

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —



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South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks serves and connects people and families to the outdoors through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries, and wildlife resources.



INTRODUCTION

Hello from Sioux Falls!

Over the past year, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls has worked to uphold our 25 year and counting standard of high quality, safe, outdoor education focused on creating hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor users. Through experiential education led by seasoned instructors, the Outdoor Campus has been able to offer free programming to folks across southeast South Dakota. We have the pleasure of being open year-round and having programming that reflects the variability of the seasons.

The past year provided unique opportunities for programming at the Outdoor Campus including snorkel spearfishing, supported deer and turkey hunts, along with a surprising amount of snow. In my tenure at the Outdoor Campus, I don't believe I have seen a year with more opportunity to cross-country ski or snowshoe then I have seen this year (nor such an opportunity to snow shovel).

With our programming, we take pride in being able to partner both within our agency and throughout the community. Not only do Outdoor Campus instructors and interns teach for us, but numerous volunteer instructors, guest speakers, nongovernment organization (NGOs) instructors, and agency wildlife professionals lend their knowledge and expertise to our classes.

Another key partnership area for us, is location opportunity. A variety of landowners allow space for supported hunts on their land, the City of Sioux Falls partners with us on programming such as fishing at Family Park, and we have private entities such as Friessen Development Inc. that allows access for fishing on their private pond.

Aside from programming, the Outdoor Campus offers so many other services such as meeting space, loaner equipment, internships, volunteer opportunities, trails to hike, or simply a space to relax and enjoy nature. So next time you are in Sertoma Park, stop by, say hello, and partake in one of the many opportunities available.

Finally, we ask that you please take the time to review this Annual Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls Report. I believe it will offer more insight into the various opportunities the Outdoor Campus has to offer as well as highlight some unique stories from our programming. The Outdoor Campus has been a long standing staple in Sioux Falls, but has also been a longstanding secret, we hope this report gives you an inside view into our wilderness in town.

And always remember, to have fun and get outside!

David Parker
Director of the Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls

WHAT IS THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS SIOUX FALLS?

The Outdoor Campus is one educational outreach avenue of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP). There are two Outdoor Campuses within the state, located in Sioux Falls and Rapid City.

Classes at the Outdoor Campus are free to the public thanks to the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. Remember to thank a hunter or angler for making this possible!

HISTORY OF THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS

The Outdoor Campus’ story starts in 1990 when the City of Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Department and GFP created a partnership with four key purposes: (1) introducing and empowering folks of all ages to enjoy hunting, fishing, and the outdoors, (2) preserving a valuable green space within Sioux Falls, (3) creating a new GFP Regional Office, and (4) bolstering the mission and vision of both the GFP and the Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Departments. Over the next 7 years, the Outdoor Campus was created through planning, legislation, architecture designs, fundraising, construction, and numerous volunteers.

On June 7, 1997, the Outdoor Campus opened its doors to the public. Over the past 25 years, the Outdoor Campus has offered a wide variety of free educational programming on hunting, fishing, trapping, conservation and environmental science, and outdoor skills. With programs running throughout the year based on the seasons and participants ranging in age, background, and experience, the Outdoor Campus has been a haven of learning.

●

SINCE 1997,

●

20,481 PROGRAMS

●

514,262 STUDENTS

●

4,933 PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS

●

2,976 VOLUNTEERS

●

THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS HAS THRIVED



OUTDOOR CAMPUS SIOUX FALLS STAFF

PERMANENT STAFF



DAVID PARKER
Director



JEAN OLSON
Senior Secretary



LYNN PURDY
Nights and Weekends Manager



DEREK KLAWITTER
Groups and Homeschool Coordinator



SANDY RICHTER
Community and Special Events Coordinator



JASON NELSON
Outreach Coordinator



PAIGE O'FARRELL
Volunteer Coordinator

SEASONAL STAFF

The Outdoor Campus, in conjunction with the GFP Wildlife Region 3 Office, employs two seasonal employees who are the key contacts for HuntSAFE in the Sioux Falls area. These positions were new as of 2022 due in part to the need of this growing metropolis.

This new initiative led to:

- » Nine traditional HuntSAFE classes being held reaching **254 students (181 male, 68 female)**
- » Ten Field Day only HuntSAFE classes being held reaching **120 students (97 male, 23 female)**

HuntSAFE Instructor: Steve Gaspar
HuntSAFE Instructor: Vince Weber

CONTRACT STAFF

The Outdoor Campus is constantly working to build relationships to further the GFP mission, two new contractual positions were created since 2021.

R3 and Veterans Coordinator – Isaac Full

- » This position is a contract position between Pheasants Forever and GFP. The goal of this position is to further our recruitment, retention, and reactivation efforts (R3) with hunters and anglers and focus on outreach to veterans for hunting and fishing opportunities.
- » This position produced the following during the year of 2022:
 - 12 programs reaching 76 participants.
 - Nine programs being offered with 42 participants
 - Three supported hunts offered with 34 participants

School Coordinator – Joseph Salvati

- » This position is a contract position between the South Dakota State University 4-H Extension Office and GFP. The goal of this position is to reach school-aged students through offering programming at the Outdoor Campus as field trips, at the school, and via Zoom.
- This position resulted in the following once it began in October 2022:
 - 18 programs reaching 1,119 total participants (1,061 being youth and 58 being adult chaperones)
- » This resulted in 1,232.5 total contact hours
- The amount of scheduled instruction/programming time given to participants.
- Contact Hours = # participants x # of hours.

INTERNS

The Campus hires between 5-11 interns seasonally to help in offering programming to the public. These interns are sophomore level or above and full-time university students.

