

Fall 2025



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

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Summer 2025 Recap

This summer was very busy! Check out all the cool classes from the summer

P. 4-7

Campus Updates

Learn about what new things are happening at the Outdoor Campus P. 8-9

Fall Programs

Find out what exciting classes are coming up for Fall 2025

P. 10-11

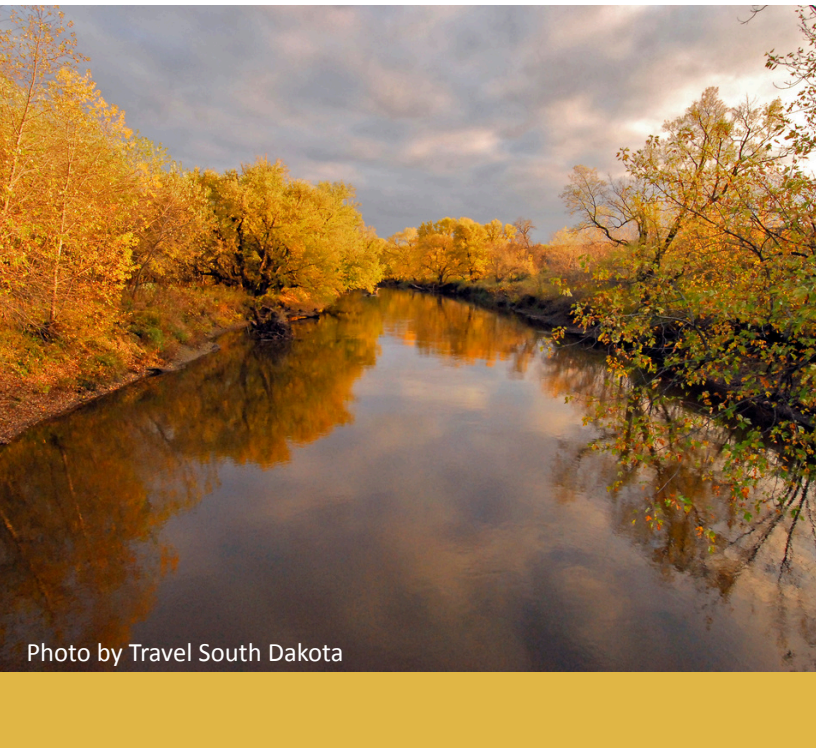


Photo by Travel South Dakota

Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

Summer may be over, but that doesn't mean the outdoor fun is over! Fall means even more opportunities to get outside including hiking, fall fishing, and HUNTING!

If you are a new to hunting, we would love to come along side you on your journey and help get you ready for a fun season. We have a variety of classes you may want to consider: HuntSAFE (p.), Introduction to Bowhunting (in partnership with the SD Bow Hunters), or Firearm Cleaning/Maintenance .

Aside from our hunting classes, we have a variety of other classes you can check out in our booklet that came out on August 6th. Registration is open and ongoing!

Lastly, just a reminder that our Outdoor Archery Range is open anytime Sertoma Park is open. If you have your own gear and are looking for a place to shoot your bow, swing by anytime between 5 AM and 10 PM to try out the range.

