



SD Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus - SF

NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Update: Fall 2023



SD GFP Mission: We serve and connect people and families to the outdoors through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife resources

Newsletter Content:

- Note From the Director
- Note from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls
- Note on Region 3 Wildlife
- A Look Back...at the Summer of 2023
- Campus Updates
- Campus Expansion Updates
- Programming Highlights
- Fall Program Booklet
- Upcoming Special Events
- Volunteering
- Concluding Notes



OUTDOOR CAMPUS
— SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

David Parker

SF Campus Director



“Well Folks, we wrapped up another summer! Summer is always fast paced for us, with a variety of programs for the general public as well as groups!”

What is coming next?

Fall 2023 is on the horizon, meaning a transition for us to hunting season classes!

A crucial program for hunting, is HuntSAFE.

There is still space in our upcoming classes in September and October.

For more information go to:

gfp.sd.gov/hunter-education/



Notes from The Friends of The Outdoor Campus SF

Greetings from the Friends of the Outdoor Campus Board. Summer is over and school has started. What a busy summer the Campus has had. Over 10,483 children and adults enjoyed programs at the Campus. Saturday, August 12 was the 2nd annual outdoor equipment/supplies giveaway. Everything from canoe/kayaks to water bottles to giveaway. Over 600 folks participated in this event. Thanks to all who donated items.

The expansion continues on track. We still need \$600,000 to meet our financial goal. Any amount will help us reach our goal. Please donate if you can.

We look forward to a busy fall and meeting the needs of the community.

Members of the Board are:

Jan Nicolay
Brian Klatt
Tim Kromminga
Amanda Oines
Ryan Brown
Royce Merritt
Cheryl Ulvestad
Jamie Simko

Jeff Scherschligt
Kathy Anderson
Eric Olson
Derek Maassen
Eric Kurtz
Emmett Keyser
Kristina Coby
Kip Rounds
David Parker



Board Chair

Jan Nicolay

FRIENDS OF THE



**OUTDOOR
CAMPUS**

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

SD GFP Region 3 Wildlife Division

As we flip the calendar month to September, the excitement for fall in South Dakota is continuing to build! To many South Dakotans such as myself, the fall season brings thoughts of combines in the field, great walleye fishing, and some of the best camping weather of the year. Of course, it wouldn't be fall in South Dakota without hunting. As I write this, many fall hunting seasons are already opening, including archery pronghorn, deer, and elk seasons, as well as seasons for rabbit, squirrel, and Canada goose. In October, South Dakota's most well-known hunting season kicks off – pheasant season! With many reports of brood sightings throughout the summer months, we're looking forward to another great year of pheasant hunting in our great state. As the temperature drops and the leaves change color, staff here at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls wishes everyone a happy, safe, and outdoor-filled fall season!

Kip Rounds

Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor



A Look Back at Summer 2023

2023 Interns



Every summer, the Campus hires 11 interns to help fill programming needs for the Campus. These interns help with our butterfly gardens, maintenance, customer service, work with our volunteers, and of course educate!

The interns, each summer, also create their own class to teach! A couple of the ones from this summer include Atl-Atl, European Mounts, and Conservation Science with a focus on The Lorax.

European Mounts



This unique class focused on how to create your own mount. Jason, a summer intern, taught students what a European Mount is and the steps to take to be able to create your own European Mount.

Fishing



Another beloved class at the Campus is Fishing! Summer is prime time for fishing at the Campus. These classes included those at the Campus Pond. As well as partnership classes at Family Park with the City of Sioux Falls and at Lake Lorraine (Lake Lorraine is a private pond, and not generally open to fishing by the public).

Campus Updates

George H. W. Bush Vamos a Pescar



George H. W Bush Vamos a Pescar is a grant program administered by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. The grant awards funds to groups who offer programming for boating and fishing. This year Augustana University in cooperation with The GFP Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls received funds for a 5-part programming. This year's program ran through the month of June and offered opportunity for fishing, fish cleaning, boating, fishing from a boat, and then boating on moving water!

Campus Updates

Kids in Parks Signage



The Outdoor Campus and Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation partnered together to install a Kids in Parks sign! The sign offers a variety of flyers that can lead to new experiences on the trails!

National Wild Turkey Federation and Friends of the Big Sioux River joined the partnership to help create a unique flyer specific to the oxbow lake that encircles Sertoma Park.

For more information, check out:

<https://www.kidsinparks.com/sertoma-park>

Campus Updates

Decoy Loaner Trailer



Thanks to generous donations from Jan Nicolay, in memory of her husband Jerry Nicolay who was an avid goose hunter, and from Delta Waterfowl Sioux Falls, there are now 2 Loaner Field Goose Decoy Trailers. One of these trailers is located at The Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus and one is located at the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center. These trailers along with the contents of them are able to be checked out by the public, FREE of charge. For more information go to: gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/ and click on "Loaner Equipment".

Campus Updates

2nd Annual Gear Giveaway



One time is an anomaly, but twice is the beginning of a pattern, making the Campus Gear Giveaway program an event that The Campus plans to have annually! Thanks to all the generation donations from the public, the Campus was able to host another successful Gear Giveaway Event. Folks of all ages and backgrounds were welcomed to the Campus on August 12 to pick out items for FREE that they needed for their next outdoor adventure. By 9:45 am we had 372 people walk through our doors for the event! Thank you to everyone who made this program a success!

Campus Updates

Big Sioux Buck



Photo by Jim Thompson

Pictured above is the "Big Sioux Buck" also known to locals in Sioux Falls as "YouTube". This buck, which resided on the North East Side of Sioux Falls in the early 2000s, quickly gained popularity with its antlers scoring a 236 on the Boone and Crockett Scale. The deer was last seen alive in early 2013 and was thought to have lived to be 12-13 years old (the average lifespan for a deer is 4-6 years). Though this deer has passed, you can learn more about it, local artistry created of it, and see a replica of it in the Region 3 Wildlife Office/Outdoor Campus with our new exhibit.

Campus Updates

Women's Try It Night



Every year the Campus hosts its "Women's Try It Night" Event. The goal of this event is to give women a space to try a variety of outdoor activities like archery, fishing, kayaking, and more. This year was unique because we had a special guest speaker/instructor: Callie Russell. Callie, was a participant on the History Channel show *Alone* and spent time sharing about her experience as well as instructing on starting a fire from a ferro rod.

Campus Expansion Updates

Expanding The Outdoor Campus!

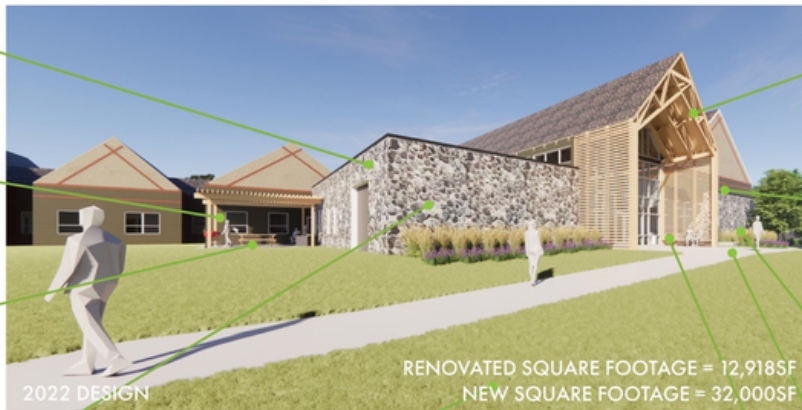
 ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM SPACE

 INTERN AREA

 GRILLING & MEAT SMOKING PATIO

 ADDITIONAL GENERAL STORAGE

 LARGER FACILITY TO INCREASE PROGRAM CAPABILITY



 EXPANDED LOBBY/ EXHIBIT SPACE

 SEPARATED GAME PROCESSING FROM THE RANGE

 WILDLIFE AREA

 "AT GRADE" PATH

 OUTDOOR GATHERING SPACE



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

2019/2022 COMPARISON

7/19/22 | JLG 18169 | © 2022 JLG ARCHITECTS



The Campus has been around for over 25 years, and it is time to grow!

- Spring 2024 - Expected beginning of construction on the Outdoor Range
- Fall 2024 - Expected beginning of construction on the Indoor Expansion

We have \$2.4 Million dollars raised to date! Putting us on target for these construction dates.



HIGHLIGHTS



Hunting 101 - Disabled Veteran Hunts

Fall of 2022, The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls piloted a Disabled Veteran Hunt program. This first year, The Campus had 3 Veterans take part in these hunts.

This year, Fall of 2023, The Campus is partnering with the Grey Ghost Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation to offer this program again. If interested in participating or for more details, contact Derek >>>

Learn more about our Programming <https://gfp.sd.gov/east-programs/>

Hunting 101



This course is a unique opportunity to learn the full process of deer hunting from purchasing a license, going to the gun range, going into the field for a deer hunt, and learning how to process a deer.

The goal of this class is to introduce and help families become more comfortable hunting in hopes of building a lifelong passion for hunting.

Parents/guardians are required to attend. This is available to anyone 10 years and up. Adults are to sign up as well.

If you think this is something that may interest you, please contact Derek at:
605-362-2732
derek.klawitter@state.sd.us



Fall 2023 Programming Booklets

Pheasant Hunting Basics

Saturday, September 30, 10AM-12PM or 1pm-3pm

A South Dakota hunting tradition, pheasant hunting is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in the fall! Learn about pheasants and hunting safety with hands on activities.

This class will also include learning how to clean and cook pheasant.



Check out these Classes!

Fly Tying for Beginners

September 7, October 11, or November 2, 6pm-7:30pm

This intro to fly tying class will teach you a few tips and tricks for getting started in the exciting world of fly tying. Each month will feature different flies that will keep the fish biting for more!



Our Fall 2023 Program Booklets are out! You can swing by the Campus to pick up a hard copy or you can check them out online:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/east-programs/>

Registration is open for all fall classes!



Need Help? Give us a call at 605-362-2777
Or

Give the Kalkomey Help Desk a call at 1-800-684-9541



South Dakota

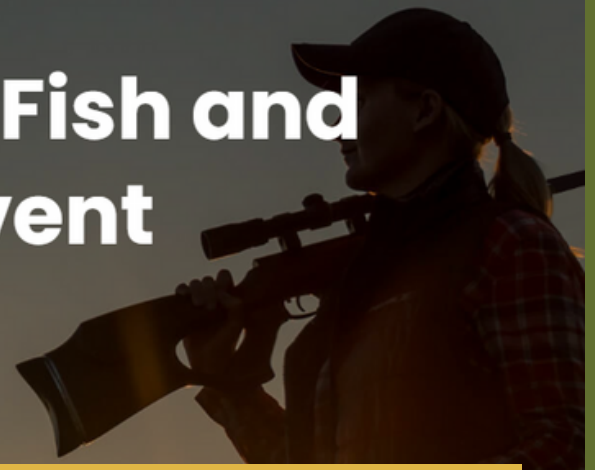
EVENTS

Programs

Login/Register >>



South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks: Educational Event Management



Have you registered through our new Kalkomey registration system?

To register, go to: <https://southdakota.storefront.kalkomey.com/em/programs>

Campus Volunteers

Thank you, all, for an awesome summer, filled with fun classes. We had a phenomenal crew of volunteers and interns this summer. Sixty-eight volunteers donated over 1,700 hours to the Outdoor Campus this summer. The Outdoor Campus staff are so grateful for everything our volunteers do for the organization. You all are what make this such a special place to work. Staff recognized the following volunteers at the bowling party for all their hard work this summer.

Top Hours:

- Cheryl U. (adult) 141:16 hours
- Bobby M. (adult) 61:40 hours
- Levi B. (youth) 43:48 hours
- Maddie N. (youth) 34:30 hours

Certificates of Amazingness: Steve M.— Master Fisherman; Bill F.—Dock Fishing Master; Thulin Family—Running the Outdoor Campus Zoo; Rowan S. —Being the Most Excited to Volunteer; Hadass N.—SD Animal Master; Holly L.—Dutch Oven Master; Shawanna L.— Jack of All Trades; Bobby M.— Best Boat Hauler; Jaci B.—Jack of All Trades; Maddie N.—Having the Most Contagious Personality and Smile; Kelly B.—Being the Most Resourceful.

With classes beginning to settle down, volunteers will shift their efforts to helping with more school programming and Hunting 101. I'm looking forward to an exciting fall with our volunteers!

Paige O'Farrell

SDGFP Outdoor Campus SF





OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

25 Years of Programming 25 Years of Growing



If you want to give to the Campus Expansion, to help us continue growing in the next 25 years go to:

<https://www.parkswildlifeoundation.org/projects/outdoor-campus-sioux-falls-expansion>