- Types of Internships:**
- » Naturalist – Outdoor educators who help in teaching hunting, fishing, trapping, conservation and environmental science, and outdoor skills classes.
 - » Horticulture – Maintain the Outdoor Campus Butterfly Garden and Playscape area.
 - » Outreach – Work to provide programming outside of the Sioux Falls area, to groups in southeast South Dakota
 - » Volunteer Coordinator – Works to ensure the volunteer program runs smoothly.

NEW: As of 2022, The Outdoor Campus (TOC) started to partner with the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center (BCOAC) and the Dakota Nature Park to house two interns in Brookings to offer free programming to the Brookings area public.

- » This collaboration that started in the Fall of 2022, led to:
 - Six classes held at the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center reaching 230 participants.
 - Eleven classes held at the Dakota Nature Park reaching 108 participants.

SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
5 – 8 Interns <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 5-6 TOC Naturalist Interns» 2 BCOAC Naturalist Interns	11 Interns <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 7 TOC Naturalist Interns» 1 Horticulture Intern» 2 Outreach Interns» 1 Volunteer Coordinator Intern	5 – 8 Interns <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 5-6 TOC Naturalist Interns» 2 BCOAC Naturalist Interns	5 – 8 Interns <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 5-6 TOC Naturalist Interns» 2 BCOAC Naturalist Interns



VOLUNTEERS

The Outdoor Campus Volunteer Program offers the opportunity for individuals and groups to join in with our educational and conservation initiatives. The Outdoor Campus has volunteer positions that help with gardening/landscaping, the information desk, educational assistance, and community service. **We ended 2022 with 5,117 cumulative volunteer hours—4,698 individual hours and 419 hours from volunteer groups.**

93

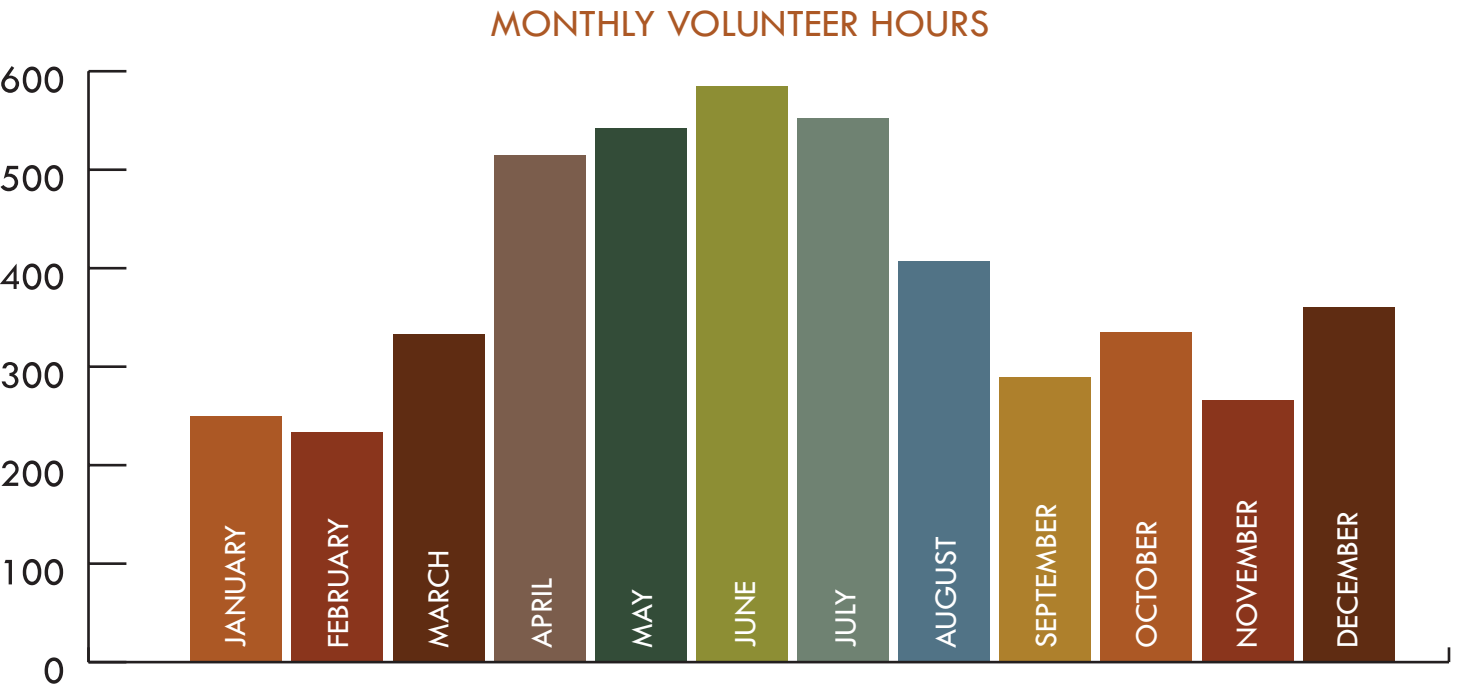
ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

5,117

TOTAL HOURS IN 2022

2.24 FTE

FTE EQUIVALENT OF CAMPUS VOLUNTEERS



VOLUNTEER GROUPS

- » Harrisburg Environmental Science (3 hours)
- » ACE Kids Care (40 hours)
- » Convirgent Technologies (150 hours)
- » Whittier Middle School EL Program (110 hours)
- » RHD (116 hours)
- » LDS (25 hours)

