

Summer 2026



**OUTDOOR
CAMPUS**

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

605-362-2777 TOC@state.sd.us



Spring 2026 Recap

Read about what happened this past Summer for Outdoor Campus programming
P. 4

Campus Updates

Learn about what new things are happening at the Outdoor Campus
P. 5-9

Summer Program Highlights

Find out what exciting classes are coming up for Summer 2026.
p. 10-14



Region 3

Wildlife

Division Note

by Kip Rounds (Region 3 Supervisor)

As we wrap up a pleasant (albeit mostly dry) spring, we're looking forward to another wonderful summer in the outdoors of South Dakota! We had yet another successful turkey season this spring, with good turkey reports from all over the region. Conditions were generally favorable throughout the 2026 nesting season for both, pheasants and turkeys. After another positive year for pheasant reports in 2025 and a relatively mild winter, we expect the 2026 pheasant season to be a memorable one! We continue to build the deer population in the extreme southeast counties of the state, with even further license reductions for the 2026 season. One thing is for sure with all the outdoor opportunities South Dakota has to offer, there will be plenty to look forward to this fall season. For now, however, we're excited for fishing, camping, and all things summer!

Director's Note:

by David Parker (Outdoor Campus Director)

Summer is here and the Outdoor Campus is busy!

Firstly, our summer booklet is out and registration is live for June Classes. Our July Class Registration will be on June 3 at 8am and our August Class Registration will be on July 1 at 8am. Make sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss all the fun opportunities we have to offer this summer.

Not only do we have classes, but we have a bunch of fun events coming up including Women's Try It Night on June 18, an Archery Fun Shoot at Big Sioux Rec on July 18, and our Annual Hunting and Fishing Gear Giveaway on August 8.

With all these fun and exciting opportunities, we also have the added bonus of construction continuing to move forward with features such as siding and masonry going up, classrooms and bathrooms nearing completion, and so much more!

We look forward to seeing you this summer and don't forget that all of our classes are FREE, so thank a hunter or angler for making these opportunities possible!





Notes from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus

by Tim Kromminga (Board Chair)

We are excited to see construction moving forward on the Outdoor Campus enhancements, which include expanded classrooms, a state-of-the-art game processing facility, an indoor archery and BB gun range, and updated kitchen facilities. We expect these improvements to be available this fall, and we look forward to welcoming you to the upgraded space.

As spring arrives and summer approaches, be sure to take advantage of the many programs offered on campus. From introductory fishing and kayaking classes to HuntSAFE courses, these free educational opportunities can deepen your appreciation for the outdoors.

Even while construction continues, we are offering a full schedule of outdoor education programs. We encourage you and your family to take part and discover all that South Dakota's outdoors has to offer. Hope to see you outdoors!!!

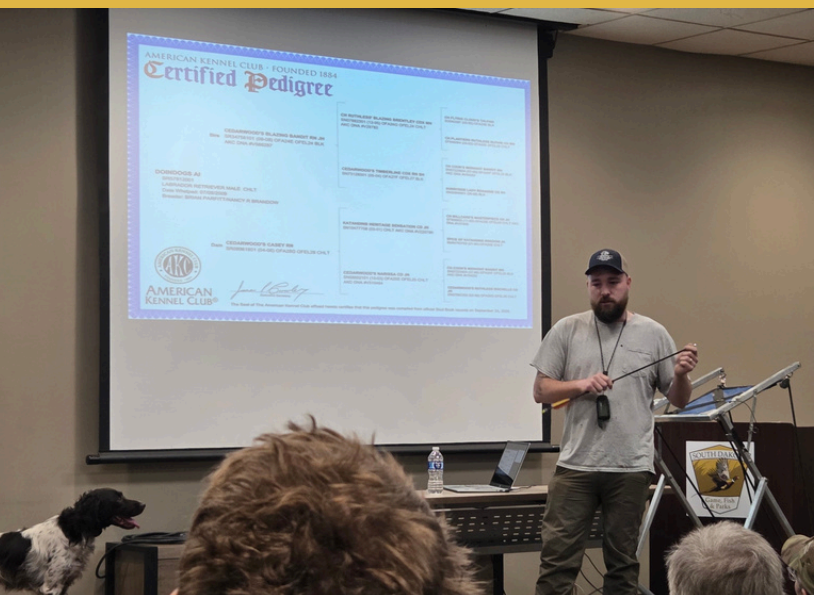
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Josh Johnson - Ex Officio
Kristina Coby - Ex Officio
Kip Rounds - Ex Officio
David Parker - Ex Officio

A Look Back at Spring 2026



Tea Fishing Derby

On May 2nd, the Outdoor Campus Outreach Team took the GFP First Catch Trailer to the 2nd Annual Tea Parks and Rec Kids Fishing Derby.

