! outdoorcampus.wordpress.com

Our blog is a great way to find the story behind the story. Meet people, animals, see behind the scenes photos of Game, Fish and Parks at work.