100 HOURS CLUB

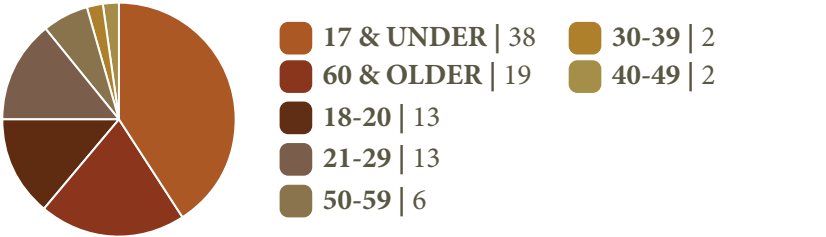
- » CHERYL U. - 468:43 HOURS
- » MIKE G. - 356:15 HOURS
- » MASAKO G. - 323:15 HOURS
- » ERNIE T. - 316:23 HOURS
- » ALONNA W. - 227:20 HOURS
- » RUBY W. - 169:19 HOURS
- » DAVE J. - 159:18 HOURS
- » REX J. - 157:00 HOURS
- » ERIC O. - 150: 44 HOURS
- » CRAIG N. - 119:30 HOURS
- » STEVE M. - 116:57 HOURS
- » BRENT J. - 110:00 HOURS
- » JAN P. - 108:30 HOURS
- » GRETCHEN T. - 107:30 HOURS

VOLUNTEER GROUPS

The Outdoor Campus also offers a unique volunteer opportunity, the Volunteer Mentor Program. This program offers the opportunity to adults that are South Dakota residents, pass a background check, hold a HuntSAFE card, and have firm knowledge in hunting and shooting sports. These individuals help in our Hunting 101 program, a comprehensive hunting course.

- » Brent: 110 hours
- » Ernie: 266 hours
- » Gretchen: 107 hours
- » Eric: 161 hours
- » Rex: 157 hours
- **Total hours: 801**

VOLUNTEER AGE DEMOGRAPHICS



FRIENDS OF THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS

The purpose of this Committee is to serve in an ongoing advisory role and to work collaboratively with the Director of the Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus to provide advice and insight on facility needs and potential improvements, projects, initiatives, and education programming priorities at the Outdoor Campus.

BOARD MEMBERS

- » Board Chair – Jan Nicolay
- » Board Member – Ryan Brown
- » Board Member – Tim Kromminga
- » Board Member - Amanda Oines
- » Board Member – Eric Olson
- » Board Member – Derek Maassen
- » Board Member – Kathy Anderson
- » Board Member – Brian Klatt
- » Board Member – Royce Meritt
- » Board Member – Jeff Scherschligt
- » Board Member – Cheryl Ulvestad
- » Ex Officio Member – Kristina Coby, SDPWF
- » Ex Officio Member – Emmett Keyser, GFP
- » Ex Officio Member – David Parker, GFP



PROGRAMMING AND CLASSES

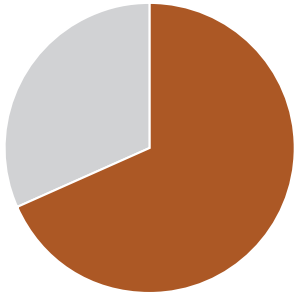
The Outdoor Campus offers a variety of programs that fit into the following categories:

- » **Community** – Programs that are open to anyone in the public through registration.
 - Open House – community programs that are open to anyone in the public without registration.
- » **Group** – Programs open to “groups” (10 participants or more) that can be reserved by appointment.
- » **Homeschool** – Programs open to students who are currently enrolled as a homeschool students.
- » **School** – Programs offered as field trips to the Outdoor Campus, in class presentations, or virtual programs that are done through the local school systems.
- » **Outreach** – Programs that are made available to communities that are outside of the community reserved by appointment.
- » **Teacher Trainings** – Trainings put on by the Outdoor Campus such as FishSD, Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, HuntSAFE Instructor and HuntSAFE for Schools, and National Archery in the Schools. These can be made available for Continuing Ed Credits or Undergraduate/Graduate Credits (through partnering with local universities).
- » **Hunting 101** – Comprehensive hunting program that teaches students how to purchase a license, time at the range, time in the field, and time processing (if a successful harvest) either a deer or turkey.
- » **Special Event** – Raptor Rendezvous, Women’s Try It Night, and the Gear Swap are just a couple of the programs the Outdoor Campus offers on a “larger” scale to the public. Some require registration and others do not.

IN 2022, THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS:



PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



- YOUTH | 12,978
- ADULTS | 5,916

“I would not have been able to do so much and expand my increasing love for the outdoors without GFP!”
- Fishing With Friends Participant

SPECIALTY COURSE OFFERINGS

- » **Hunting 101 – Spring 2022 Turkey Hunts**
 - 18 hunters (15 youth, 3 adults) (all were first time hunters)
 - 16 turkeys harvested
- » **Hunting 101 – Fall 2022 Deer Hunts**
 - 74 hunters (55 youth, 18 adults) (40 first time hunters and 2 veteran hunters)
 - 73 deer harvested
- » **South Dakota Vamos a Pescar**
 - Two-part series class (class one was fishing basics and class two was cleaning and cooking fish) in partnership with the Sioux Falls Multi-Cultural Center. The Outdoor Campus provided the programming, the Multi-Cultural Center provided interpreters (a Conservation Officer and his wife also helped with interpretation), and Dakota Trout Unlimited purchased fishing licenses for families who desired one.
 - 18 participants (9 adults and 9 youth)
 - Five adult fishing licenses purchased by Dakota Trout Unlimited.
 - All participants received a fishing pole, tackle, and filet knife
- » **Fishing with Your Friends**
 - Three-part series class held in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Pierre. Class one is an introduction to fishing, class two is fishing at a community fishery (Family Park), and class three is a processing and cooking class. All participants received a fishing pole, tackle, cook book, and filet knife. Programming focus was 18-35 years old.
 - Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation awarded \$12,000 to the state for the program.
 - Statewide 58 participants started the class, with 36 graduating.
 - Statewide of the 58 participants, 14 purchased a fishing license after the class and an additional 10 already held one at the start of the class.
 - In Sioux Falls, Class one had 19 participants class two had 16 participants, and class three had 12 participants.