The Fishing Derby is a free event hosted at the Tea City Park with the goal of helping young anglers showcase their skills, get outside, and enjoy some family fun time.

This year over 50 kids participated catching nearly 100 fish!



Dog Hunting 101 with NAVHDA

On April 18th the Midwest Tri State Chapter of NAVHDA (North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association) presented a Dog Hunting 101 Class at the Outdoor Campus. This class focused on understanding pedigrees, field trials vs hunt tests, and mentor dog training.

Following this, handlers gave the class participants a demonstration on working their dogs in retrieval exercises (field and water) and the trust that is shared between handlers and their dogs.



Campus Updates - Hunting 101



Turkey Hunting 101

This past Spring the Outdoor Campus continued its longstanding tradition of helping students learn to turkey hunt through this 101 style course.

Participants in this program learn how to call in turkeys, how to pattern a shotgun, and then spend time out in the field with a mentor working to harvest a turkey. Thus far (written before the end of the season), 21 turkeys have been harvested.

A huge thank you to our Volunteer Mentors who have given so many hours over the years to this program.

Archery Deer Hunting 101

This past Spring, the Outdoor Campus partnered with the South Dakota Bow Hunters Association to begin implementation of a new program for this fall: Archery Deer Hunting 101. This program will be similar to the traditional Deer Hunting 101 Program, but with the use of compound bows.

The goal of this initial pilot is to offer the opportunity for 3 participants to learn to bow hunt in a mentorship style program. Applications closed May 1.

A huge thank you to the South Dakota Bow Hunters Association who were willing to volunteer their time this summer and fall to help participants gain the needed experience prior to the hunt as well as mentor participants through their fall hunt.



Campus Updates - HuntSAFE in the Schools

George McGovern Middle School

This past Spring Semester, the Outdoor Campus partnered with the McGovern Middle School - Boys and Girls Club after school program to offer HuntSAFE in the Schools.

Students spent the first week at the Boys and Girls Club space at McGovern Middle School learning through lecture and video about the importance of gun safety. During the second week, participants traveled to Crooks Gun Club to focus on the hands-on skills including proper firearm handling, crossing a fence, and time shooting clay pigeons.

This semester, 13 students graduated from the program and received their HuntSAFE certification (bottom right picture).



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

HUNTSAFE



HUNTER SAFETY AND FIREARM EDUCATION

Campus Updates



Party for the Planet

On April 25th, the Outdoor Campus partnered with the Sioux Falls Zoo and Aquarium and the Friends of the Big Sioux River to host the second Annual Party for the Planet in Sertoma Park. This is a community-centered event focused on protecting and learning all about the local environment.

During the program, a Big Sioux River Clean-Up was held, Open House Fishing, a Book Hike by Siouxland Libraries, and educational booths were present. The educational booths included information on grasslands, aquatic ecosystems, and more taught by professionals in the industry.

Despite it being on a rainy day, 106 volunteers helped clean up the river, 79 people went to our pond to fish, and 268 people came to the exhibit booth area.



SIoux FALLS ZOO & AQUARIUM



Campus Updates



2026 Rx Burn

On April 10 the Sioux Falls Fire Rescue conducted a prescribed burn at Sertoma Park. The prairie located south of the Outdoor Campus building between the fishing pond and the new archery range was burned.

These prescribed burns are quintessential to management of native prairies because they suppress the growth of less desirable species like Kentucky Bluegrass, while promoting the growth of warm season grasses.



New Kayak Racks

Over the winter, the Outdoor Campus partnered with the Tea High School to build three new Kayak/Canoe Racks. The Outdoor Campus purchased the materials for this project and the Tea High School CTE Welding and Machine Tool Program built the racks. The racks are now by the pond ready for summer activity!



Campus Updates - Expansion Construction

Phase 2

Construction continues to move forward at our facility with new changes and finishes being added daily!

First, if you look at the back of the building, you will get a glimpse of some of the siding and masonry work. The plans call for a similar aesthetic of the current building with the green, burgundy, and field stone. However, the plans also call for a few added touches including the dark grey you can see on the larger classroom space (see top photo), which should bring more depth to the building.

The classrooms are nearing completion which is very exciting! The middle picture gives you a glimpse inside of that space. You can tell that carpet is installed, lights are up, and there is paint on the walls. If you see on the walls where the paint ends, there is currently wood. That area will be covered with a corrugated metal as a finishing touch.

A final piece I want to highlight with the new construction is a unique feature that was added into our family restroom. If you look at the bottom photo, the device shown here is an adult size changing table. We are excited to be able to offer this feature as a way to make the Outdoor Campus accessible to all families. Traditional infant/toddler sized changing tables will be located in the other restroom areas/nursing mothers room to accommodate those needs as well.



Summer 2026 Programming

Our Summer registration format is unique compared to our traditional seasonal style. Summer has 3 registration periods:

June Class Registration	Open
July Class Registration	8am on June 3
August Class Registration	8am on July 1

Scan to Register:



Summer 2026 Programming Highlights



Duck Camp with USFWS

Friday, July 10 from 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm

The Outdoor Campus is thrilled to partner with the USFWS to create Duck Camp! This camp will include a rotation of activities including learning duck identification and markers of classification, a nature hike, duck calling, and time to create your entry for the 2027 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Kindergarten through 12th grade students are eligible to participate. All supplies will be provided.

Women's Trailer Backing Class

Thursday, July 23 from 6:30pm-8:30pm

This hands-on class is designed specifically for women who want to build their confidence and skill in backing up a boat trailer or small utility trailer. Whether you are a beginner or have backing anxiety, this class offers patient, supportive instruction in a judgement-free environment led by WCO Taylor Etherington and other experienced instructors. Class location will be sent to registered participants closer to class date. Participants must be 16 years and older.



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

Summer 2026 Programming Highlights

'hood Magazine Familyfest Fun Cruise Saturday, May 30 9am-2pm



Photo by Solis Photography and 'hood Magazine

Come visit the Outdoor Campus for the 2026 'Hood Magazine Familyfest Fun Cruise!

This year, the Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls will once again be the “Swag Bag” pick up location for this event! So make sure you plan to swing by Sertoma Park to pick up your Swag Bag to get all the goodies that are inside!

Along with being the Swag Bag stop, we plan to have Open House Fishing (9am-2pm) and practice casting. For the fishing, we will provide all the gear and bait, you just come ready to have some fun and catch fish!

If you check out the Familyfest Fun Cruise [Map](#) you will see that we are located at the “Oxbow & 49th Street” Section. At our same location, you will find activities with SDSU Extention, Lifescape, and O2B Kids.

To learn more, visit
'hood Magazines
Website:



We look forward to seeing you and your family for loads of fun!

Summer 2026 Programming Highlights



Womens Try It Night

Thursday, June 18 from 5pm-9pm

A fun ladies night is planned for you! No Experience required! Try something new! We provide it all while you meet and greet with other women in the outdoors.

Registration and Happy Hour

5:00pm-6:30pm

- Hatchet throwing, fire starting, outdoor cooking, outdoor group booths.

Kelly Streiff from Silencer Central

6:30pm-7:00pm

- Talk on women in shooting sports.

Outdoor Skills Station Rotation

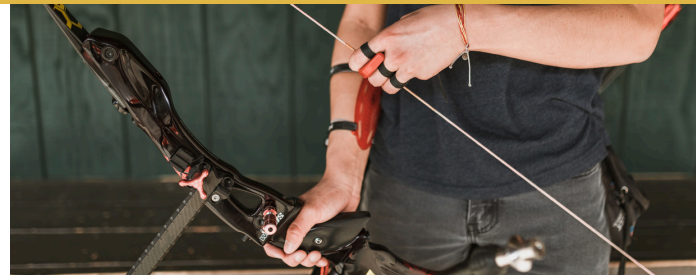
7:00pm-9:00pm

- Includes rotations like fishing, archery, and paddling.

Registration is required for this event.

Age: 8 and up, youth with adult.

Class Size: 60



Archery Fun Shoot at Big Sioux Rec

Saturday, July 18 from 10am-2pm

Join the Outdoor Campus for an Open House Fun Shoot at Big Sioux Rec Area!

There will be an info/check-in table near the range start. You are encouraged to bring your own gear, but some beginner bows will be provided. This is a free event, but you must have a state park entrance licenses.



Summer 2026 Programming Highlights



Raptor Presentation by The Falcon and Raptor Education Group (FARE)

Saturday August 1 from 10am-11am or 1pm-2pm

Falconer, Tanya McCarlson (photo below) will present and showcase her education raptors that include a Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Kestrels, and a Peregrine Falcon. Participants will get an up-close look at the normally distant raptors while learning about their unique adaptations, the history and skill of falconry, and conservation efforts.



The Mission of FARE -

We are here for the education and conservation of birds of prey through the interactions and information to the betterment of humans to influence all generations.

Hunting and Fishing Gear Giveaway

Saturday, August 8 from 10am-12pm

This Annual program focuses on providing a space for folks who are looking for gently used hunting and fishing gear. Also while at the event you can sign up to win door prizes!



Want to help with this program? The Outdoor Campus is currently accepting gently used clothing, hats, gloves, boots, fishing and hunting gear at our Outdoor Campus (4500 S. Oxbow Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106).

Summer 2026 Programming Highlights

Super Summer Saturdays

Join us Saturdays this Summer at the Outdoor Campus for some no registration required programming! All equipment is provided. Programs run 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm.

Archery **June 6, June 27, July 25**

Paddling **June 13, July 11, August 1**

Fishing **June 20, July 18, August 8**



Family Park Fishing

Join us this summer for free family fishing at Family Park (300 N. Ellis Rd.). There is no registration required for this program. All equipment is provided. Programming is Saturdays 9am-11am (June 6-July 25)

Fishing at Lake Lorraine

Exclusive open house fishing opportunity at Lake Lorraine during the Thursday, Farmer's Market. First come, first serve. Fishing will be held on the shore in front of the Cars for Sale building on the west side of the lake. Parking is also available in the Cars for Sale lot. Bathrooms may not be available so plan accordingly. All equipment will be provided and no registration is required. Please note that fishing is not open to the public at Lake Lorraine; this program is made possible through a partnership with Friessen Development, Inc.

Program dates: Thursdays (June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17) 6pm-7:30pm.



Dates:

June 9, 11, 13

June 23, 25, 27

July 7, 9, 11

July 21, 23, 25

August 4, 6, 8

August 18, 20, 22

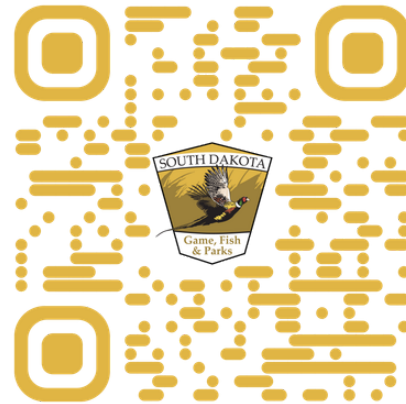
September 15, 17, 19

September 22, 24, 26

September 19, October 1, 3

Logistics:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays are held at the Outdoor Campus.
- Saturdays are held at Crooks Gun Club.
- To Register:



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 the summer!

Lifejackets

Thanks to a generous donation from the Sea-Tow Foundation, the Outdoor Campus/Region 3 Officer has new lifejackets that can be checked out for free by anyone in the public. These lifejackets are available in sizes ranging from infant to adult.

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



Critter Crates

The Campus has a variety of crates that can be checked out ranging from fishing to GPS. If you are looking to augment learning this summer or a way to get out and enjoy the outdoors, we have a crate this right for you. To learn more visit our website: gfp.sd.gov/toc-east to see all the crates that are available.



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/>



Outdoor Campus Archery Range

Now is the perfect time to start getting warmed up for fall hunting season!

Outdoor Campus Archery Range:

The Outdoor Campus Archery Range is a free to use, public range located in the heart of Sioux Falls in Sertoma Park.

Hours of Operation:

The Outdoor Campus Archery Range is open anytime Sertoma Park is open, 5am-10pm daily. There is no registration required to utilize the range, it is first come, first serve.

Distances:

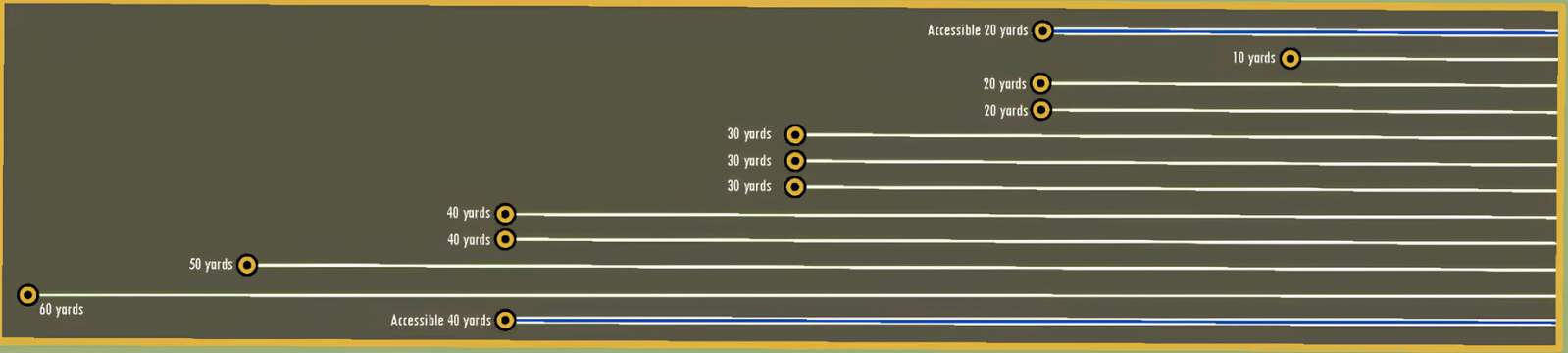
The range has a total of 12 targets with a variety of 3D targets dispersed on the range as well. Targets range in distance from 10-yards to 60-yards (see range map below).

The exterior two lanes are concrete, ADA accessible and equipped with crossbow targets.

For more information visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/archery-sf/>



OUTDOOR CAMPUS SIOUX FALLS ARCHERY RANGE



Hunting 101 - Deer Hunting



Every fall, the Outdoor Campus offers its Hunting 101 Deer Program. This program walks students through the full process of going deer hunting from learning to purchase a tag to time at the range to time in the field.

This year applications to join this program will open in June. You can pick up a physical copy of the application at the Outdoor Campus or you can download an application from our website at gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/ (under the tab "Programs") once applications are available.

So, come join us this fall in learning how to deer hunt. This program is open to anyone 10+ years and older and is perfect for those who have never gone hunting for deer or looking for help in shoring up their confidence in hunting.

Campus Internships



Fall Internship Opportunities

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

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:

- Fall School Program Intern: (applications will be coming out this summer)
- Fall Group Program Intern: (applications will be coming out this summer)
- Fall Community Program Intern: (applications will be coming out this summer)

Opportunities in Brookings:

- Fall Outreach Intern: (applications will be coming out this summer)

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.

Campus Volunteers

by Paige O'Farrell (Outdoor Campus Volunteer Coordinator)

Summer is here, and our volunteer team at the Outdoor Campus—Sioux Falls is ready for it. Our crew continues to grow each month, and we're heading into the busy season with over 100 active volunteers, including 11 who've joined us in just the last three months. It's been great to see that growth and how quickly new volunteers jump in and get involved.

I'm impressed daily by the commitment, work ethic, and flexibility this group brings. Volunteers are out on the docks helping participants bait hooks and cast for the first time, untangling lines, netting fish, and celebrating those "first catch" moments right alongside participants. In archery and shooting sports, they're helping with setup, coaching form, and keeping things safe and running smoothly. In classes like fly tying, hunting basics, and outdoor skills, they're right there assisting instructors and making sure everyone feels comfortable and included.

Summer is our busiest season, with full classes, big groups, and a lot happening all at once. Quite honestly, we couldn't do it without our volunteers. Staff relies on them every single day to help programs run well and to make sure participants have a positive, hands-on experience. They're the ones taking extra time with someone who's struggling to cast, offering encouragement, or stepping in wherever there's a need.

What stands out most is how willing this group is to jump in and do whatever it takes, whether that's baiting 100 hooks in a row, resetting a range, or staying a little longer to help clean up after a class. They bring a ton of energy and patience, and it makes a real difference in the quality of our programs.

I'm excited to see how this summer plays out and to watch our volunteers continue to step up, grow, and shine.



Interested in Volunteering?

Scan the
QR Code:

