



OUTDOOR CAMPUS
— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

THE WEST WORD

THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS WEST

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

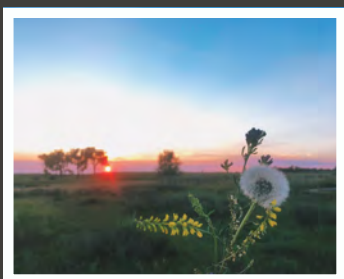
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2026 PROGRAMS INCLUDED

Staying Present and Looking Ahead

Summertime is a busy season for everyone. In this issue, we share tips, tricks and stories about summer recreation around South Dakota. Additionally, we take some time to look forward to the upcoming hunting seasons!



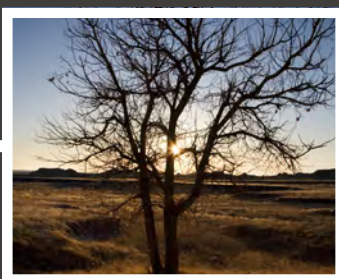
OTHER HAPPENINGS



GET OUTSIDE ON A BUDGET

Some tips to save some money to make memories, celebrate America and South Dakota history, and spend the summer outside.

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LOCAL TOP 10

A compiled list of the Outdoor Campus West staff picks for favorite summer spots to explore!

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Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Complex

Learn more about the newly finished Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Complex!

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Getting Outside on a Budget

BY: KAYCEE SMITH | NATURALIST

As inflation rises and the cost of living continues to go up, my desire to be outside seems to be following suit. Outdoor recreation, like everything else, has costs associated with it. We all seem to be challenged with prioritizing our favorite things within our budget and that often times causes other passions or hobbies to suffer. I have found ways to continue participating in the activities I love outdoors without breaking the bank.

CAMPING

- Dust off that tent you haven't used in awhile and head to a national forest or grassland for some dispersed camping. Always check regulations before you go.
- Make your own dehydrated meals for less than \$2.00 a person, which is a fun new thing to try and reduces time spent cleaning camp dishes. This can be done in a dehydrator, oven, and even in an air fryer!
- Scour Facebook Marketplace to find those big-ticket items like sleep systems, tents, and camp stoves.

HIKING

- Ditch the hiking boots, opt for less expensive hiking shoes (I like Altras).
- Try to source breathable, comfortable clothing second hand before buying new.
- Compile what you already have and make your own first aid supply kit.
- Again, look at Facebook Marketplace for gear like packs, trekking poles, or satellite communicators.

SHOOTING SPORTS

- If you are new, start with .22 caliber handguns or rifles to get comfortable and learn using inexpensive ammunition. Additionally, you can use them for hunting in some cases.
- Visit one of the GFP ranges around the state that are free and funded through Pittman-Robertson dollars. Ranges can be found at the GFP website under the Things to Do tab.

HUNTING

- Start planning ahead to get into small game hunting at the end of the year. Rabbits and squirrels can easily be harvested using .22 ammunition which is very inexpensive. And, it fills the freezer!
- Participating in hunting in general is a great way to cut costs at the grocery store. Plus, it makes you feel good knowing what you are feeding your family has an ethical, sustainable story.
- Again, try to find camouflage or blaze orange clothing at second hand stores first.
- For big ticket items, maybe add that to your Christmas list year to year to slowly start building your gear supply that doesn't hit the pocketbook hard all at once.
- Researching quality, well-made gear that will last (most of a) lifetime will make up front costs well worth it in the long run.

FISHING

- For flyfishing, grab a fanny pack at the thrift store and fill with the essentials instead of buying an expensive, flyfishing specific gear bag.
- Search for new, local spots like urban fisheries by searching the fishery reports found under the Fish tab on our website.
- Again, Facebook Marketplace is your best friend to find that gear you're missing.
- Make your own flies, lures, and spinners.
- Catch your own bait (within regulations of course).
- Utilize annual fishing licenses instead of 1-day licenses if you are a frequent fisherman to save money in the long run.

Being outside doesn't have to be cost prohibitive. Finding ways to be frugal and thrifty is a fun kind of game we can play to curb that consumerism that is always staring back at us. Another big part of saving money is taking care of the gear you do have. Put a little time into making repairs, keeping things stored carefully, and treating things well. You do not need to have the biggest, best, nicest and newest to get out there. So, use some of the tips I shared here to save some money (so you can buy gas to get away from civilization) to make memories, celebrate America and South Dakota history, and spend the summer outside.

Chasing Walleye

BY: AARON SCHONE | NATURALIST

The summer has almost come and gone already, but there's still time to be chasing walleye in the Missouri! From Gavins Point in the southeast to Pollock Bay in the north, we're very fortunate as South Dakotans to have a premier natural fishery for walleye in the middle of the state. Not only is the natural population sustaining itself well, but I was fortunate enough to run into the fisheries staff as they were releasing fingerlings north of Oahe Dam and then transporting by boat north into the lake.

With the end of summer approaching, fishing for walleye often requires little manipulation but mostly being aware of the changing environment. As we migrate into late summer, we often have our hottest days of the year ahead of us. Your stagnant water ways and shallow water become warmer, and you'll need to chase fish into deeper areas and away from the shallow shores and heat. Vegetation can often provide cover from the heat but be aware larger objects near the surface can also soak up heat and warm the surrounding water.

New to our state is OnX Fish, which is a great resource for identifying shelves and deeper spots along the river when not in pursuit on boat. There are other online options as well, just be aware water levels vary daily, and accurate depths can only be found using a depth finder.

Once in your spot and you know (or think) you've got walleye, selecting bait or lures is next. Whether from shore or boat, you still have a variety of options, but you must be mindful of how deep those fish may be or where at. A jig and a plastic bait in your darker colors along weeds and deeper pockets is a versatile option from shore to jigging on a boat, your live bait options are tried and true as well. Crank baits from shore where the water's cool enough can be an easy rigged option. Bottom bouncers are a great way to cruise the river while keeping your bait free from snares. Don't be afraid to change up what's on the end of your snell on the bottom bouncer, worms and minnows work but flashier options can get the fish moving!

Be monitoring the depths as your troll and make sure you've got the right amount of weight to keep your rig down. Lastly, don't be afraid to ask the locals time of day and water temperature hints. It doesn't require them to give up their honey hole but helps you to be more efficient!



Top 10 Picks for Summer Adventures in South Dakota!

BY: AVERIANNA CHRISTIANSEN | NATURALIST INTERN

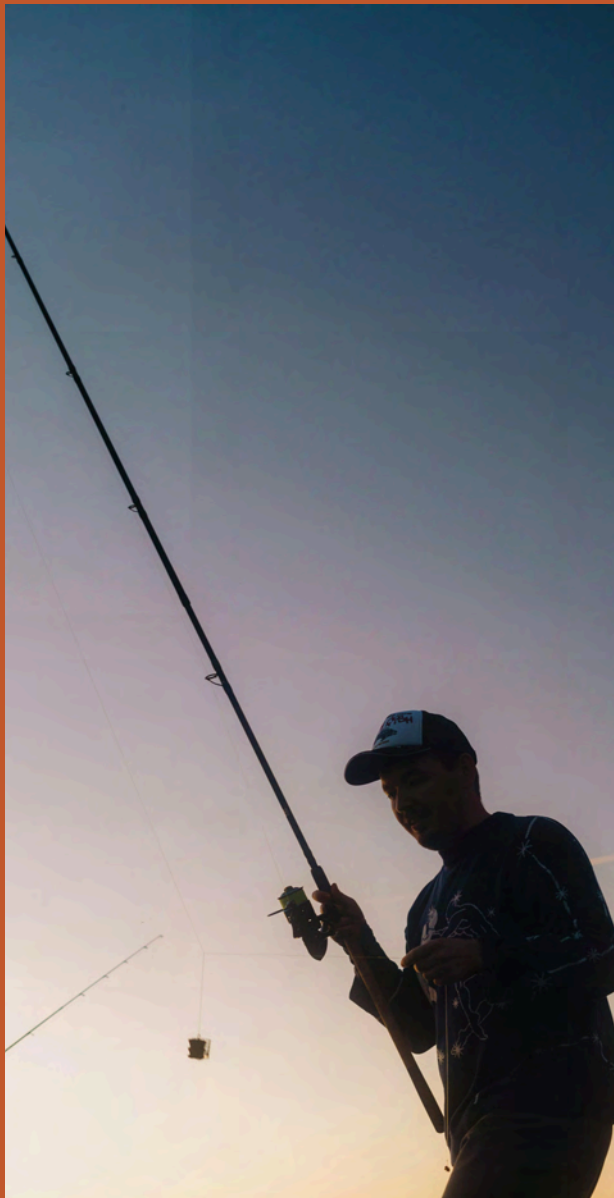
We all adore the thrill of getting outside in the summertime. The sun is shining, the air feels lighter, and the wildflowers are in bloom. But sometimes it can be a hassle to decide where exactly you should go to begin enjoying that fine summer day. To take some of the stress out of your hands, here's a compiled list of the Outdoor Campus West staff picks for favorite summer spots to explore!

1. **Backpacking:** Grizzly Bear Creek - Located in the Black Elk Wilderness, this trail offers remote spaces for backpacking and off-trail camping.
2. **Bouldering:** Mount Baldy - Behind Mount Rushmore near Horsethief Lake, this spot offers a variety of fun bouldering problems from V0 ratings to V9. There are also multipitch sport climbs in the area. Good for both new climbers looking to get into the sport and seasoned climbers looking to practice on well-established routes.
3. **Hot Air Balloons:** Black Hills Balloon Rides - Based out of Custer, this is an incredible way to catch the sunrise while floating above Custer State Park and the Black Hills National Forest.
4. **Hiking:** Roughlock Falls - Located in Spearfish Canyon near Little Spearfish Creek, this hike leads to a beautiful waterfall.



Top 10 Picks for Summer Adventures in South Dakota!

5. **Camping:** Dalton Lake - This is a small lake with good fishing and serene campsites on Little Elk Creek.
6. **Camping:** Rocky Point Recreation Area - Just east of Belle Fourche, this is a prairie reservoir and camping area on Orman Lake. Great for boat fishing and walleye.
7. **Hiking:** Little Devil's Tower - Off of Needles Highway in Custer State Park, this hike offers scenic views of the Cathedral Spires.
8. **Fishing:** Deerfield - Located near Hill City, this is a peaceful no-wake lake with rainbow trout, brookies, perch and large-mouth bass.
9. **Natural Mineral Springs:** Moccasin Springs - Located in Hot Springs, this natural hot spring is a great place to go for a relaxing soak with six outdoor natural spring pools that each vary in temps between 80-105°F. For ages 18 and up.
10. **Swimming:** Osprey Point - On the north side of Sheridan Lake, this spot is great for shore fishing, picnics, and swimming.



Preseason Hunting Readiness

BY: MOLLY BOYUM | NATURALIST

Summer is a busy and exciting time for everyone. The warm weather brings a plethora of opportunities to get outside. Suddenly, though, it is time to plan and apply for fall hunts, and the mind starts to wander to the fall. Even with all season specific activity, summer is also the time to prepare yourself for fall hunting seasons. The last thing you want to be is unprepared in the field. Here are a few things I like to do to prepare for a fall full of hunting.

- 1. Know My Tag(s):** I always make a plan and think through the tags and units I'm applying to, but I like to dive in further once I find out I've been selected for a certain tag and unit. I like to double check the rules and regulations connected to the hunt, as well as the boundaries of the unit I will be in. I review these things as the season grows nearer and throughout the season, as I never want to feel unsure or second guess something in the moment. If I have any questions or need clarification on anything, I reach out to the Conservation Officer nearest to the unit I'll be in. Don't know who your Conservation Officers are? Go to <https://gfp.sd.gov/contactus/> and scroll down to **Conservation Officers** for a drop down list!
- 2. Know Where to Hunt:** This is closely related to my first point, and I like to look at public land access before I apply for a unit. I use OnX Hunt and the provided maps on the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks website to find public land access. I then spend a ton of time e-scouting areas to get a feel for the terrain, landscape, and some potential spots to set up at. If you have plans of hunting on private land, summer is a great time to double check that any preexisting agreements are still valid or look for new opportunities.
- 3. Get Out:** I like to get out in the field for two reasons: I get to see and experience the places I e-scouted, but it also gets me moving and in a mindset to prepare myself physically and mentally. Physical and mental wellness play a big part in the how successful a season can go. Summer scouting gives me great intel on landscape, terrain, habitat, animal sign, and where and how I can set up during my season. This information also tells me how I can prepare myself to be at my best. I don't believe in living in extremes, so I don't approach preseason "conditioning" from that lens either. I just become a little more intentional in some choices I make. Drinking water, eating healthy, getting sleep - all the things the doctor tells you. If I know I'm going to be hiking up some nice hillsides, I'll start to pick some hillier routes on my morning runs, and do some simple strength exercises to make sure I'm conditioned, mobile, and in a good spot when the season comes. Simple and intentional decisions and actions go a long way!
- 4. Gear Check:** The first thing I do is go through my pack and take note of what essentials I may need to re-up. Is my first aid kit equipped? Are my knives cleaned and sharpened? What condition are my game bags in? The list goes on. After I go through my must-haves, I'll start to go through my gear and equipment. I repair anything that can be and either repurpose or dispose of anything beyond operational repair. When it comes to purchasing new gear, I think about if it is something I actually *need* or if it is just something I *want*. I find great used equipment on Facebook Marketplace or at thrift/consignment stores. I prefer going this route over buying new unless absolutely needed because it saves money on quality items, helps the environment by reducing waste and resource consumption, gives new life to something.
- 5. Stay Present:** Summer only lasts so long. Yes, it's important to be dialed for opening day, but it's also important to be present in the world and with those around you. Don't go down so many rabbit holes that you don't grab dinner with friends or watch the movie with your family.

I have a few more points covering things I do to prepare and dial in over the summer. If you are interested in hearing those, consider signing up for my Hunting Preseason Readiness class on July 29 here at the Outdoor Campus West. Use this link to register: <https://shorturl.at/KYNj4> ! See you there!