SCAN THE CODE TO VIEW LEARN-TO-FISH VIDEOS CREATED BECAUSE OF THE FISHING WITH FRIENDS CLASS

SPECIALTY COURSE OFFERINGS

- » **Snorkel Spearfishing at Lake Lorraine**
 - In 2021, the Outdoor Campus and Lake Lorraine started a partnership to offer free fishing programs at Lake Lorraine, which is a private pond owned by Friessen Development Inc.
 - One unique class offered through this partnership, is a Snorkel Spearfishing class. This class is possible because of the water clarity at Lake Lorraine and has started to become quite the hit locally.
 - Since this was a new class, we offered two classes this year with 24 participants in total.
- » **Fishing at Family Park**
 - This is a longstanding open house fishing program that GFP and SF Parks and Recreation partners to offer.
 - In 2022, seven classes were offered reaching 216 participants (131 youth, 85 youth).
- » **Live Bird Classes**
 - The Outdoor Campus has a staff member, Lynn Purdy, who has a United States Fish and Wildlife Service Certification to have birds for educational purposes. Lynn utilizes an American Kestrel and an Eastern Screech Owl for these unique courses.
 - The Outdoor Campus offered four classes this year reaching 35 people with these live birds.
- » **The Vet Center**
 - The Vet Center provides readjusting counseling for veterans. The Outdoor Campus started partnering with The Vet Center the spring of 2021. The group would have a group counseling session working through a specific curriculum for 1 ½ hours each week for eight weeks. After the session the group would do an activity lead by Outdoor Campus staff. In the spring of 2022, they built either a casting or spinning rod and then we went fishing with the group with their rods. In the fall of 2022, we did a variety of classes including in archery, trapping, wild game cooking, fly tying, Dutch oven cooking, kayaking, and fishing.
 - In 2022, 2 cohorts, one in the spring and one in the fall participated. The fall had eight scheduled classes plus three additional classes that were not connected with counseling sessions. Each class has around 2-8 participants.

- » **The Sioux Empire Boys and Girls Club**
 - The Boys and Girls Club's downtown location started bringing out their middle school students during 2020 and have continued through 2022. The group really enjoyed fishing, with many of the students having the experience for the first time. The group of eight to ten students came out for a number of weeks and built upon their fishing skills. The first time they came out, many would not touch a minnow or a worm. Each week their confidence would build and they became more independent with their skills. We had also been donated a number of fishing poles and tackle. One of our volunteers, Steve M., went through the poles, picked out the best of the bunch, restrung them, and helped us present them to the group. On this particular day, they picked out their rod and then got to fill a small tackle box with hooks, weights, bobbers, lures, etc. We also demonstrated and helped them rig their rod to go fishing down at our pond that day. We still had some rods and tackle left, so we took it down to their building for them to give to other students. Overall there were a total of 10 classes with 8 to 10 students per class.
- » **Volunteers of America, Dakotas – Sioux Falls (VOA)**
 - The Volunteers of America (VOA) was an afterschool program. We started working with them in 2020 doing virtual programs. We primarily worked with their 3rd to 5th graders. They would bring out 10 to 18 students for an hour activity that included, fishing, orienteering, camp fire safety, and SD animals. Over the summer the VOA office closed due to lack of funding. 10 to 18 students per class (not always the same students) 4 classes in spring of 2022.



SPECIAL EVENTS



RAPTOR RENDEZVOUS

- » This program provides the public the opportunity to learn about raptors. The program includes two live animal 1-hour programs hosted by the Minnesota Raptor Center. This year, the presentations had a total of 159 participants between the two presentations. Aside from the Raptor presentations, Lynn Purdy brings her educational birds and does presentations along with some “open-house” style activities in the main lobby.



HUNT 101 SOCIAL

- » This is an end of the year celebration where participants, mentors, and landowners are brought together to enjoy wild game appetizers, celebrate successes and lessons learned, hear stories from others hunts, and recognize those who made these hunts possible.
- » In 2022, the program was held February 12, with GFP Secretary Kevin Robling and Region 3 Supervisor Emmett Keyser commending the work of participants in learning to hunt and thanking mentors and landowners for their efforts. Around 40 individuals were in attendance at this event.



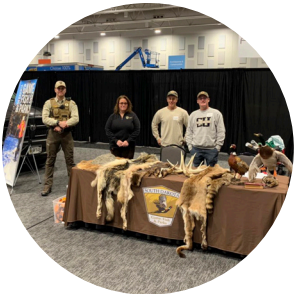
WOMEN’S TRY IT DAY

- » The aim of this program is to create a space for women of all ages to come and try some new outdoor skills. This has been a longstanding programming for the Outdoor Campus. In 2022, it was held in the afternoon of June 16 with 43 participants in attendance (10 youth, 33 adults). Folks got to try their hand at archery, kayaking, fishing, and much more.



FIRST ANNUAL OUTDOOR CAMPUS HUNTING AND FISHING GEAR SWAP AND GIVEAWAY

- » 2022 was the pilot year for this event, which was the brainchild of Outdoor Campus staff and GFP Region 3 Conservation Officers. For the event, the public was asked if they had any older, gently used gear that they no longer needed. This gear was brought to the Outdoor Campus, cleaned up and given back out to those who could use it. The goal of the event is to help eliminate barriers for outdoor users, by taking donated gear and allowing others to get new life out of it.
- » Planning and Preparation for this event started in January 2022, with marketing and requests for used gear starting in March of 2022.
- » Before doors opened, around 100 folks were waiting in line, and by the end around 700 individuals had participated in this free event.
- » The Outdoor Campus also had volunteers based at the pond for folks who took fishing gear to go out and try their gear with a professional to help them learn how to use it.



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT - JA INSPIRES

- » The Outdoor Campus, along with other GFP staff, attended this career pathways event hosted by Junior Achievement. The event encourages students that are in 8th grade to start thinking about their future career. GFP had a physical booth at the event that has 3,569 students from the greater Sioux Falls area attend and a virtual booth that is shared with around 5,000 students across the state.

OTHER SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CAMPUS

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls, utilize three social media platforms with the following goals:

- 1. **Facebook:** Utilized as the main social media platform for disseminating information and sharing about the Outdoor Campus programs (@outdoorcampusSF).
 - a. Total Facebook Page Followers to date: 12,727 (78% female, 22% male)
 - b. New Page “likes” for 2022: 647 (up 32.3% from 2021)
 - c. Page visits for 2022: 7,746 (up 35.5% from 2021)
 - d. Facebook Page Reach for 2022: 161,388 (up 16.1% from 2021)
- 2. **Instagram:** Utilized as the secondary social media platform for sharing some information, sharing about The Campus Programs, and highlighting Campus stories (@outdoorcampus_siouxfalls).

ROOM USAGE

The Outdoor Campus encourages the use of our facility as a free meeting space for the public. Room use is dependent upon the signing of a Room Use Agreement and that the organization usage meets the Mission of GFP.

During the year of 2022, 121 meetings were held at the Outdoor Campus. These meetings were held by nongovernment organizations, city departments, state departments, and other clubs.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES EFFORTS:

- » Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Outdoor Campus Classes:
 - Starting in June 2022, the Outdoor Campus began giving an AIS talk during all its fishing classes and has continued since then. The purpose of this talk is to educate the public on what AIS are, their impact to local bodies of water, and what they can do to help prevent or slow the spread of AIS.
 - For 2022, 367 fishing classes included the AIS presentation, which reached 6,361 people.
- » Aquatic Invasive Species Middle School Curriculum:
 - To provide more outreach concerning AIS, the GFP Education Team in partnership with South Dakota State University (SDSU) staff and SDSU 4-H Extension office staff to create a 5-Day (school week) curriculum. This curriculum includes an introduction to aquatic ecosystems, introduction to AIS, and then a dive into local AIS.
 - This project is ongoing, with completion and piloting the program to come soon.

- a. Total Instagram Followers to date: 2,116 (72.3% female, 27.7% male)
- b. New Instagram “followers for 2022: 109
- c. Profile visits for 2022: 849 (up 1.7% from 2021)
- d. Instagram reach for 2022: 3,854 (up 61.6% from 2021)
- 3. **YouTube:** Utilized as a shared platform within the department, this channel is used to house educational videos for the public (@southdakotagamefishandpark780).
 - a. Total YouTube Subscribers to date: 58
 - b. Total YouTube views to date: 3,848



SCAN THE CODE TO VISIT EDUCATION YOUTUBE CHANNEL

OUTDOOR CAMPUS SIOUX FALLS – TRAIL UPDATES:

The Outdoor Campus is located in the city of Sioux Falls Sertoma Park. At the Outdoor Campus, there are over 2 miles of trails that are utilized for walking, running, and in the winter cross-country skiing.

- » Updated Trail Signs – In 2022, the Outdoor Campus reprinted trail signs to align with our maps we give out to the public. These signs replaced the older, dated signs that previously were located at intersections in the park.
- » ADA Compliant concrete path – until recently the Outdoor Campus had concrete walking paths that were located just around the building, but this year that trail was increased. As of the fall of 2022, the concrete sidewalk has now been extending to the Outdoor Campus main fishing dock and boathouse.
- » Coming soon – In 2022, the Outdoor Campus partnered with Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation to have a “Kids in Parks” sign and brochures created. The sign outlines the Riparian Trail and the four brochures (Birds, Trees, Pond Life, and Dragonflies) leads students on a self-guided experience around the grounds. Students can also earn prizes through the Kids in Parks website for doing these brochures. Due to the frozen ground, the sing will not be put up until Spring of 2023.

