



SD Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus - SF

# NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Update: Fall 2022



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:

- 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 2022
- Campus Updates
- Programming Highlights
- Fall Program Booklet
- Upcoming Special Events
- Volunteering
- Concluding Notes



**OUTDOOR CAMPUS**  
— SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

# David Parker

SF Campus Director



“This past summer was The Campus's first "normal" summer since COVID in late winter in 2020. It has been a breath of fresh air to have a full summer of programming and a full set of 11 interns.”

## Get Outside: 25 Years in Sioux Falls



"Get Outside," is a Campus slogan that many have heard on the radio, television, and social media. This slogan encapsulates in short the goal of the Campus these last 25 years.

Looking forward to another 25 years offering free outdoor programming here in the greater Sioux Falls area, we strive to continue this mantra while expanding our program to reach audiences we have not reached before.

# Notes from The Friends of The Outdoor Campus SF

Friends of The Outdoor Campus Board was formed in 2021 by Emmett Keyser, GFP Regional Director, and David Parker, the Director of The Outdoor Campus, to assist with the fundraising for the expansion of The Campus.

It did not take long for Emmett and David to realize how valuable the Board could be to the Campus. The Board is a voice for the community about groups The Campus can partner with, programming, and community contacts. Their input is invaluable.

The board agreed to expand its purpose and meet monthly. We thank them for their willingness to serve.

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  
Kristina Coby  
Emmett Keyser  
David Parker



Board Chair

**Jan Nicolay**

FRIENDS OF THE



**OUTDOOR  
CAMPUS**

— SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —



# SD GFP Region 3 Wildlife Division

As summer comes to a close, our summer intern staff will be departing for college. Some of our intern graduates, however, will be headed to their first career stop. I want to take a minute to join with all of our staff to thank the interns all for their hard work in helping us in managing our natural resources and educating the public on the great opportunities that exist in South Dakota's outdoors. I sincerely hope the experience they had with GFP this year, whether working for our habitat, wildlife damage, fisheries, law enforcement programs, or The Outdoor Campus Programs, was both educational and enlightening. All our best to you all!

**Emmett Keyser**

Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor



# A Look Back at Summer 2022

## Intern Training



The Campus summer kicked off with intern training. This 2-week timer period, offers interns the opportunity to meet their coworkers, gain a few certifications, and practice their educational skills prior to summer. This year we had 11 interns (a full office of interns). Our interns filled the following roles: Naturalist Intern, Horticulture Intern, Outreach Intern, and Volunteer Coordinator Intern.

## Spear Fishing at Lake Lorraine



Throughout the Summer, The Campus holds a variety of classes including a unique one: Spear Fishing. This class gives participants a opportunity to experience fishing in a new and unique dimension.