Lessons Learned from the First Half of 2026

BY: KAYCEE SMITH | NATURALIST

2026 has been a rollercoaster! In western South Dakota, we started the year with really warm, dry weather that impacted those winter activities like rabbit hunting, ice fishing, and snowmobiling. This made it a challenge to alter plans for days that those were scheduled whether it be for work or personal. At the Outdoor Campus West, we worked through these challenges by shifting classes and cramming in as much ice fishing as we could when time allowed. For our Winter BOW event, we had to change from snowmobiling to some things we could do in warmer temperatures due to the trails being closed. Another impacted activity was rabbit hunting. The rabbits were not acting the way they did during cold weather and snow. This called for flexibility to find success.

Conversely, having warmer weather presented some unforeseen opportunities for recreation. There were days that were great to hit the shooting ranges, hike, and even open water fish in some areas. It is always nice to get outside and hike with the sun on your face in a sweatshirt that the cool winters do not normally permit. Hitting ice-offs for northerns happened a little earlier and allowed for earlier open water fishing and even some boating opportunities. Shooting at the ranges in Fall River County and the Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Sports Complex on those balmy days we had in March were incredible. These activities definitely broke up the sometimes monotonous cycle of winter sports like small game hunting and ice fishing.



Lessons Learned from the First Half of 2026

BY: KAYCEE SMITH | NATURALIST

Other lesson-learning opportunities came during turkey season. It was the usual application success excitement, shotgun choke tube switch, and late March / early April scouting that gets you itching for the opener. Opener started with snow on the ground. The gobblers were out in full force and it was tough to decide which one to chase at points in the season. As time progressed, the periods of gobbling, silence, and trying to chase one down through shock gobbling made the days string together. Feeling discouraged by not seeing birds day after day, being close but never quite close enough, and the compounded fatigue from late nights and early mornings begins to wear on a person. This was furthered by an unsuccessful hunt to Deuel county where I normally find success and have had great hunts. But, that's hunting.

Mentoring a Turkey 101 participant to success relit the spark to keep trying as the season was closing in on its last two weeks. I really started to question why am I doing something everyday that makes me this frustrated. The last three days of the season were characterized by severe thunderstorms, hail, and torrents of rain. I still went out in the hopes that I could at least try. But, that's the beauty of it. Being outside, enjoying the spring unfold around you, watching a conservation story legacy live its life around you and just getting to be a part of that is what makes South Dakota turkey hunting so great. Despite the lows and the highs, turkey hunting will always be better than not turkey hunting. It remains my favorite time of year and I am already counting down the days until next season.

The main point of all this being do what you can when you can. Each season brings us lessons in the activities that we participate in, a lot of which are weather dependent. I learned more from putting in long days this turkey season that all of my other hunts combined. Go while its raining, make time to hit the ice next year when it is safe and available, and hit your favorite trail to see it during a different season. Get out there even when you are tired, even when the bed seems a little more comfy that morning, and especially when you are feeling discouraged. You'll regret the time you didn't spend outside.



Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Complex

BY: DANIEL COX | NATURALIST

The Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Complex, opened by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, officially welcomed the public in November 2025 and has quickly become a premier destination for shooting enthusiasts in the region. This state-of-the-art facility was designed to provide safe, accessible, and enjoyable shooting opportunities for individuals of all experience levels. The complex offers a wide range of shooting disciplines, including shotgun, handgun, rifle, and archery, making it an ideal place for both beginners and seasoned shooters to practice their skills or explore a new area of interest.

If you haven't had the chance to visit yet, we highly encourage you to make the trip. Whether you are looking to improve your accuracy, learn proper technique, or simply enjoy a day at the range, the complex provides a welcoming environment and high-quality equipment.



For those interested in expanding their knowledge, developing new skills, or gaining confidence with firearms, a variety of classes are available through gooutdoorsouthdakota.com. The Outdoor Campus West works closely with the shooting complex to offer instruction focused on firearm safety, responsible use, and proper care. This partnership ensures that visitors not only enjoy their experience but also learn valuable skills that promote safe and responsible shooting.

You can learn more information and details on the Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Complex by visiting <https://gfp.sd.gov/south-dakota-shooting-sports-complex/>.



Game, Fish and Parks Podcast

BY: CLINT WHITLEY | NATURALIST

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Podcast has been around since 2018 with intermittently posting new episodes ever since. The education staff has now jumped in to add some more episodes to the mix. KayCee Smith and myself are now the education teams co-hosts, alongside the communications team.

We have been adding episodes on how to practice your archery shooting with purpose, camping opportunities, making wild game sausage and some turkey hunting. The education team is looking forward to more episodes this summer and fall to continue providing more free educational content for South Dakota outdoorsmen and women.

Episodes to look out for include topics such as, improving your wild game cooking in the kitchen. We have such a variety of big game in this state that it's a shame to make burgers and steaks out of it all. Between the two of us, we've tried cooking a wide range of table fare. Rabbit fried rice, fried mountain lion, deer bacon, turkey sausage, smoking tips, smelt and a deer brats, all come to mind when thinking about some mouthwatering options. Have you heard about OnX fish? What about all the capabilities that OnX Hunt has? How to choose a game camera. Spearfishing in South Dakota. Topics such as this are all on the list for this summer and fall.