LOANER EQUIPMENT

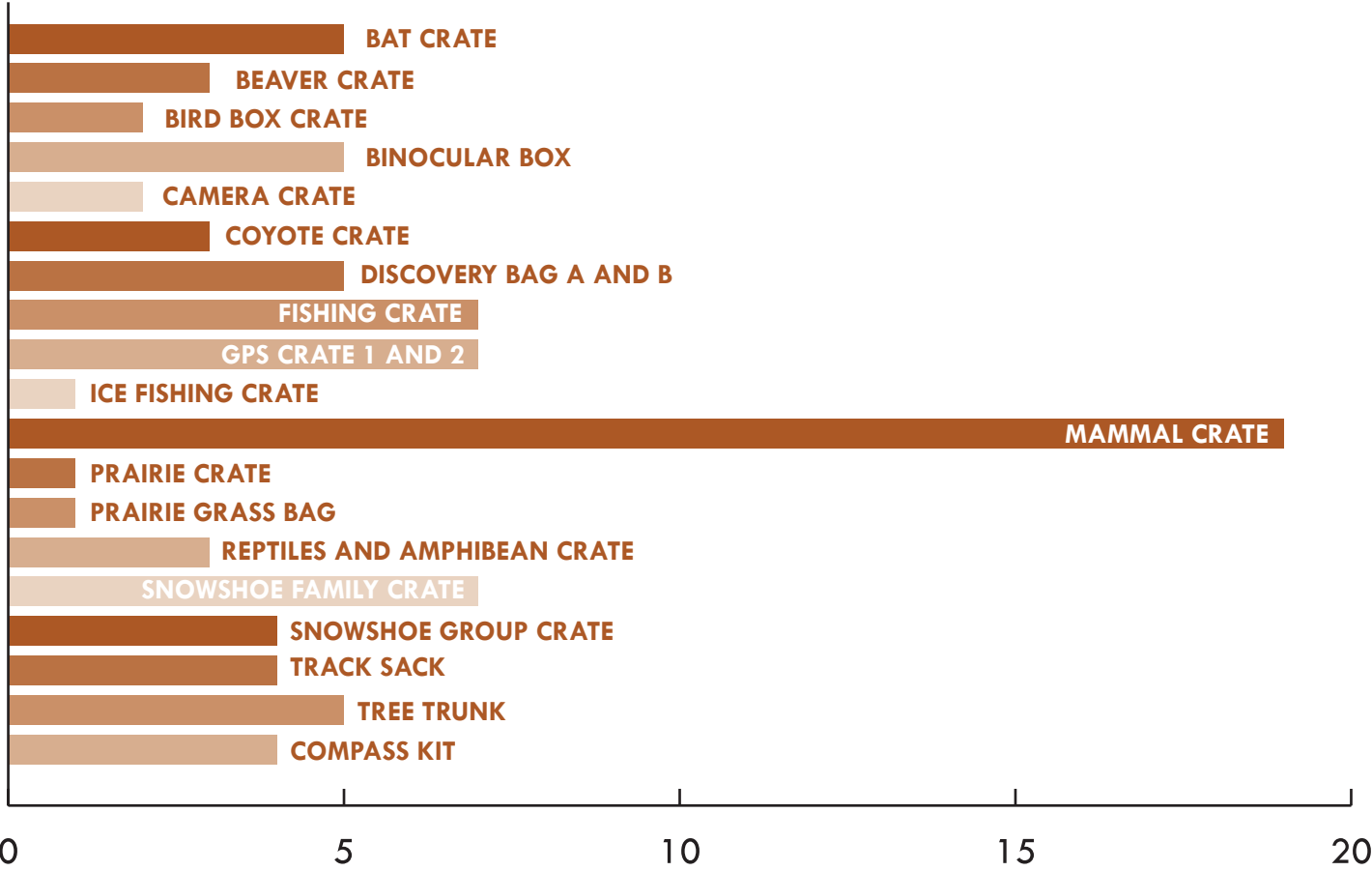
The Outdoor Campus in conjunction with the Region 3 Wildlife Office offer a variety of different loaner options to the public.

- » Critter Crates – These are loaner crates filled with educational items specific to the crates “educational topic.” This year crates were checked out 88 times, each being checked out roughly for a week at a time. (Next year we will add the metric of participants reached and contact hours with the crates).
- » The Region 3 Office checks out live traps, life jackets, and waterfowl decoy bags. These have been updated on the Outdoor Campus webpage and will have metrics attached to them in 2023.
- » New this year: The Outdoor Campus has partnered with The Brookings County Outdoor Adventure center to provide a Waterfowl Decoy Loaner Trailer. This decoy trailer is located at the Adventure Center and is available for loan free to the

public. It contains everything you need to field goose hunt (aside from a firearm). Another of these trailers is poised to be located at the Outdoor Campus.

- These decoy trailers were made possible in part by generous donations from Jan Nicolay and The Sioux Falls Delta Waterfowl Chapter.
- » New this year: An Action Track Chair has been purchased and will be made available to the public in 2023. This all-terrain mobility chair allows for participants with limited mobility to get out into the field to hunt, fish, and other outdoor recreation ventures. This is the second trailer the GFP owns and will be located at the Outdoor Campus.
- This chair was made possible in part to the Operation Mobility Initiative and specifically by a generous donation by Steve Peterson.

CRITTER CRATE CHECK OUT - 2022



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS SIOUX FALLS – QUADRASCENTENNIAL

August 30, 2022 was named by Governor Kristi Noem as “Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus Day”. This Proclamation was made as part of a 25 year anniversary party held at The Campus. The presentation party included presentations about the Campus and the importance of the outdoors by Emmett Keyser (Wildlife Region 3 Supervisor), Jan Nicolay (Chair of the Friends of The Outdoor Campus), Don Kearney (Director of the Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Department), Secretary Kevin Robling (GFP), Governor Kristi Noem, and Kristina Coby (South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation Executive Development Director).



PARTNERSHIP WITH PHEASANTS FOREVER CREATED A NEW PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

A local intermediate school worked with The Outdoor Campus and South Dakota Pheasants Forever to create a program based on the book Where the Red Fern Grows. The course led to 4 rotations that covered furbearers of South Dakota, trapping, hunting with dogs, and adaptations of raccoons. Students involved in the program noted how positive the experience was!

VET CENTER PROGRAM RECEIVED AWARD

The Outdoor Campus received the DAV Outstanding Support of Veterans Recreation Award for 2021-2022. This award was through a nomination for the work put forth by Sandy Richter among other Campus Staff with the Vet Center Program.



BEGINNER’S PHEASANT HUNT WAS A SUCCESS

Fall 2022 the Outdoor Campus held a Beginner Pheasant Hunting Class. One family sent us an email saying how much fun they had and how they left the “class feeling confident and excited to pheasant Hunt!” Participants in the class experienced walking a field, processing a pheasant, and learning how to prepare the bird.





OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

Since opening our doors in 1997, we have reached over 500,000 participants by offering almost 20,000 classes **FREE** to the public!

IT'S TIME TO EXPAND!

BACKGROUND

Since opening its doors in 1997, The Outdoor Campus has been offering **FREE** outdoor education in hunting, fishing, conservation science, environmental science, and outdoor skills. With almost 20,000 classes offered reaching over 500,000 participants, 1/5 of these being field trips, the Outdoor Campus has been a haven of learning. Over 1,200 volunteers have given 123,199 hours, 9 permanent staff, and numerous interns have worked to create this unique outdoor learning environment.

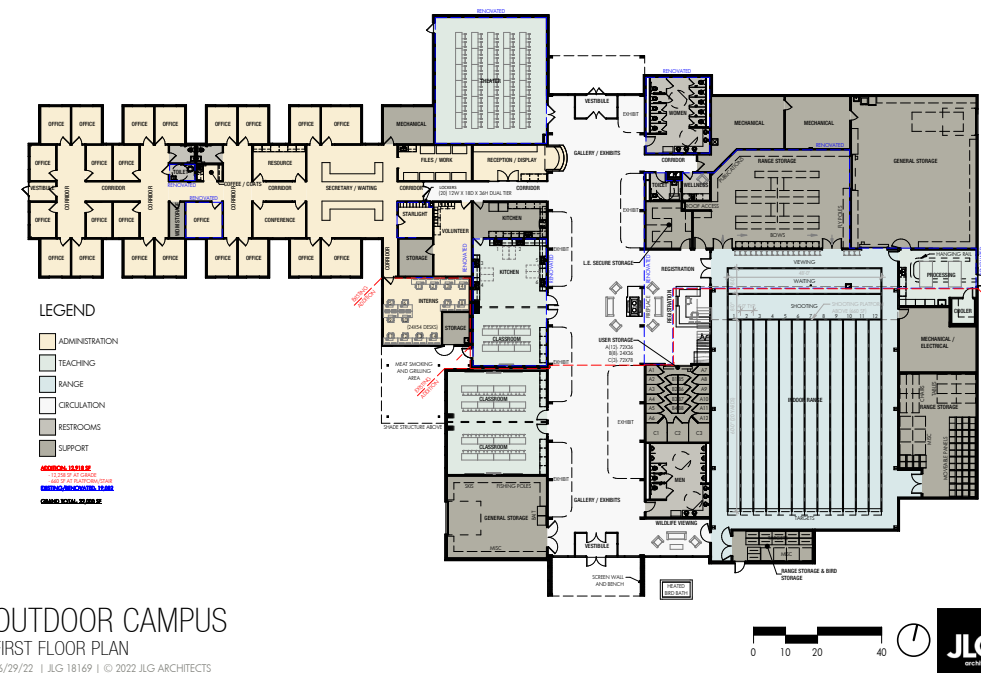
GROW WITH US

The Campus has outgrown its current capacity for programming and meeting space creating the need for:

1. Additional classroom space. The current capacity is 21-24 participants in each of our 2 classrooms.
2. Space to offer next-step level programming such as game processing and wild game cooking.
3. increased indoor space for winter programming.
4. Enhanced outdoor shooting range space.

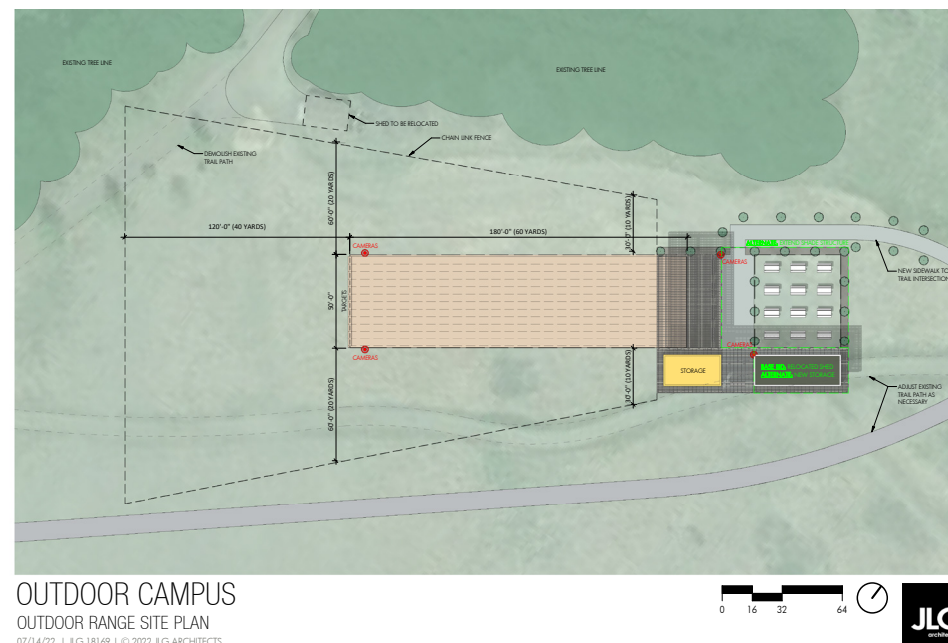
COST ESTIMATES

1. Indoor Facility
 - a. \$5.91 million is the estimated cost for this 18,000-square foot expansion/remodel.
2. Outdoor Facility
 - a. \$796,500 is the estimated cost for a safe, outdoor shooting range of up to 60-yards inlength.



INDOOR EXPANSION AND ENHANCEMENT

1. 5,000-square-foot indoor range
 - a. 12 shooting lanes
 - b. 20-yard range for archery and bb guns
 - c. Spectators space for range viewing
2. Addition of 2 new classrooms and remodel of the original 2 classrooms
3. Dedicated intern office space
4. Public nursing mothers room
5. Game processing space with walk in cooler
6. Updated restrooms and family restroom
7. Partner storage area by the range
8. Outdoor meat smoking and grilling space
9. Improved bird viewing area with aerated and heated pond



OUTDOOR EXPANSION

1. 60-yard -range covered by a canopy for Campus archery and bb gun classes and public use
2. Spectator area behind the firing line with picnic tables



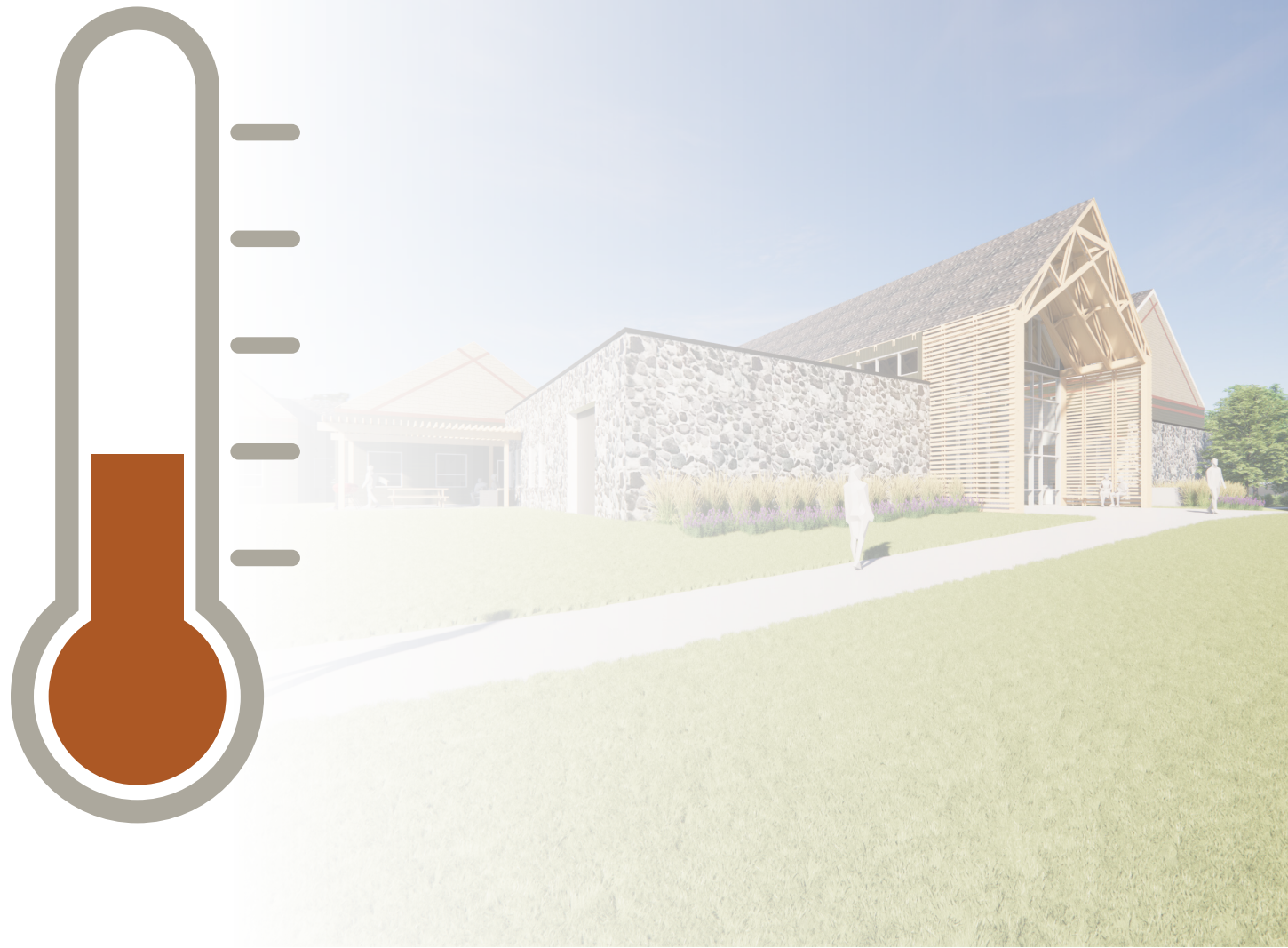
SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT OR TO DONATE TODAY!



CAMPUS EXPANSION FUNDRAISING PROGRESS

With the goal of beginning work on the expansion in a matter of a few years, The South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation has agreed to partner in fundraising \$3 million dollars. This \$3 million will help offset the cost of this over 6-million-dollar project.

FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$3 MILLION
CURRENT FUNDS RAISED: \$727,785



The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2022. “25 Years and Growing Strong” is the slogan chosen for the Capital Campaign Project. This slogan encapsulates what this project is about: looking backwards to look ahead. On August 30, 2022, The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls hosted its quadranscentennial celebration to highlight what has been done in the past. Regional Supervisor Emmett Keyser, Sioux Falls Parks Department Director, Don Kearney, Game, Fish and Parks Secretary, Kevin Robling, Friends Board Chair and former legislator,

Jan Nicolay, and South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Executive Director, Kristina Coby, all spoke on behalf of The Campus. This event was punctuated by the attendance of Governor Kristi Noem and her words about the importance of the outdoors and the proclamation of August 30, 2022, being “Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus Day”. Looking backwards, The Campus is honored by the efforts of so many that led to its success. Looking ahead, The Campus is excited for another 25 years of growing strong.





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