



SD Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus - SF

NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Update: Summer 2023



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

Newsletter Content:

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OUTDOOR CAMPUS
— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

David Parker

SF Campus Director



“

Hey Folks, It is summer which means camping and time on the lake! Remember when you are out and about, the importance of a life jacket. The Region 3 Office, located in the same building as The Campus does lend out life jackets for free!

”

Summer: What's Coming Up?

Summer is traditionally our busiest season of the year! Because of this, we break our registration into three dates:

- May 10 registration for June classes
- June 7 registration for July classes
- July 5 registration for August classes

Registration for classes is 8 am and our summer programming fills fast, so make sure that you plug these dates into your calendar!



Notes from The Friends of The Outdoor Campus SF

The Outdoor Campus Board is sad to see Emmett Keyser retire but the good news is he will continue to be involved with the Board and the expansion project. His years with GFP and the original Outdoor Campus are invaluable to the project's success. We wish him the best but are pleased he will remain involved with us.

Our fundraising for the project continues to move forward. There is still much to do but the Board is dedicated to the project. If you can help in any way, we would appreciate the help.

David can share the unbelievable numbers of folks enjoying the Campus. Our addition can't be done soon enough.

Come visit the Campus. Enjoy all the activities at no cost

Members of the Board are:

Jan Nicolay
Brian Klatt
Tim Kromminga
Amanda Oines
Ryan Brown
Royce Merritt
Cheryl Ulvestad
Jeff Scherschligt

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



Board Chair

Jan Nicolay

FRIENDS OF THE



**OUTDOOR
CAMPUS**

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

SD GFP Region 3 Wildlife Division

It's hard to believe, but 45 years does go by quickly. Those Game, Fish and Parks staff whose retirements I had the chance to celebrate early in my career all said it would. From starting out as a conservation officer (still the best job I ever had), to serving as a regional habitat manager, senior biologist, assistant division director and regional supervisor, I've enjoyed a great career with GFP....really the best I could have imagined. And probably the best thing about it was getting to work side by side with some of the most dedicated, knowledgeable, professional, and hardest working employees and agency leaders and supervisors you could ever hope to meet. I'm going to miss them all. And I'm going to miss the sportsmen and women, farmers and ranchers, GFP commissioners and Legislators and everyone else I've come to know who were advocates for our fish and wildlife resources too.

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't leaving the department a little sad. I am.

But I'm also retiring very hopeful and confident that our current 'Team GFP' will ensure all South Dakotans will have the same chances I did to catch walleyes and shoot pheasants, see memorable sunrises over duck sloughs, or watch mule deer make their way back to their beds in the Slim Buttes at daybreak. I hope our paths cross again, soon.

Emmett Keyser

Former Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor



Photo by Travel South Dakota

SD GFP Region 3 Wildlife Division

After 45 years of incredibly impactful work with GFP, Emmett Keyser's recent retirement has left some big shoes to fill. As I begin the transition to fill Emmett's role as Regional Supervisor, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself to folks I haven't met.

I was born and raised here in southeast South Dakota enjoying all the outdoor resources this state has to offer. Hunting, fishing, and trapping were a big part of my childhood and instilled in me a passion and respect for nature that remains today.

My outdoor career began at South Dakota State University, where I earned a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Right after college, I attended Ball State University for my MS degree while conducting fisheries research on Lake Michigan. After graduate school, I spent some time working for the state natural resources agencies of Montana, Wyoming, and Minnesota. In 2017, I began my career with GFP as the Aquatic Habitat and Access Biologist here at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls. Today, my wife and I have four kids, ages 7, 5, 3, and 1 that keep us busy. We enjoy taking every opportunity to introduce our kids to the great outdoors to pass on the South Dakota tradition!

Kip Rounds

Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor



Photo by Travel South Dakota

A Look Back at Spring 2023

Spring 2023 Turkey Season

Every year, the Campus offers Hunting 101. This program is a comprehensive hunting class that teaches students the full process of hunting. This Spring we held our Hunting 101 - Turkey program. This year, we took out 20 hunters (3 adults and 17 youth). Of those 20, 13 harvested a turkey!



2023 Prescribed Burn!

Campus Updates

Summer Interns



Every Summer, the GFP Outdoor Campus hires 11 interns to educate, help with our butterfly garden, take the Campus on the road to surrounding areas, and also to help with our volunteer program.

This summer we have another rock start group! Interns have finished summer training and are ready for you to visit the Campus for programming!

Campus Updates

2nd Annual Gear Swap and Giveaway!

- When: August 12, 2023 from 9:00am-12:00pm
- Where: GFP Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls
- What: Is the cost of gear a constraint to getting started hunting or fishing? Stop by this event to pick out some gently used hunting, fishing, trapping, and other outdoor gear for your closet!



Want to partner with us on this event?
We are accepting gently used gear at The
Campus for this event between now and the
event.

Campus Updates

Kid's In Parks Sign!

Starting later this summer, The Campus will be getting a Kids In Parks Track Trail Sign!

The sign will be located at the entrance to our inner loop trail, the Riparian Trail and will have a variety of different self-led flyers you can take to enjoy on the trail!

Check out the kidsinparks.com webpage to learn more!



TRACK your hike at
kidsinparks.com
and get **FREE** prizes!

Visit our website
to find more TRACK Trail™
adventures near you!

Thanks for joining
us today!

Follow us!

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- @KidsInParks
- @KidsInParksBRPF

Campus Updates

Casting for Recovery

South Dakota will be hosting their first Casting for Recovery retreat September 15 to 17 at Outlaw Ranch in Custer, South Dakota. The retreat is open to women of all ages and in all stages of breast cancer treatment and recovery and is offered at no cost to participants. The number of participants is limited. The deadline for submitting an application for random selection to attend the retreat is July 6, 2023.

The seed was planted over four years ago at a Dakota Trout Unlimited meeting when the president of the group stated that their group was not a fly-fishing group but rather a conservation group that along with many other things also helps with fly fishing programs including Casting for Recovery. After observing and helping at the Nebraska chapter's retreat in Ponca, Nebraska, I knew South Dakota needed to have a chapter of their own.



Campus Updates

Casting for Recovery (Continued)

Casting for Recovery (CfR) is a nonprofit organization offering support and educational retreats for women with breast cancer. Since 1996, CfR has served more than 10,000 breast cancer survivors nationwide with the help of more than 1,800 volunteers, including medical and psychosocial professionals, fly fishing instructors and program alumnae. The mission of Casting for Recovery is to enhance the quality of life of women with breast cancer through a unique program that combines breast cancer education and peer support with the therapeutic sport of fly fishing.

Casting for Recovery (<https://castingforrecovery.org/>) retreats are supported by fundraising from many local individuals and organizations and need continued support. We are grateful for all the help and support we have received so far. The Nebraska chapter is supporting and mentoring us in the formation of our South Dakota chapter. Mudhole Rod Building and Tackle Crafting donated 15 fly rod blanks. Our friends at the Sioux Falls Vet Center built the rods for us. Dakota Trout Unlimited has purchased fly reels and line for the rods. Just recently we received a \$2000 grant from the Midco Foundation to purchase fly-fishing lanyards and carrying cases for the fly rods.

In addition to building our inventory of equipment we are also accepting monetary donations. To provide this weekend retreat it costs about \$1700 per participant. This covers the cost of the lodging, food, equipment, and supplies. Ultimately, the goal is to host an annual retreat alternating on the east and west of the side of the state, providing access and opportunity to women throughout South Dakota.

Do you want to be a part of this? There are lots of ways to help!

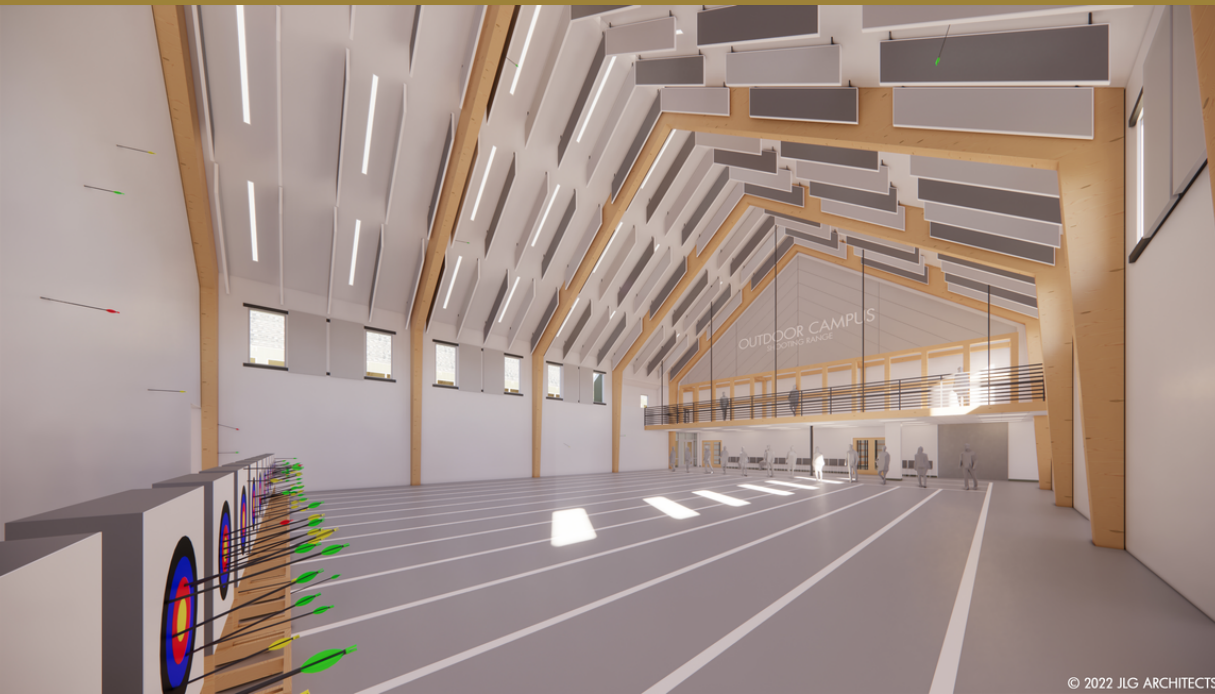
Save the Date! Saturday, August 12

A Homestead Brewery and The Outdoor Campus will be hosting a BINGO fundraiser. Watch our Facebook page for details as they become available.

<https://www.facebook.com/CastingforRecoverySouthDakota/>

For more information on Casting for Recovery or to make an online donation please visit www.castingforrecovery.org.

Campus Expansion Update



We currently have
\$1,727,785 of our
\$3 Million goal!



As many of you are aware, we are expanding! With Sioux Falls growing so quickly, we are work to grow our programming too. This has meant relooking at our building and how we can improve it to meet the communities needs. This includes updated classrooms, updated exhibits, restroom expansions, the addition of a nursing mothers room, the addition of a family restroom, an indoor archery range, and more!

Campus Summer 2023 Programming

HIGHLIGHTS



Family Park Fishing

Saturdays only, June 10-July 22, 9am-11am



Super Summer Saturdays!

June 10 - Fishing

June 24 - Archery

July 8 - Paddling

July 22 - Paddling

August 5 - Archery

August 12 - Fishing and Archery

10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm

At The Outdoor Campus SF

- No Registration Required
- Programming is at Family Park

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

Hunting 101: Fall Deer Hunts

A photograph of two hunters in a field. One hunter is wearing a green shirt and orange pants, and the other is wearing a white shirt and brown pants. They are both wearing orange caps. The hunter in the green shirt is holding a rifle mounted on a tripod. They are standing in a field of tall grass and wildflowers, with trees in the background.

Applications are
now open!

This unique opportunity will walk students through purchasing a license, safety, time at the range, time in the field, how to field dress a deer, and processing.

Selection for this educational hunt will be based on an application that can be found online (gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/) or a hard copy can be picked up at the Campus. A lottery system will be used to choose participants.

Students will only be allowed to hunt with a GFP Employee or GFP sanctioned Volunteer Mentor. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

Summer 2023 Programming Booklets

Explore Bow Hunting Camp

August 10, 9am-12pm

Learn the skills to become a successful bow hunter through a variety of hands on activities that will teach you about hunter ethics, shot placement, and technique.



Check out these Classes!

Fly Fishing

August 5, 1-2:30pm

Fly fishing is a fun way to change up your regular fishing routine. We'll start with a basic introduction to a fly rod and the equipment and gear needed. We will discuss safety, then learn the finesse of presenting a fly and how to land a fish.

Program meant for adults.

Our Summer 2023 Program

Booklets came out April 26! 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 for Spring Programs is open and ongoing.



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 >>

using
mySD

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

Classes are in full swing at the Outdoor Campus, and our volunteers are eager to help! We kicked off the summer with our annual Summer Kickoff Party on June 1. Volunteers had the opportunity to receive training in archery, fishing, and kayaking. We ended the evening with a competitive kickball game played by staff and volunteers. The event is also a fun bonding time and a great way to refresh everyone's skills in some of our classes.

We're excited for another great summer with our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who dedicates their time and talents to assist others at the Outdoor Campus. We would not be able to host the high quantity of classes in the summer without the dedication of our amazing volunteers.

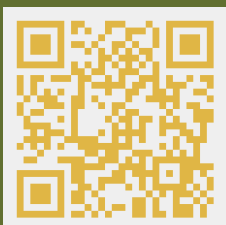
As always, thank you for all you do!

Paige O'Farrell

SDGFP Outdoor Campus SF



Want to become a
Volunteer Mentor?



Summer Kickoff Party 2023



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.parkswildlifefoundation.org/projects/outdoor-campus-sioux-falls-expansion>