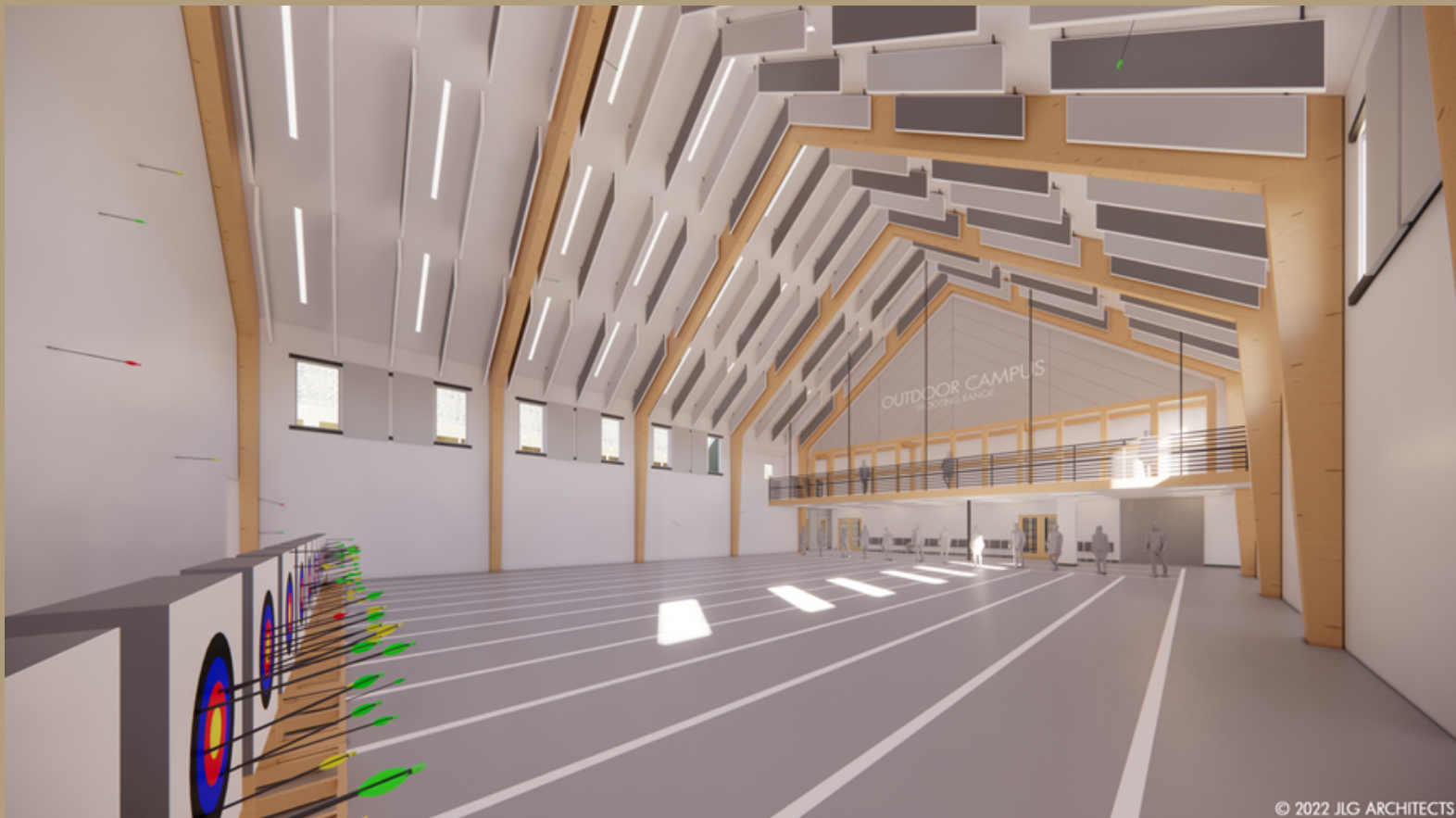
## Pheasant Cleaning



One joy we have with our programming is partnering with local groups. This Pheasant Cleaning and Cooking class was a joint partnership program with Pheasants Forever SD - Women on the Wing.