Region 3

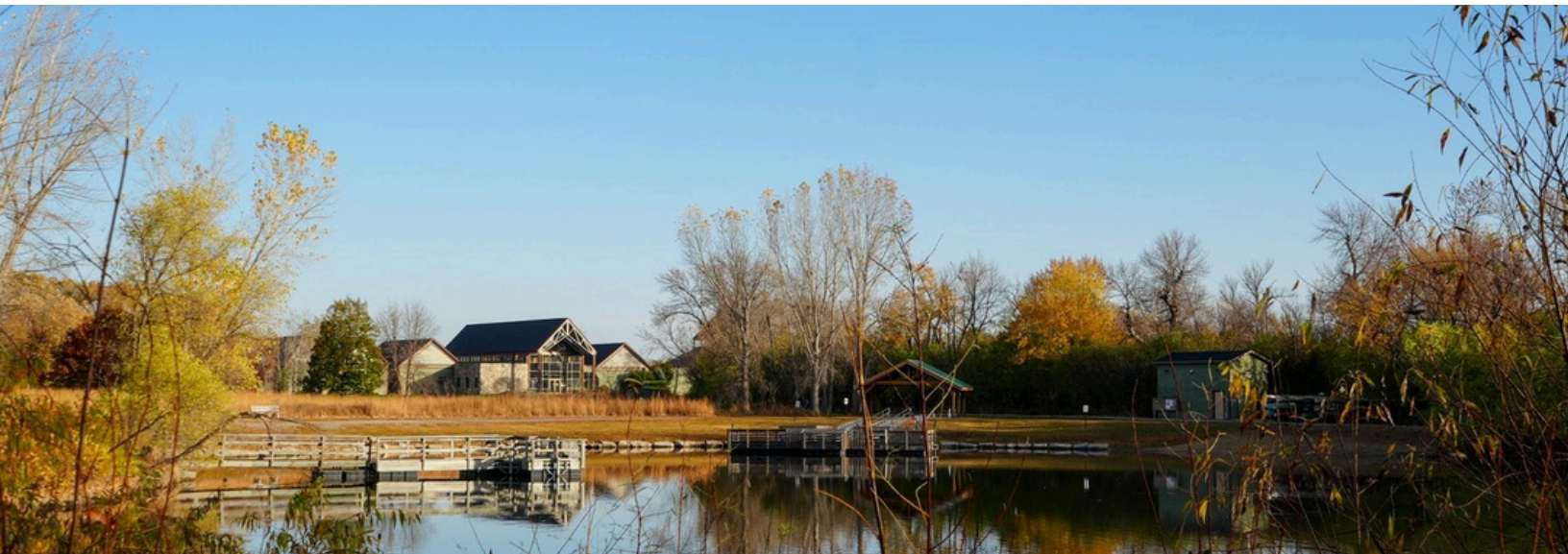
Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

As the summer of 2025 wraps up, we are heading into fall with much-needed moisture in the ground. In fact, nearly all of the southeast region of South Dakota is no longer on the drought map! As hunting seasons begin this fall, we look forward to what's shaping up to be a season to remember. Deer licenses were decreased throughout much of Region 3 this year to help boost populations after EHD took its toll. However, fawns are being observed throughout the region and we expect a quick population rebound if mother nature cooperates. Pheasant broods are being observed all throughout the region as well to build on the great hunting success we saw in 2024. Two consecutive mild winters, along with increased habitat on the ground, have helped elevate pheasant numbers to levels worth being excited about! As always, we're eager to roll out the blaze orange carpet for hunters visiting our state this fall and looking forward to showing them why South Dakota is a hunting destination!





Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

We are pleased to report the significant progress achieved on the expansion project at the Outdoor Campus. The newly developed classrooms, food to fork areas featuring game processing and kitchen facilities, along with a new indoor archery and BB gun range, will present year-round opportunities for outdoor engagement. These enhanced resources are scheduled to be available next fall.

Eric Olson has recently retired from the Friends of the Outdoor Campus board. We extend our sincere gratitude for his commitment, passion, and dedication to the Outdoor Campus programs, the expansion campaign, and the many mentor hunts he conducted. Although Mr. Olson will continue mentoring new hunters, his insight and leadership will be greatly missed by the Friends of the Outdoor Campus board.

We are also pleased to welcome three new members to the Friends of the Outdoor Campus board: Emily Oyos representing the Friends of the Big Sioux River, Ryan Martin from First Western Bank, and Tyler Tordsen from Sioux Metro Growth Alliance. We appreciate their willingness to volunteer and serve the community.

As summer concludes, many outdoor enthusiasts look forward to the commencement of fall hunting seasons. We are encouraged by the increased participation at the new outdoor archery range within the community. For those new to hunting or other outdoor pursuits, The Outdoor Campus offers educational classes—please refer to our website for more information about these introductory programs.

We remain grateful for the ongoing enthusiasm and support from our community as we continue to enhance the Outdoor Campus experience. Whether you are an experienced outdoor enthusiast or just beginning, there are numerous ways to become involved and connect with nature locally. Our dedicated staff and volunteers are always committed to sharing their expertise and passion for the outdoors through workshops, guided programs, and special events designed for participants of all ages and skill levels.

Board Members

Tim Kromminga - Chair
Emmett Keyser - Vice Chair
Amanda Oines - Member
Derek Maassen - Member
Drew Woelfel - Member
Brian Klatt - Member
Ryan Martin - Member

Royce Meritt - Member
Jeff Scherschligt - Member
Cheryl Ulvestad - Member
Eric Kurtz - Member
Kathy Anderson - Member
Ritchie Hutchinson - Member
Tyler Tordsen - Member

Jamie Simko - Member
Emily Oyos - Member
Josh Johnson - Ex Officio
Kristina Coby - Ex Officio
Kip Rounds - Ex Officio
David Parker - Ex Officio

A Look Back at Summer 2025



Paddle Board Fishing

On July 26, the Outdoor Campus partnered with Flow and Paddle and Lake Lorraine to offer a Paddle Board Fishing Class.