Podcasts are such an invaluable resource and so easy to pick up and learn a new skill. Our goal is to reach that greater audience across the state that is unable to come to an Outdoor Campus class or program. To listen, search South Dakota GFP Podcast. It's mainly posted on Apple podcasts with hopes to post on other platforms soon.

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

BY: KAYCEE SMITH | NATURALIST

The application for the 2026 Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop is open! This year, we will be at the beautiful Roy Lake State Park in northeastern South Dakota over the days of October 2-4.

We are looking for 75 adult women who are excited about outdoor opportunities. If you have done some hunting, fishing, hiking, camping or outdoor recreation or completely new to these activities, this workshop is for you!

Classes will include various hunts, fishing, flyfishing, hiking, camping, cooking, boating, shooting sports, and so much more! This is a great way to connect with other women, learn new skills, and start some new outdoor pathways. Cost is \$200 but scholarships are available to those who need it. Applications close on July 31st at midnight. Visit <https://shorturl.at/hfNqd> to register and tell your friends!



OUTDOOR CAMPUS
— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

3D ARCHERY LEAGUE

THURSDAYS | JULY 9 - AUGUST 27

5:30 - 8:00 PM MST

OUTDOOR CAMPUS - WEST HUNTER EDUCATION BUILDING

4140 KNUTSON LANE, RAPID CITY, SD



SIGN UP HERE:

<https://shorturl.at/YKOaG>



RECIPE ROOST: RAINBOW TROUT CHOWDER

BY: MOLLY BOYUM | NATURALIST

Ingredients:

- 3 Tablespoons butter
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1/3 cup yellow onion, finely diced
- 1 Tablespoon flour
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups baking potatoes, diced small
- 1 1/2 cups corn kernels, fresh or frozen
- 1-2 rainbow trout fillet(s), skin removed & cut to 1 in. pieces
- Salt and pepper, to taste

For garnish:

- Fresh sweet corn kernel strips, optional

Instructions:

- In a Dutch oven or large pot, melt butter over medium heat. Add garlic and onions and cook, stirring, until onions are softened. Add flour and cook, stirring, for about 1 minute. Add chicken broth and potatoes. Increase heat to medium high and bring mixture to a boil. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer, uncovered, stirring once or twice, for about 5 minutes. Add corn kernels and simmer, until potatoes are just tender.
- When potatoes are tender, place trout pieces on top of chowder. Cover and cook until fish is just cooked, about 3-5 minutes, depending on thickness.
- Taste and season with salt and pepper, to taste. Spoon in to bowls. Garnish with chopped fresh basil and additional fresh corn kernels.
- Note: If you would like a creamier soup, you can add a touch of cream at the end. For a thicker soup, remove a bit of the soup, puree and add back in.





OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

JULY PROGRAMS

Where Can I Fish?

New to fishing, the Black Hills, or want to get out of your usual spot? This class will talk about the different lakes and waterways in the Black Hills and surrounding area and what they offer as fisheries!

JULY 1 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Intro to Shotgunning

Learn how to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex. Shotgun shooting is a great way to spend time with your family while developing safe firearms competency. Ages 12+, youth must be accompanied by an adult.

JULY 1 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Drop In 3D Archery

Unfamiliar with our archery league or 3D archery shoots in general? No registration needed, just stop in and get a feel for 3D scoring and operations.

JULY 2 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Outdoor Severe Weather Preparedness

Come learn some outdoor meteorology skills! This course will include how to read radar, cloud types and their meaning, watches vs warnings, and what to do if you are stuck outside in a storm.

JULY 2 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Intro to Fishing

Learn how to cast, tie knots, ID different local species and learn techniques to catch fish followed by fishing in our Outdoor Campus pond. All gear will be provided. Hats, eye protection and sunscreen are encouraged. Ages 6+, children must be accompanied by an adult.

JULY 6 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Homeschool/Family: Grassland Printmaking

Come learn more about grasslands and then make some beautiful art with paper, paint, and grass! Ages 8+.

JULY 7 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Intro to Backpacking

Learn the basics to take your camping trips to the next level. We'll cover the basic gear you need to consider when going on a backpacking trip.

JULY 7 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Fly Casting

The Black Hills is an amazing place to flyfish. Join us to learn the basics of fly casting and gear. Ages of 12+.

JULY 7 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

Learn how to use fishing equipment to catch a fish in our front pond. Then learn how to clean your catch and cook it! Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

JULY 8 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Ages 8+.

JULY 8 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Intro to Paddling

Learn techniques to safely paddle canoes and kayaks on our Campus Pond. Lifejackets will be available. Must be 10+ to participate and youth must be accompanied by an adult.

JULY 9 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Homeschool/Family: Intro to Rifle Shooting (Rimfire/.22)

Bring your family and learn how to safely operate a rifle on the rimfire/.22 range at the Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Complex. We will also cover additional safety aspects of handling any firearm. Ages 10+. Must attend with a registered adult.

JULY 10 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Date Night Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

An opportunity to spend some time with your significant other! Catch some fish and learn to clean, prepare them, and then share a meal together! Space limited to 5 couples!

JULY 10 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Rod Building

Let's build custom spinning rods! We will meet July 10th and 11th. There is no cost to you and the rods are yours to keep.

You must be able to attend both dates to register for this event. Ages 16+, youth must be accompanied by an adult.

JULY 10 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM; JULY 11 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

****POP UP CLASSES MAY BE ADDED PER INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION****

ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT

Go to the events tab at www.gfp.sd.gov to register.



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

JULY PROGRAMS

Arrow Repair and Maintenance

Learn general arrow repair and maintenance to keep you going all season long!

JULY 10 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Kayak Fishing

Learn basic kayak safety principles and how to use a spin casting rod from a kayak on our front pond. Ages 12+.

JULY 13 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Hunt Scouting

We will be covering e-scouting and general scouting basics.

JULY 13 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

On Location Kayak Fishing at Canyon Lake

Learn basic kayak safety principles and how to use a spin casting rod from a kayak from Canyon Lake. Ages 12+.

JULY 14 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Homeschool/Family Archery

Learn the basics of archery, parts of a bow, and how to handle it properly for safe and proper use.

JULY 15 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Campfire Cooking

Try some recipes while learning campfire safety. You will be making food so come hungry! Closed-toed shoes are required for safety. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

JULY 15 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Shotgunning

Learn how to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex. Ages 12+, youth must be accompanied by an adult.

JULY 15 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Firearms

Learn the operating components of different firearms and the fundamentals of safety. Class includes handling our inert safety guns. Youth must be accompanied by an adult, for ages 10+.

JULY 15 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

****POP UP CLASSES MAY BE ADDED PER INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION****

Women's On Location Fishing

Bring your own equipment or use ours! Bring a friend or meet some new ones at our Women's On Location Fishing! Location currently TBD, but will be in or close to Rapid City!

JULY 16 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Trout Smoking

Learn how to smoke trout for a great snack or meal.

JULY 16 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Lunchtime Fishing

Cast a line and catch some rays over your lunch break! We will have fishing equipment, bait, and staff available for you, and you can bring a sack lunch to enjoy by our pond as well!

JULY 17 | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Date Night Archery

Bring your significant other to learn a new skill in archery or refine the ones you already have! Limited to 5 couples.

JULY 17 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Fly Tying

Come learn the basics of fly tying and the tying equipment. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 10+.

JULY 17 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

On Location Fishing at Canyon Lake

Join us at Canyon Lake in Rapid City to catch some fish! This is great for all experience levels. Ages 10+, children must be accompanied by an adult!

JULY 18 | 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Gun Cleaning

Learn gun cleaning and maintenance basics. Ages 14+, children must be accompanied by an adult.

JULY 18 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Homeschool/Family Intro to Fishing

Come learn the basics of how to set up a rod, bait your hook, and try to land the biggest fish in the pond!

JULY 20 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

Learn how to use fishing equipment to catch a fish in our front pond. Then learn how to clean your catch and cook it! Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

JULY 20 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT

Go to the events tab at www.gfp.sd.gov to register.



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

JULY PROGRAMS

Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Ages 8+.

JULY 20 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Fish ID Art

Participants will learn to identify common South Dakota fish species and their key features. Then, put that knowledge to work with a hands-on rubber fish stamping activity.

JULY 21 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Dehydrated Meals for Outdoor Adventures

Replace those expensive freeze-dried meals with your own dehydrated ones. The instructor will show you how to dehydrate then assemble meals from common ingredients.

JULY 21 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

On Location Fly Fishing

Bring your own equipment or ours. All experience welcome! Location currently TBD, but will be in close proximity to Rapid City.

JULY 21 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Knife Sharpening

Learn basic knife sharpening skills and general maintenance. Ages 14+, children must be accompanied by an adult

JULY 22 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wilderness First Aid

Prepare for the unexpected with this engaging, hands-on introduction to wilderness medicine. This is NOT a certification course. Children are able to attend under parent's discretion.

JULY 24 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Kayak Fishing

Elevate your fishing game by learning to fish from a kayak or canoe! All equipment provided, ages 12+.

JULY 25 | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Licensing and Where to Hunt

This class will cover what you need to know about purchasing licenses, hunting seasons, hunting units and how to go about where to hunt.

JULY 27 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Fly Tying

Come learn the art of fly tying. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 10+.

JULY 27 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wild Game Cooking

Come learn a new recipe or way to prepare wild game!

JULY 28 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Father/Son Lure Making

Come make an awesome lure and make some memories while doing so. All ages welcome!

JULY 28 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Lunchtime Fishing

Cast a line and catch some rays over your lunch break! We will have fishing equipment, bait, and staff available for you, and you can bring a sack lunch to enjoy by our pond as well!

JULY 29 | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Hunting Preseason Readiness

With major hunting seasons quickly approaching, learn some ways to get ready and dialed in before seasons arrive.

JULY 29 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Homeschool/Family Fish ID and Dissection

Learn about the various species of South Dakota fish and how to discern between them. Then, dissect one of the trout from our pond.

JULY 29 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Dutch Oven Cooking

Learn how cook with and care for cast iron Dutch ovens. You will be making food so come hungry! Closed-toed shoes are required for safety.

JULY 30 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Survival Paracord Bracelets

Make paracord bracelets and learn how to use paracord in hunting and more intense survival situations.

JULY 30 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Fly Fishing

Come learn the basic principles of fly casting and equipment.

JULY 31 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

****POP UP CLASSES MAY BE ADDED PER INSTRUCTOR**

DISCRETION**

ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT

Go to the events tab at www.gfp.sd.gov to register.



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

AUGUST PROGRAMS

On Location Fly Fishing at Canyon Lake

Meet us at Canyon Lake for a morning of fly fishing. Bring your own equipment and meet some new people, or use our equipment and learn a new skill! Ages 14+.

AUGUST 8 | 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Intro to Fishing

Learn how to cast, tie knots, ID different local species and learn techniques to catch fish followed by fishing in our Outdoor Campus pond. All gear will be provided. Hats, eye protection and sunscreen are encouraged. Ages 6+.

AUGUST 3 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Hunt Scouting

Just starting to hunt in South Dakota, but not sure where to start? This class will discuss regulations, basic scouting techniques, landowner relationships, and more to boost your confidence in the field. Ages 14+.

AUGUST 3 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Homeschool/Family Intro to Shotgunning

Learn how to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex. Shotgun shooting is a great way to spend time with your family while developing safe firearms competency. Ages 12+

AUGUST 4 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Family Lure Making

Bring the family to the Outdoor Campus West to make your own lures to take fishing!

AUGUST 4 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Fly Casting

The Black Hills is an amazing place to fly fish. Join us to learn the basics of casting and fly fishing gear. Ages of 12+.

AUGUST 4 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Mother/Daughter Lure Making

A fun opportunity for moms/mother figures to spend time with their daughter(s). We will be making lures that you can utilize here in the Black Hills.

AUGUST 5 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

****POP UP CLASSES MAY BE ADDED PER INSTRUCTOR**

DISCRETION**

Dutch Oven Cooking

Learn how cook with and care for cast iron Dutch ovens. You will be making food so come hungry! Closed-toed shoes are required for safety. Ages 10+.

AUGUST 5 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Ages 8+.

AUGUST 5 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Ladies Fishing Night

Ladies Night at the Outdoor Campus West! Come down and get some fishing in. Bring your own equipment or use ours! Bait provided. Ages 16+.

AUGUST 6 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Lunchtime Fishing

Cast a line and catch some rays over your lunch break! We will have fishing equipment, bait, and staff available for you, and you can bring a sack lunch to enjoy by our pond as well!

AUGUST 7 | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Stands, Blinds, Saddles, etc.

Learn what might best fit your hunting style and ability in this course covering blinds, stands, saddles, and more!

AUGUST 7 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Date Night Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

Learn how to use fishing equipment to catch a fish in our front pond. Then learn how to clean your catch and cook it with your special someone!

AUGUST 8 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Homeschool/Family Intro to Fishing

Come learn the basics of how to set up a rod, bait your hook, and try to land the biggest fish in the pond!

AUGUST 10 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Deer Behavior

Learn about deer behavior and how it changes throughout the year! Ages 8+.

AUGUST 10 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

Learn how to use fishing equipment to catch a fish in our front pond. Then learn how to clean your catch and cook it!

AUGUST 10 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT

Go to the events tab at www.gfp.sd.gov to register.



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

AUGUST PROGRAMS

Arrow Repair and Maintenance

Learn the steps to repairing your own arrows learn how to build your own arrow setup.

AUGUST 11 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Intro to Shotgunning

Learn how to safely handle and shoot a shotgun at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex. Ages 12+.

AUGUST 12 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Lunchtime Fishing

Cast a line and catch some rays over your lunch break! We will have fishing equipment, bait, and staff available for you, and you can bring a sack lunch to enjoy by our pond as well!

AUGUST 13 | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Date Night Archery

Bring your significant other to learn a new skill in archery or refine the ones you already have! Limited to 5 couples.

AUGUST 14 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

On Location Fishing at Sheridan Lake

Meet at Sheridan Lake for an on location fishing experience. This is a great opportunity to get to know this fishery better if you are new to the area, or enjoy some new company if you are an experienced Sheridan Lake goer. Bring your own equipment if you have it, or use the equipment we will have provided. Ages 8+.