# Campus Updates

## Expanding The Campus: Indoor Space



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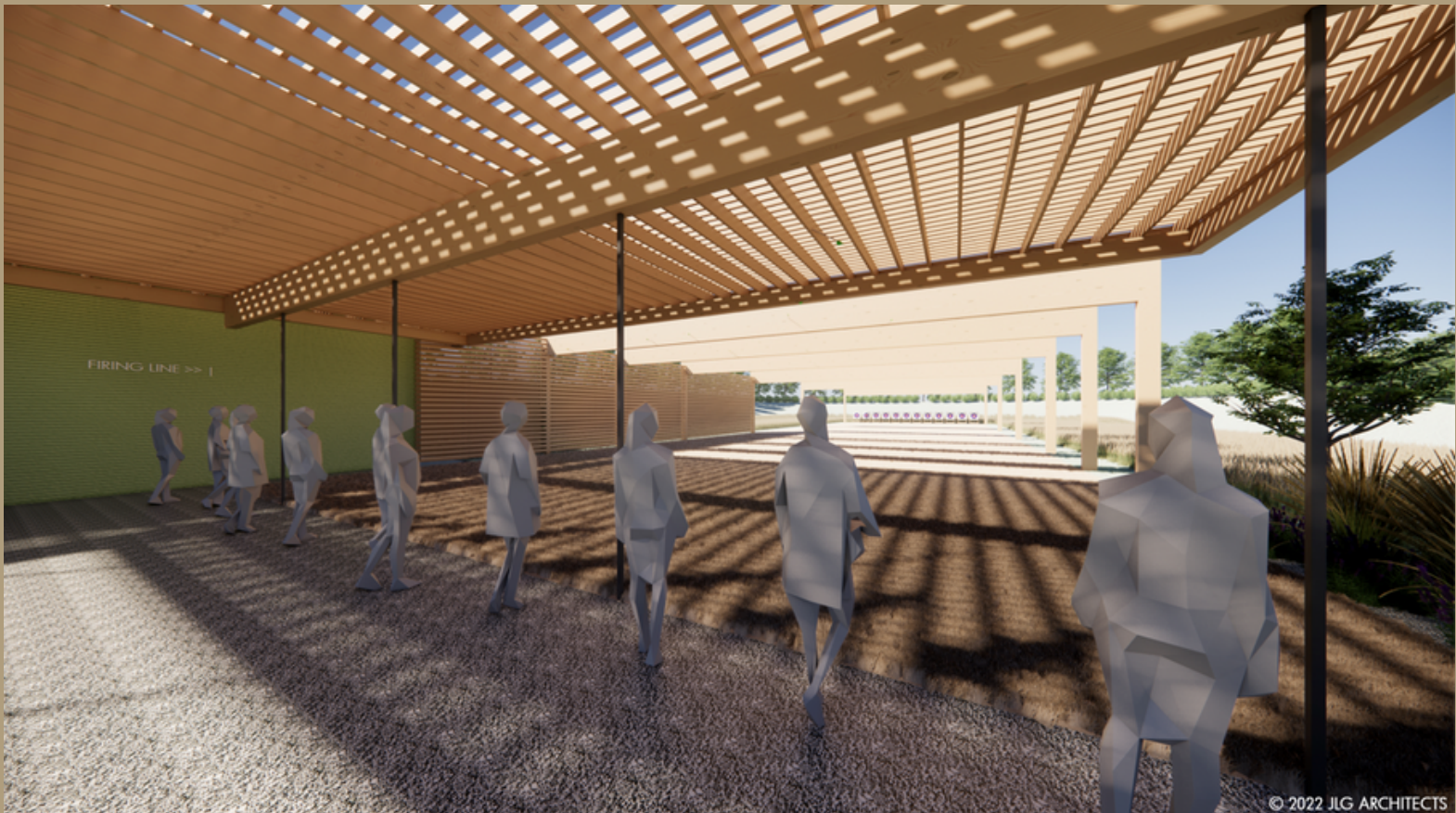
## Range - Classrooms - Processing

We are expanding! As I know many of you have noticed, our museum area has been closed since COVID started in 2020. We made the decision to close it in 2020 to mitigate spread, later in that year we converted the space into a large classroom space for social distancing. To date, we still have it closed due to our need for a large classroom space for programming.

In the wake of all of this, we are addressing our space need by moving forward with fundraising for an expansion to include more classroom space, an indoor archery/bb gun range, a dedicated game processing space, a meat grilling/smoking deck, an intern work space, a nursing mother's room, and more.

# Campus Updates

## Expanding The Campus: Outdoor Space



## 60-Yard Outdoor Range

We are also working to expand our outdoor area. Our current archery range is only rated for 30-lb. bows. With the growth seen in the sport of archery and bow hunting, we are working to meet that need. This new space will allow for larger poundage bows and for folks to be able to shoot at longer distances.

As with all we do, safety is key. The range will have a fence to prevent entrance to firing area of the range. Range commanders and cameras will also be employed where appropriate for safety.

# Campus Updates

## Campus Prescribed (Rx) Burn



Morning of the Rx Burn - May 10, 2022



During the Rx Burn - May 10, 2022



Afternoon Post Rx Burn - May 10, 2022



18 days Post Rx Burn - May 28, 2022



3 Months Post Rx Burn - August 8, 2022

On May 10th, SD Game, Fish and Parks partnered with the city of Sioux Falls Fire Rescue to implement a prescribed burn on part of the Campus's natural prairie field. Historically, fire has been a natural part of the prairie landscape. Prescribed burns are utilized to help reset grassland ecosystems to allow native plants to become more dominant over nonnative species.

# HIGHLIGHTS



## Hunting Gear Giveaway Update

August 13th, The Campus held its very first Hunting Gear Giveaway and Swap!

The Campus would like to thank everyone who came out to acquire some new gear to help them get out into the field both hunting and fishing! A huge thank you to all those who donated to this event and helped make it such a success!

## 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 2022 Programming Booklets

## Habitat Help Desk

Wednesday, November 9 from 1:00 - 2:30PM or 6:30-8:00PM

This class will focus on programs for landowners including CRP, EQUIP, GFP State Programs, and Every Acre Counts. If you have questions on what the best option you have as a landowner, this will be a great opportunity to hear and connect with professionals in your area.



Check out these Classes!

## Trapping 201

Saturday, October 1 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM

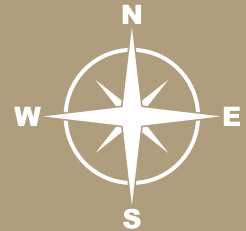
This course includes an indoor and outdoor experience that will briefly discuss furbearer identification, the trapping process from trap preparation to selling whole carcasses or skinned and prepared carcasses and the process of skinning a furbearer.



Our Fall 2022 Program Booklets come out August 10! 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 Fall Programs starts August 17 at 8:00 am.



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

Happy August!

As we are nearly at the end of summer programming, I want to thank The Outdoor Campus volunteers. From May to mid-August, our volunteers donated over 1,800 hours of their time. Our staff is beyond grateful for the continued assistance from our volunteers. We could not teach all the classes we do without their help.

I would also like to applaud the following volunteers for dedicating over 100 hours of their summer to help at our facility: Ernie Tweet (142 hours), Cheryl Ulvestad (148 hours), Ruby Wilson (137 hours), and Alonna Walker (145 hours).

Thank you, volunteers, for all your hard work and dedication to The Outdoor Campus. Your time and effort do not go unnoticed! I'm excited to see how much more the volunteer team accomplishes in the remaining months of 2022.

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



# NEWSLETTER

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# David Parker

SF Campus Director



“Hey Folks, did you notice that our Webpage got a new look? We hope that this revamp will provide each of you more information about how you can enjoy the Campus and Sertoma Park!”

## Winter: Will We Get Snow???



For years, The Campus has been known for offering a variety of outdoor opportunities in the winter: xc skiing, snowshoeing, outdoor survival, and ice fishing. In 2021 we had so little snow, we barely got to utilize our skis or snowshoes! Luckily, each winter brings with it the opportunity for snow and we are hopefully this winter to get lots of snow!

# Notes from The Friends of The Outdoor Campus SF

Greetings from the Friends of the Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus Board. The Board has been busy the past months working with staff on the updated expansion plan for the campus. The members have devoted many volunteer hours attending meetings to review architect drawings and suggesting changes to meet the public need. The expansion is long overdue. The campus needs additional classrooms and indoor facility for archery and BB gun shooting. Plus the Campus needs a large room to accommodate large group sessions. Sioux Falls is a growing community and has outgrown the present facility.

Thanks to all of you who attended the 25th Anniversary celebration. It was exciting to see the support for the Campus.

The Friends Board wants to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving. Be safe.

See you at the Campus.

Members of the Board are:

Jan Nicolay  
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Amanda Oines  
Ryan Brown  
Royce Merritt  
Cheryl Ulvestad

Jeff Scherschligt  
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Derek Maassen  
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Board Chair

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FRIENDS OF THE



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# SD GFP Region 3 Wildlife Division

Fall hunting seasons in South Dakota are in full swing and hunters are excited to see that crop harvest has progressed especially quickly this year making wildlife more visible and vulnerable to hunters, thereby increasing harvest success. While pheasant numbers seem to be plentiful in some areas, the lack of sufficient grassland habitat in some locations makes for some substantial differences in hunter success depending on location. Bird numbers in Kingsbury and Miner County have been especially noteworthy, however, hunters are reporting pockets of birds in nearly all counties in the Region. Waterfowl hunter success in the northern portion of the Region has been improving as well as new birds migrate into those areas. Dry weather conditions throughout much of this past year have caused many of the wetlands located south of Highway 34 to dry up altogether.

While this situation will take a bite out of this year's duck hunter success, the drying of these wetlands helps to consolidate bottom sediments and increase wetland productivity once the wetlands refill. Hopefully Mother Nature will bring us a good 'ol South Dakota Winter this year and we'll see wetlands and waterfowl return to the southern portion of the Region next spring. Hope you all have a chance to get out and enjoy the brisk fall weather....looks like Old Man Winter might be right around the corner.

**Emmett Keyser**

Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor



Photo by Travel South Dakota

# A Look Back at Fall 2022



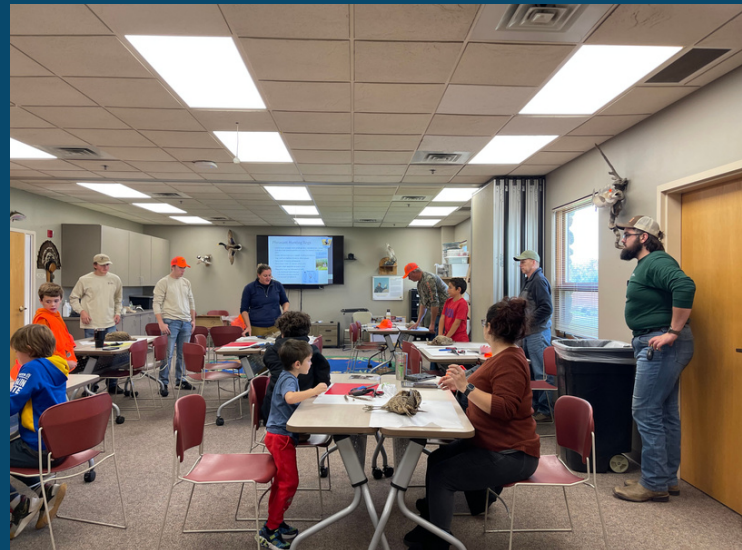
The Campus kicked off another Hunting 101 season. This comprehensive class is open to students of all ages and backgrounds. The class takes students through the process of purchasing a mentored or apprentice tag, time at the range, time in the field, and processing the harvested deer. Students are also able to keep the meat from the deer. This year we have harvested 32 deer, so far with a plan to harvest another 18 .

## Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Classes



Throughout the Fall, The Campus holds a variety of classes including fly fishing. If you are an avid angler, this class is a great way to try out a different type of fishing. Be looking for some winter fly tying classes, which are a great way to pass the winter months!

## Pheasant Hunting



With fall, comes hunting. With fall in South Dakota, comes pheasant hunting. We hosted a variety of pheasant hunting classes this fall. Some of them, such as the one in this photo, included a cleaning portion.

# Campus Updates

New Staff Member!



*Joe Salvati*  
*School Coordinator*  
*GFP & 4H Extension*

Hello all,

I am Joe Salvati and I am the new School Coordinator here at the Outdoor Campus. What my position entails will be working with Sioux Falls School District to provide educational programming to teach kids about outdoor skills and conservation. Also, I have the opportunity to work with 4-H and assist them with all of their amazing programming that they put on in Eastern South Dakota. A little bit about me, I grew up in Southwestern Minnesota and went to college at SDSU. I graduated in May with a degree in Natural Resource Law Enforcement. During college I worked for about 3 years as a naturalist intern here at the Outdoor Campus and had the best time so I am very excited that I get to stay and continue to teach people about the things I love.

# Campus Updates

## Trail Maintenance!



## Concrete Paving

One of our goals here at The Campus is to enable folks of all backgrounds to enjoy the outdoors. In an effort to continue this, the Campus is lengthening our sidewalk. The new extension will go from where it ends now (by the playscape) and proceed a little ways passed the boat house.

This expansion will allow easier access for folks to get down to our newer dock. The dock is already paved down from the shelter to the water, this will simply be a connector trail to the Campus. Work started on November 1, and is slated to end on November 15.

# Campus Updates

## Fire Ecology Update



As many of you may remember SD Game, Fish and Parks in partnership with the City of Sioux Falls Fire Rescue implemented a prescribed burn on May 10th. In conjunction with the Mission of The Campus, we have posted signs that explain about the burn and we also created the following video to help educate on why we use fire for restoration and conservation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ecuiufaFWM&t=14s>

# Campus Updates

## Native Shore Line Planting



If you are walking around The Campus Pond in Sertoma Park, you may notice the above, our new native shoreline planting. Thanks in part to the folks in fisheries, the Campus now has a shoreline planting show plot. The goal of this area is to offer an example and educate on the benefits of native grasses to the waters of South Dakota. We also made a video to accompany this work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-xLh8v0zVI>

# Campus Updates

## 25 Year Anniversary Celebration



On August 30, 2022, The Campus held a 25 Year Anniversary Party! This was an opportunity to say thank you to everyone past, present, and future who have and will make it the gem it is. Region 3 Supervisor - Emmett Keyser, SF Parks and Recreation Director - Don Kearney, Friends of the Outdoor Campus Chair - Jan Nicolay, GFP Secretary - Kevin Robling (featured in picture), Governor - Kristi Noem (featured in picture), and Parks and Wildlife Foundation Executive Director - Kristina Coby all spoke at the event.

Governor Noem presented a proclamation naming August 30, 2022 as "Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus Day" (as featured in the above picture).

# HIGHLIGHTS



## Raptor Rendezvous

On February 3, 2023 at 5pm The Campus will hold our annual Raptor Rendezvous Event! The Minnesota Raptor Center will do two presentations (5-6pm and 7-8pm), space is limited so please register for this event! Between presentations (6-7pm) there will be some fun raptor-themed activities for folks of all ages!

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

## Snow and Go



Given that winters are so variable, we never know when we are going to get enough snow to offer cross-country skiing or snow shoeing.

To help with this, we work to offer our "Snow and Go" Programs. These are pop up classes that are open to the public without registration required. For these classes we will provide the boots, skis and poles! All we ask is that your dress warm!

If you would like to know this winter when we are going to offer a Snow and Go, follow us on Facebook for our most up-to-date programming opportunities: @outdoorcampusSF





# Fall 2022 Programming Booklets

## Predator Calling and Hunting

Thursday, January 26 from 6:30-8:00 PM

Learn some tips and techniques from GFP Wildlife Damage Specialists on how to hunt coyotes. This program will be held virtually via Zoom.



Check out these Classes!

## Wild Game Cooking - Odd Bits and Pieces

February 21 from 6:30-8:00 PM

Liver, heart and tongue are just a few of the odd bits and pieces we will be cooking up to tease your taste buds. In an effort to use as much of a harvested animal as possible, this class will give you an opportunity to explore some tasty recipes with some less commonly used parts.



Our Winter 2022 Program Booklets come out November 9! You can swing by the Campus to pick up a hard copy or you can check them out online:

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Registration for Winter Programs starts November 16 at 8:00 am.



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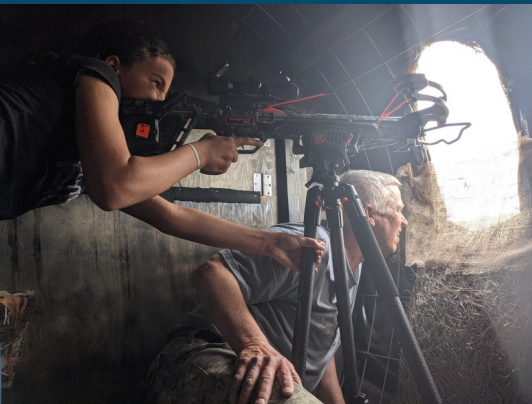
# Campus Volunteers

Outdoor Campus-Sioux Falls volunteers have been busy as usual! They amaze me with their talents, knowledge, and willingness to help. Volunteers donated over 700 hours of their time from August through October. They have been busy assisting with homeschool programs, community classes, and the Hunting 101 program. Staff and participants have noticed volunteers stepping up lately, and we could not be more appreciative! I love seeing volunteers become more confident in their knowledge, teaching, and outdoor skills. I am excited to transition to winter programming and see our volunteers excel in seasonal classes such as ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

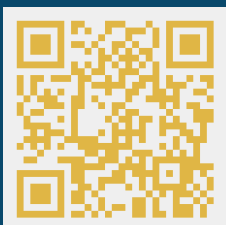
Again, thank you, volunteers, for your continued dedication to the Outdoor Campus. Our organization would not be the same without you. You all help create meaningful experiences for visitors and participants of the Outdoor Campus and are helping to instill a love for the outdoors in others.

## Paige O'Farrell

SDGFP Outdoor Campus SF



Want to become a  
Volunteer Mentor?





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