The focus of the class was to spend some of the class helping students understand how to paddleboard and the rest of the class fishing from a paddleboard.

During the class a variety of fish were caught including blue gill, green sunfish, and bass.

The class was a new one for the Outdoor Campus and had 9 participants try their hand at paddleboarding and fishing.

We look forward to being able to offer this class again in the future. A reminder that Lake Lorraine is a private pond and use of the pond for fishing/boating is only allowed through express permission from Lake Lorraine.

Familyfest Fun Cruise

On Saturday, May 31st the Outdoor Campus participated in The 'hood Magazine annual Familyfest Fun Cruise. This year the Outdoor Campus offered free practice casting, family fishing, and family archery for the public.

At the Outdoor Campus location, around 700 individuals stopped by to fish or shoot archery!



A Look Back at Summer 2025



Teacher Training - Nature to Molecules

The PROMISE Lab at Sanford Research Center partnered with the Outdoor Campus to offer a 4-day professional development course for secondary teachers. The first 2 days were held at the Outdoor Campus and focused on ecology. Ryan Park, GFP Regional Habitat Program Manager and Carter Knecht, GFP Aquatic Habitat and Access Biologist led discussions on fire succession and shoreline restoration. Jeff Zimprich with SD Grassland Coalition and Pasque Hill on Beaver Creek led conversations on the importance of grasslands and soil health principles. Carter Sergeant, Pheasants Forever Monarch and Pollinator Biologist spoke on the importance of pollinators. Finally, Dr. Carrie Manning-Olson from Augustana University taught about milkweed and the work being done with it.

The last 2 days were at the PROMISE Lab and focused on the other end of the spectrum: “Molecules”. Teachers spent time at the lab doing hands-on activities with DNA extraction, PCR, electrophoresis, and protein modeling. Participants also got to meet scientists and tour the labs.

A Look Back at Summer 2025

Paddleboard Fishing

The Outdoor Campus partnered with Flow and Paddle to hold a Paddleboard Fishing Class on July 26th. This free class was held on Lake Lorraine made possible through partnership with Friessen Construction (a privately owned pond, that is not open to fishing by the general public).

Students in the class were given instructions on how to use a stand up paddle board as well as instruction on how to manage fishing gear on a stand up paddle board. During the class students caught a variety of different fish including blue gill, green sunfish, and bass. The class was a big success and likely to be held in the future.



Scheel's Bow Tune Up Day

Scheel's teamed up with the Outdoor Campus to offer a Bow Tune Up Day at our new Outdoor Archery Range. On July 31, the Scheel's Archery Department Experts volunteered their time to help folks in this class prepare for hunting season.

Scheel's staff brought tools, a bow press, and equipment for paper tuning and spent 1-on-1 time with folks to get their bows sighted in.



A Look Back at Summer 2025



Women's Try It Night

On June 26th, the Outdoor Campus hosted its annual Women's Try It Night. This event is open to females who are looking to try their hand at a variety of different outdoor activities such as fishing and Dutch oven cooking. This year 51 individuals participated.

Duck Days

The Outdoor Campus hosted a booth at the first annual Duck Days in Wallace, SD. The Outdoor Campus utilized the SD Grassland Initiative Tote to introduce students to native wildlife through a print-making activity.



4th Annual Gear Giveaway Program

August 9th marked the 4th Annual Gear Giveaway Program. This year 100+ donors gave over 1,300 items with the purpose of those items being given back to folks in the public in an effort to help them get started in their outdoor adventures.

During the event 325 folks came through and took gear including hunting clothing, fishing gear, and decoys for hunting. In correlation with this event, the Outdoor Campus also hosted an Open House Fishing class with 215 folks coming out to fish at the pond.

Campus Updates - School Coordinator

Meet Raghav Sriram Yogeeswari

In early July, Raghav joined the Outdoor Campus team as the School Coordinator!

Raghav first joined the Outdoor Campus team as a Naturalist Intern in the Fall of 2024 with a focus on school programming. He is passionate about outdoor education and has a strong background in natural resources and conservation.

Raghav is very much looking forward to continuing in his new role as School Coordinator and being able to bring meaningful outdoor experiences to classrooms in South Dakota!