AUGUST 14 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Pistols (Two Sessions)

Only register if you are able to attend both sessions. Session 1: this will be a classroom instructional session at the Outdoor Campus West covering safety, handling, ammunition, and more. Session 2: this will be a field day at the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex where concepts from the first session will be applied, and participants will have the opportunity to shoot handguns under supervision. Ages 16+. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

AUGUST 14 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM and AUGUST 15 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

****POP UP CLASSES MAY BE ADDED PER INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION****

Paracord Bracelets for Outdoor Uses

Learn how to make paracord bracelets and how to use paracord in survival situations. Children welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. (All ages).

AUGUST 15 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Traditional Archery

Interested in traditional bows and archery? Here is your chance to try out our traditional bows to get a feel for this awesome sport! Ages 10+.

AUGUST 17 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Bowhunting and Archery Regulations

Learn rules and regulations for bowhunting/archery in the state of South Dakota to prepare for the upcoming archery seasons. Ages 14+.

AUGUST 18 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Campfire Cooking

Try some recipes while learning campfire safety. You will be making food so come hungry! Closed-toed shoes are required for safety.

AUGUST 19 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Dehydrated Meals for Outdoor Adventures

Replace those expensive freeze-dried meals with your own dehydrated ones. The instructor will show you how to dehydrate then assemble meals from common ingredients.

AUGUST 20 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Using the Whole Deer

This class will cover the importance of using as much of an animal as possible, common ways to use the most amount of a harvested deer as possible, as well as some lesser known or unconventional ways.

AUGUST 24 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Wild Game Cooking

Come learn a new recipe or way to prepare wild game!

AUGUST 25 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Fly Tying

Come learn the basics of fly tying and the tying equipment. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 10+.

AUGUST 26 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

AUGUST PROGRAMS

Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Ages 8+.

AUGUST 28 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Women's 3D Archery

This is an opportunity for local woman to get out and shoot at some of our 3D targets! Bring your own equipment or use ours! Ages 18+.

AUGUST 29 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Wilderness First Aid

Prepare for the unexpected with this engaging, hands-on introduction to wilderness medicine. This is NOT a certification course. Children are able to attend under parent's discretion.

AUGUST 31 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

Learn how to use fishing equipment to catch a fish in our front pond. Then learn how to clean your catch and cook it!

Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

AUGUST 31 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

****POP UP CLASSES MAY BE ADDED PER INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION****

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

All About Trout

Trout are a popular species in the Black Hills and surrounding states. Learn more about trout, their behavior, and more!

SEPTEMBER 1 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Making Turkey Wing Bone Calls

In this class we will be making a turkey call out of actual turkey wing bones. Participants must be 10+.

SEPTEMBER 3 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Fly Tying

Come learn the basics of fly tying and the tying equipment. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 10+.

SEPTEMBER 5 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Catch It, Clean It, Cook It

Learn how to use fishing equipment to catch a fish in our front pond. Then learn how to clean your catch and cook it! C

SEPTEMBER 8 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Understanding Ammo

This course will cover different types of ammunition for different types of firearms and how to make the best choice depending on your goals. Ages 10+.

SEPTEMBER 10 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Intro to Archery

Learn the basic techniques of archery, parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Ages 8+.

SEPTEMBER 12 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

ALL YOUTH ATTENDING PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT

Go to the events tab at www.gfp.sd.gov to register.



OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA —

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

Intro to Firearms

The Outdoor Campus will teach you the operating components of different firearms and the fundamentals of safety. Class includes handling our inert safety guns. Youth must be accompanied by an adult, for ages 10+.

SEPTEMBER 15 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wilderness First Aid

Prepare for the unexpected with this engaging, hands-on introduction to wilderness medicine. This is NOT a certification course. Children are able to attend under parent's discretion.

SEPTEMBER 17 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wild Game Cooking

Come learn a new recipe or way to prepare wild game!

SEPTEMBER 19 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Gun Cleaning

Learn gun cleaning and maintenance basics. Ages 14+, children must be accompanied by an adult.

SEPTEMBER 22 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Knife Sharpening

Learn basic knife sharpening skills and general maintenance. Ages 14+, children must be accompanied by an adult.

SEPTEMBER 24 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Fly Casting

The Black Hills is an amazing place to fly fish. Join us to learn the basics of fly casting and fly fishing gear. Ages of 12+.

SEPTEMBER 26 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Know Your Knots

Hunting, fishing, and camping all require some knot tying knowledge. Learn how to tie some of the crucial knots for your next outdoor activity

SEPTEMBER 29 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

****MORE CLASSES WILL BE ADDED FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR WHEN THOSE ARE ANNOUNCED
OUR ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS AND ON THE GO OUTDOORS WEBSITE****