If you are a school teacher looking to bring the outdoors to your classroom, check out our School Booklet!

Scan the QR code for a copy, or stop by the Outdoor Campus and pick up a hard copy.



Campus Updates - Expansion Construction

Phase 2

As the months have progressed, construction on our expansion has continued to move forward!

The top photo, is a glimpse of where the new restrooms will be located. The restrooms will include a male and female side that is larger than our current facilities. Also there will be a family restroom with a full size, adult changing table. On the other side will be located a nursing mother's room with child size changing table.

The bottom two pictures are depicting the outside (middle) and inside (bottom) of a new storage space. Though not the "coolest" part of an expansion, this is a huge boon to our programming because it allows for more space for storage. It will also have an updated loading dock for us to receive publications such as the Hunting Handbook, Fishing Handbook, etc.



Fall 2025 Programming

Scan to Register:

Our Fall 2025 Program Registration is live and ongoing. If you have not picked up a copy of our program book, swing by the outdoor campus and grab a copy.

Other dates to note:

- Winter Programming Booklets are available **November 5**.
- Winter Program Registration is **November 12 at 8am**.



Fall 2025 Programming Highlights



Bird Banding at Good Earth State Park

Thursday, September 25 from 10-11:30am

or

Tuesday, September 30 from 10-11:30am

Monitoring the health and variety of songbird species is one of the many jobs of GFP. This class will give you the opportunity to learn more about the banding process and why it is important. **Please note: a State Park Sticker is required for vehicles entering the park.**

Introduction to Bow Hunting

Thursday, October 9 from 6:30-8:00pm

If you have taken an introductory archery class at the Outdoor Campus or you are just curious about how to get started bow hunting, this class is one you won't want to miss! This class will be **led by the SD Bowhunter's Association** and will involve discussion on equipment, gear safety, where to hunt, licensing, and entry level hunting knowledge to get you a solid foundation into hunting with a bow.



Need Help with Registering?

Give us a call at 605-362-2777 or Give the Brandt Help Desk a call at 1-800-238-4168

Fall 2025 Programming Highlights



Our Living Prairie

Friday, October 3 from 10-11:30am

Join us and learn all about how the prairie is alive! Jeff Zimprich from Pasque Hill on Beaver Creek will lead participants of all ages through lessons to better understand how soil is alive, the importance of grasslands, and prairie plant root systems.

This class will include hands-on activities as well as time exploring on the trails here at the Outdoor Campus!



Introduction to Waterfowl Hunting

Saturday, November 8 from 1-2pm

Learn the first steps to getting acquainted with duck and goose hunting in this hands-on camp. Proper calling, decoy, and blind set up along with bird identification will be just a few topics covered in this program.



2025 Sioux Falls Area HuntSAFE

Traditional Classes

September 2, 4, 6

September 16, 18, 20

September 30, October 2, 4

Field Day Only

September 6

September 20

October 4

***Requires successful completion
of the online course.**

To Register: <https://gfp.sd.gov/hunter-education/>



Outdoor Campus Loaner Equipment

The Outdoor Campus/Region 3 Office has a variety of free loaner equipment that can be checked out 1-2 weeks, below are a few pertinent to fall hunting!

Goose Trailer

The Outdoor Campus/Region 3 Office has two goose trailers that are available to check out for free. One is located at the Sioux Falls Office in Sertoma Park and one is located at the Outdoor Adventure Center in Brookings. These are free to checkout and use anywhere in the state of South Dakota.

To learn more or check availability, give us a call at 605-362-2700.



Waterfowl Decoy Bags

The Outdoor Campus/Region 3 Office has a variety of duck and goose floater decoys that can be checked out for free. These decoy bags are a great way to try waterfowl hunting prior to purchasing your own set of decoys.

To learn more or check availability, give us a call at 605-362-2700.



Action Trackchair

The Outdoor are open for everyone! Access is a key priority for the Game, Fish and Parks and the Department is proud to have a variety of Action Trackchairs located across the state to be checked out. The Outdoor Campus one also comes equipped with a trailer that can be used to access locations throughout South Dakota. To Learn more: <https://gfp.sd.gov/trackchair/>



Teachers! Free Resources for Your Classroom!

The Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus is committed to providing quality resources that teachers can use to share the outdoors with their classroom, below are just a few:

Grassland Education Tote

The Outdoor Campus is excited to be one host location for the Grassland Education Tote. This tote was created in partnership with the SD Grassland Initiative and has a variety of lesson plans aimed at bringing grassland education to your classroom.

To learn more visit:

<https://www.sdgrassinitiative.org/resources/>



AIS Curriculum

The Aquatic Invasive Species Curriculum is a 5-day curriculum that is geared toward Middle School students. Each lesson is 30-minutes to 60-minutes in length and can be done inside or outside. The lessons walk students from understanding what an ecosystem is to what AIS are to what managers are doing to slow the spread. To learn more visit:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/fishsd/>



Elk of the Black Hills VR

A field trip to the Black Hills might not be possible for your class, so why not take a virtual field trip there? Check out the Elk of the Black Hills VR (<https://gfp.sd.gov/elk-vr/>). This virtual tour will take your students through a better understanding of elk, the habitats they can be found in, and management practices for elk populations.



Campus Internships



Spring 2026 Internship Opportunities

Are you a college student looking for a fun, paid internship this Spring?

Consider a job at the Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls. We provide training and a variety of opportunities for Outdoor Education experience with students of all ages. If you love to hunt, fish, trap, and get outside, this job is right for you.

Opportunities in Sioux Falls:

Spring Group Program Intern: <https://tinyurl.com/Community-Spring-2026>

Spring Community Program Intern: <https://tinyurl.com/Group-Spring-2026>

Please Note: applicants must be a current part-time or full-time student (minimum of 6 credit hours) in upcoming semester or the immediately preceding semester.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us at 605-362-2777.

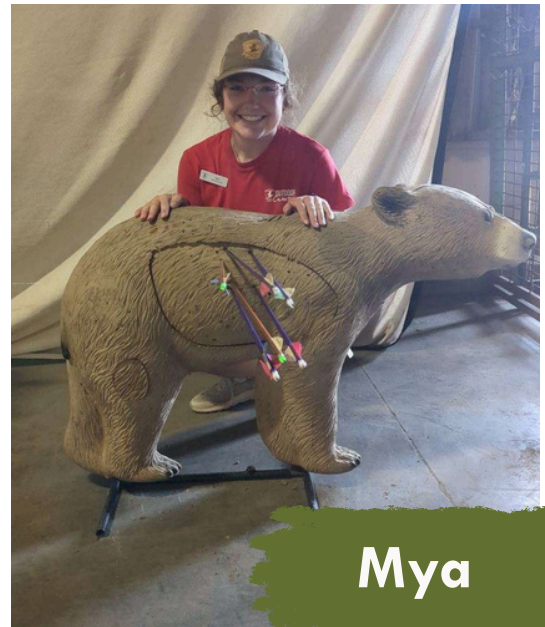
GFP in Brookings

The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls, in an effort to promote outreach to college aged students and expand our community reach, oversees two naturalist interns in Brookings during the school year. Their goal is to partner with the City of Brookings and the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center to increase outdoor users. Each semester these interns develop, promote, and put on many programs including archery, shore fishing, ice fishing, hiking, paddling, and orienteering, along with many “classroom style” programs.

For the 2025 Fall semester, we have hired Gabby O. and Mya D. Both are current SDSU students with experience in outdoor education through Summer internships at the Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls. We are excited to see what new and exciting programs this partnership will develop.



Gabi



Mya



New! GFP in Vermillion

The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls is pleased to announce that we are partnering with the University of South Dakota to place an Outreach Intern in Vermillion.

The goal of this intern is similar to the positions in Brookings, to partner with the University of South Dakota and the Vermillion community to increase outdoor opportunities and users.

This 2025 Fall semester, we have hired Josh W., a current students at the University of South Dakota. Josh has experience in outdoor education through his Summer internship at the Outdoor Campus as well as personal time spent in the outdoors.

Be on the look out for classes in the Vermillion area!



Josh



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SOUTH DAKOTA

Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Happy Fall!

We've wrapped up another busy and successful summer at The Outdoor Campus—Sioux Falls, and it wouldn't have been possible without our amazing volunteers. This summer, 78 volunteers helped wherever they were needed, donating over 1,300 hours of service. Between mid-May and mid-August, we also welcomed 16 new faces to our team. It's been such a joy watching our volunteer family grow and seeing newcomers gain confidence in their roles.

As we shift into fall, our focus turns from bustling summer group and community programs to Hunting 101 and school programs. Thank you to everyone who keeps showing up and giving their time as the season fills with classes, school visits, and events.

We are so grateful for each of you and feel incredibly lucky to work alongside such generous, knowledgeable, and friendly people.



Interested in Volunteering?

Scan the
QR Code:

