

OUTDOOR CAMPUS
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

THE WEST WORD



THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS WEST

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2026 PROGRAMS INCLUDED

THE HUNT CAMP ISSUE

Western South Dakota is a special place. It feels especially so during the later months of the year. Temperatures drop, hunting and recreation opportunities continue and expand, and stories new and old get told around a fire, dinner table, or at hunt camp. Here are some of our favorite memories from the outdoors!

A LOOK INSIDE:



HUNTING BUDDIES

Sometimes finding a good group to hunt with is harder than it sounds, but when you find the right people, hunting can get even better.

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MORE THAN A DOG

Dogs are family and develop right along side us. Sometimes the biggest wins are the smallest improvements.

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PREPAREDNESS BRINGS GRATEFULLNESS

Preparedness and planning can expand your horizons - figuratively and literally.

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FIRST HILLS DEER

Aaron Schone | Naturalist

One of my first hunting camp stories was when I was a senior in high school. I had drawn my Black Hills buck tag and was excited to go out with some buddies that deemed themselves “seasoned vets” on the matter. My grandparents had lived in a small single room cabin with a woodstove, and I knew that was going to be best place to sleep so we wouldn’t have the distractions of town. I’d hunted the same portion of Forest Service and had hiked, camped and been all throughout the area so I had an idea of where the deer should be.

We were getting some good November cold, and I had that woodstove roaring as we came in Friday night. There was a bunk bed that my friends shared, and I slept in the loft. I had quickly forgotten my week’s chemistry class and didn’t realize heat rises and found myself sweating most of the night. I had also told my friends I would be tending to the fire but called it quits after I thought everyone was sweating. I woke up the next morning comfortable as the fire had died and my loft had retained some heat through the night, but my friends were irate that they woke up stiff and cold with no fire going. I got it going again to retain our friendship and a good dry breakfast had us ready to start the day.

We needed to only travel a mile to the draw where I believed our chances would be best and we hunkered down in the dark, waiting for the sun to rise. As quickly as the sun rose, we started seeing deer and I was stoked to be right in our set up. My deer came up and was under 100 yards away when I took the shot and then we were ready to get the deer home!

We had to drag the deer back and I had my ‘93 Wrangler soft top ready for transportation. I had seen other hunters string deer across the hood of their jeeps and I knew this was going to be my best bet. My friend offered the bed of his Ford Ranger, but that wouldn’t have been as cool! We got the deer home safely to hang and I quickly regretted my decision as I had my hood covered in fur and blood and parents that didn’t want a mess in their driveway. Safe to say I never transported a deer that way again but enjoyed the opportunity to harvest a deer with friends and share the opportunity I was given by drawing my first Hills tag!



HUNTING BUDDIES

Clint Whitley | Naturalist

Finding someone to go hunting with and going back to your dating years have some odd similarities. Finding that special someone that you connect with and not get annoyed with after spending 12 hours a day together is not an easy task. Luckily I've found my bride to spend the rest of my life with but hunting buddies is another story. Outside of hunting with my kids, my dad and occasionally one other guy on a short trip, I hunt alone. Solo hunts are what I enjoy and help me connect with nature. I recently went on a challenging hunt and needed to create a group. This hunt was a logistically and physically demanding hunt that wouldn't work on my own. I needed the support of some other hunters. I have heard too many horror stories from guys coming back from a hunt saying how they didn't' get along, the other guy wasn't in shape, or they were just frustrated with the other hunter. That has always been my hangup in hunting with other people. Adding more hunters also changes how the hunt goes. It takes more discussion and challenges with decision making. The hunt is just different. When I'm on my own, I just go and all decisions are easy. If I screw up the stalk or I'm not in good enough shape for the hunt, it's on me, no one else. Looking at this hunt post trip, I can say the hunt went off without a hitch. Not an argument, not a disagreement, not a single ounce of annoyance between any of the four of us. The reason why that was the case it because of the guidelines we set pre-hunt. We also all have easy going personalities. We listened to each other and were open to each other's ideas. In no particular order here is our guidelines we set.

1. Everyone has to temper their expectations of success. One guy's filled tag is the whole groups success.
2. Pre-determine how the shooter is determined. Who goes first?
3. Being selfless is the key to the group having a good time.
4. Discuss ideas and have a learning mindset.
5. Plan out gear needs and share gear lists pre-trip.
6. Split the costs of the trip evenly.
7. Commit to being physically fit before the hunt.
8. No need to compete between hunters. We have nothing to prove to each other. The elk usually win anyway. Work together.
9. Enjoy the experience. We bought tags for the opportunity, not only to fill that tag.
10. All hands-on deck when a tag is filled.

The success of this hunt is really making me re-evaluate how my hunts look in the future. Yes, we beat the success odds but more than that, we each got out of the hunt what we were looking for. The escape, the challenge and a primitive connection with an elusive wild animal. As if hunting couldn't get any better, it just did for me on this trip.



BECOMING A BOWHUNTER

KayCee Smith | Naturalist

Relatively speaking, I am fairly new to hunting. I have been hunting in South Dakota for about 5 years. Upland, turkey, deer, and elk have all been opportunities and fond memories I have of the time spent in the field. When I started working at the campus, one of my weaker areas was archery. I kept thinking I would put off learning how to archery hunt until I was "ready". My skills were somehow going to develop in a way that I would all the sudden be at the prime time to learn a new kind of hunting.

At the beginning of 2026, Clint opened his Bowhunting 101 applications and something just said that I should do it. I applied and we got started with meet and greets and practices in March. I was also very fortunate that a good friend of mine gave me his bow to start my archery journey and I am incredibly thankful to him for that. Practices were fun and Clint really stressed the importance of focused practice, making the time to shoot at least two days a week, and work ourselves up to hunting range. I enjoyed the practice because it was a great test of mental focus, turning off all the other things going on with work and life, and setting a goal to work towards.

As the season kept creeping closer, I started to get pretty anxious on how all this practice shooting 3D and bag targets was going to translate into actually hunting. Clint and I set a day on the calendar and there was no going back. We went out early in the morning. I sat in a tree stand and he was right there with me in a harness talking me through what was going to happen. Within ten minutes, a buck was coming in. I was absolutely flabbergasted that the deer could not see me. I started to draw and Clint instructed me to wait until he passed behind a tree so that my draw would not gain attention from the deer. Clint whispered, "If you have a shot, take it." All that practice and focus came down to that moment. I pulled the release and the deer jumped and kicked and ran off. I was pretty jacked up thinking we had to go run after it right then like rifle hunting. Clint taught me the true test of patience (of which I have little): waiting the right amount of time to go find the deer. We headed back to the pickup, drank some coffee, and set off to find it.



The rest of the process was much like it always is, tracking, field dressing, and getting it back home. The big difference was the sense of pride I had in what I had just accomplished. I didn't really think I could do it for awhile this summer. I thought something terrible would happen, I'd make a mistake, that I wasn't really capable of archery hunting. But I was! I don't think I will stop rifle hunting anytime soon but it was completely different archery hunting. It felt more intimate and special in a way. And now I have a whole new world to explore of archery hunting in South Dakota.

MORE THAN A DOG

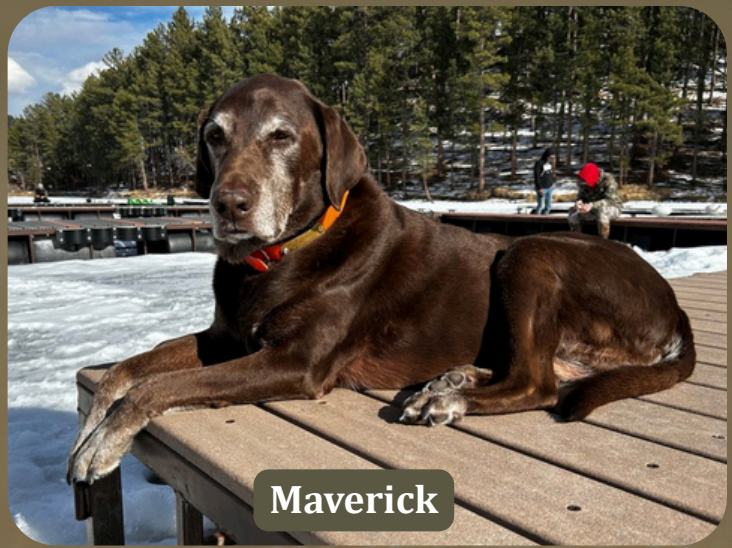
Molly Boyum | Naturalist

To me, every dog is a good dog in their own way, but there's something special when you form a true connection with one. That bond deepens when you are able to bring out the best in your dog. When I first met my significant other, Nate, not only did I get to know him, but I got to know his family dog, Maverick. Maverick was an old powdered sugar faced chocolate Labrador Retriever, and when Nate wasn't working or putting a stalk on a deer, Mav was around, following Nate like a shadow. At one time, Maverick would spend hours poking through the woods and would get after pheasants like any good bird dog. As time passed, the walks slowed and he found contentment just sitting next to you on some quiet fishing dock.

After Maverick passed away in 2024, and the thought of getting a dog of our own crept into our minds, there was no question we'd get a Lab. We were not in a place to go the puppy route and spent hours looking at started hunting dogs and scrolling through humane society and Petfinder pages. One day, a floppy two and a half year old yellow lab in Madison, SD came across our screens and the gig was up. After a couple of phone calls, we found out that he loved playing fetch and because of his intensity and drive, they thought he was most likely a hunting dog that someone had dumped. The rescue exhausted their resources to try to find and reunite him with an owner, but no one ever claimed him. So on a cold February weekend, we picked up our new best friend, Jaeger.

We've had Jaeger for over a year now, and he immediately fit right in. He joins us on any adventure, from days in the woods to time at a lake and long car rides. One of the most rewarding parts of dog ownership has been bringing him out of his own shell. The rescue we got him from was right - he fetches like his life depends on it and he retrieves his pheasant dummy with a soft mouth and proud tail wags. However, we found out quickly that he's gun-shy. We've spent hours building his confidence, creating routine, and reintroducing loud, abrupt noises. Watching Jaeger become more comfortable and excited has been incredibly rewarding. While we haven't gotten a chance to try him again on upland birds, he's confidently retrieved some rabbits, squirrels, and other small game for us, always looking up at us like, "Let's do that again."

In a relatively short amount of time, our little family unit has brought the best out of each other. Jaeger teaches me every day that patience is a virtue, communication is key, and that if you're tired enough, you can nap anywhere. I know in due time, he will bring us back his first pheasant or grouse, which will open up more adventures for us. Dogs are special. We all learn and grow up together, all while looking for the next bird.



Maverick



Jaeger

AN APPRECIATION THAT GROWS

Evan Beier | Naturalist Intern

I didn't really get into hunting until high school, but it has become something I look forward to every year. For me, a lot of what makes hunting enjoyable happens before you even get out into the field. There is always some excitement leading up to the season, getting everything ready, talking about plans, and learning something new from the people around you.

Every year my family goes deer hunting together in White River, SD. My dad, brother, cousin, grandpa, and uncle all make the trip, and we always stay the first night at a "not so nice hotel." It has become part of the tradition at this point. My grandpa also likes to remind everyone that he only brings a singular bullet for his one and only deer. Whether that actually happens or not, it is always something we hear about.

I have also made pheasant hunting a tradition with some of my college friends. Even though we have all moved away, we still try to get together for a hunt. Whether it is successful or not, it is always a good excuse to spend time outside and catch up with people I don't see very often.

One of my favorite parts of hunting is the stories that come from it. After every deer hunt, there is always something to talk about, whether it was a good hunt, something funny that happened, or just something that went wrong. Those stories usually come up again next year, and then there are always new things to add.

Hunting has also made me appreciate the outdoors more and develop a greater respect for all wildlife. Knowing that it can provide for us and give us food makes the experience feel more meaningful. In the end, hunting for me is always about more than the hunt itself. It is about the people, the traditions, the stories, and the time spent outside.



WYOMING WHITETAIL AND CHILDLY MOTIVATIONS

Daniel Cox | Naturalist

As a kid, hunting was one of my favorite things to do, especially with my dad. Every year we hunted deer and elk together, spent time at hunt camp with friends, and made great memories sitting around the fire. Growing up in Utah, though, there was one opportunity we didn't have: hunting whitetail deer.

So, around the time I turned 12, we began making annual trips to northeast Wyoming every November to hunt whitetail. Because I had just turned 12, that first year was my first chance to shoot my own deer. I was excited about hunting, but not nearly as excited about gutting or field dressing it afterward. Many in our hunting group knew this. So, while I was out with a family friend, the opportunity came to take my first shot.

We spotted a few whitetail out in a field while riding by on a four-wheeler. We stopped, got off, and checked them through our binoculars, then ranged them. They were 400 yards out. My family friend looked at me and said that if I could drop a deer from that distance, he would gut it for me.

That was all the motivation I needed.

I rested my rifle on the back of the four-wheeler, aimed, and fired. He was watching through his binoculars when I shot. At 12 years old, from 400 yards, I dropped my first whitetail. When it hit the ground, he shouted, "Holy ****! You actually hit it!"

From that day on, I knew hunting would always be a part of my life. It wasn't just the shot, it was the experience, the people, and the memories that have stayed with me ever since.



PREPAREDNESS BRINGS GRATEFULNESS

Hannah Gehlsen | Naturalist Intern

Winter can be a discouraging time, particularly when it comes to outdoor activities. Many activities, such as hiking, seem to be limited when weather is taken into consideration. However, as someone whose life passion seems to center around hiking, a bit of inclement weather is never something that has held me back. In many ways, it comes down to preparedness.

A couple of years back, Rapid City had just experienced a week of constant flurries and for once, the sun did not immediately cause it to melt away in the following few days. It remained cold and densely foggy. I had decided right around this time that it would be perfect to hike Black Elk Peak. In the eyes of many, this may be seen as a bit reckless, but as I said earlier, it comes down to preparedness.

I woke up early and brought a good friend of mine along. Before departing on this fateful journey, we bundled up in various layers of long socks, boots, hats, gloves, you name it, we had it. It admittedly felt like a longer trek than usual due to the cold, but when we had reached the outlook at the top, I hadn't regretted any bit of effort it had taken to get there. The dense fog rested over the Hills in the distance and a clean white blanket of snow fell over the ground beneath.

In that moment, I had never felt more grateful. Grateful that I had the privilege of bearing witness to something so beautiful, and even more grateful to my body for carrying me to this point.

Ever since, I have gone on various solo hikes, as well as many other hikes with my friends and family. It's not only a bonding experience, but a challenge. It's a way to push yourself and feel accomplished in doing so every single time.



FROM FLY TO FISH

Averianna Christensen | Naturalist Intern

The summer of 2026 introduced me to the fine art of fly fishing. I had seen folks fly fishing in the wild before, but had not yet had the chance to try it myself until I started my internship with the Outdoor Campus West. Initially, I learned how to tie flies and teach programs on them before I even understood the basic parts of a fly rod or the mechanics of casting.

The first fly I learned was the Wolly Bugger. I practiced tying it with some of the other interns, and I wanted to test its efficacy. I artfully handcrafted this fuzzy bodied trout fly and naturally, I had to get out on the water and see if it would work. Sure enough, I caught a large eight pound rainbow trout. It was so exciting to reel in my catch off a fly I had made myself!

I look forward to learning how to tie more fall specific flies like the Elk Hair Caddis, Griffith's Gnat, or the Rusty Spinner and testing them in the French Creek and Custer State Park area this season. I plan on holding a few Fall Fly Tying classes in the upcoming weeks and months, so be sure to look for those in the program section of the newsletter and on license.gooutdoorssouthdakota.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx! Best of luck to all anglers this Fall!





HUNTING AND COOKING RABBITS

Audrey Van Zelfden | Naturalist Intern

Growing up in my family, it was normal to eat rabbit. We substituted rabbit meat in place of chicken for years. I have always thought rabbit meat is pretty tasty and easy to prepare, though before learning to hunt, I had never participated in the harvesting process since it was always something my parents did. This last winter I had the opportunity to learn how to hunt for the first time by participating in Small Game 101!

Going through the class made learning to hunt less intimidating and going out as a group was fun. On the day of the hunt, not only did I get three rabbits, but I also learned how to skin them and I made some new friends along the way! I definitely plan on harvesting my own rabbits in the future and look forward to learning how to hunt other wild game as well. Below is an example of one of many recipes my family uses to cook rabbit. This rabbit soup recipe cooks the rabbit for many hours, so it is nice and tender. It can easily be started before you go to work and is especially nice to eat on a cool fall or winter evening!



Ingredients:

- 1 whole rabbit (fresh or frozen), skinned, rinsed
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- Chicken bouillon (personal preference)
- 3 medium carrots, chopped
- 1.5 cups of chopped celery stalks
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp. dried rosemary
- 2 tsp. dried thyme
- 2 tsp. dried marjoram
- Celery seed
- Homemade egg noodles or egg noodles from the store, as much as you'd like
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Put your whole rabbit inside a crockpot or slow cooker. Sometimes it may take a bit of maneuvering to fit it inside.
2. In the crockpot, add butter, chopped carrots, chopped celery, celery seed, minced garlic, and chopped onion. Then sprinkle the rosemary, thyme, and marjoram.
3. Fill the crockpot (or slow cooker) with water until it is two inches from the rim. Then stir in a spoonful or two of chicken bouillon, however much is your preference.
4. Next, turn the crockpot settings on 'Low' and set to cook for 7-8 hours.
5. After the cooking time is finished on the crockpot, remove the rabbit carcass to a cutting board. Add the egg noodles to the pot and set on a 'low' or 'simmer' setting.
6. While the noodles are cooking, de-bone the rabbit. The bones are small so go slow when separating the meat. Cut the meat into whatever sized pieces you prefer- the meat will be very tender.
7. Once the rabbit meat is cut up, add it back into the crockpot and stir. Let it sit until the noodles are finished cooking, which won't take long. Taste the broth and add salt and pepper to taste. Enjoy!

RECIPE ROOST | CITRUS-MISO GLAZED DOVE

KayCee Smith | Naturalist

Ingredients

Doves

- 12 to 16 whole doves, plucked
  - Also works with meat from duck, quail, partridge, grouse, or chukar
- Duck fat or oil for cooking
- 2 tsp. shichimi togarashi*
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- ½ tsp. sesame seeds
- 1 green onion, thinly sliced
- Handful of fresh cilantro
- Handful of roasted cashews or peanuts, crushed

Citrus-Miso Glaze

- 2 cups fresh orange juice
- Large knob of ginger
- 3 tbsp. honey
- 2 tbsp. red or white miso paste

Special Equipment:
Microplane zester or grater, sauce pot, grill

Preparation

Dove

1. Prep the dove by plucking each bird, keeping the skin on. Pat dry.
2. Mix the shichimi togarashi, salt, and sesame seeds together. Rub each dove with a bit of oil or duck fat and sprinkle with the spice mix (a little goes a long way here). Set aside until ready to grill.

Citrus-Miso Glaze

1. Heat a small sauce pot over medium-high heat and add the orange juice.
2. Peel the skin off your of ginger and grate until you have 2 full tablespoons. Add ginger and honey to the pot and bring to a soft boil. Reduce the heat and simmer until reduced by half (1 cup), about 35 minutes.
3. Remove the pot from the heat, and let cool. Once cool to the touch, whisk in miso paste until combined. Reserve half the glaze for serving on the side and use the other half for brushing on the dove as they grill.

Grilled Dove

1. Preheat the grill on high until it reaches a minimum temperature of 500°F. Once hot, add each dove face down and grill for a couple of minutes. Flip doves over and brush with glaze. Close the lid, and continue grilling for an additional 5 minutes or longer, brushing the glaze on top of each bird multiple times. Remove birds when they reach medium-rare. The meat should still be slightly pink in the center.
2. Serve with reserved citrus-miso glaze, and sprinkle with green onions, cilantro and crushed nuts.

*You can buy shichimi togarashi in specialty grocery stores and online. Although the blend is made up of seven different spices, you can use crushed red pepper flakes, orange zest, and dried garlic as a substitute.

OUTDOOR CAMPUS
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

OCTOBER PROGRAMS

Traditional Archery
Interested in traditional archery? Here's your chance to try our traditional bows to get a feel for this awesome sport! Ages 10+, all children must be accompanied by an adult.
OCTOBER 1 | 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+.
OCTOBER 5 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Hunter Field and Fire Safety
As hunting seasons get rolling, freshen up on some key safety considerations, including wildfire safety concepts. Program is in collaboration with South Dakota Wildland Fire!
OCTOBER 6 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Date Night Fishing
Bring your significant other to learn a new skill in fishing or refine the ones you already have! Limited to 5 couples.
OCTOBER 7 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Fall Fly Tying
Come learn the art of fly tying. We will be focusing on a fly pattern for autumn success right here in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 12+.
OCTOBER 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.
OCTOBER 8 | 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.
OCTOBER 8 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Firearms
Learn the operating components of different firearms and the fundamentals of safely. Class includes handling our inert safety guns. Youth must be accompanied by an adult, for ages 10+.
OCTOBER 9 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Women's Kayak Fishing
Learn the basics of kayak fishing on our front pond! Women ages 16+ are welcome!
OCTOBER 10 | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Gun Cleaning
Learn gun cleaning and maintenance basics. Ages 14+, children must be accompanied by an adult.
OCTOBER 13 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Women's Intro to Archery
Learn the basic techniques of archery, parts of a bow, range safety and how to safely shoot different bows. Ages 8+, girls and women only please!
OCTOBER 14 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Fall Fishing Lures
Come make your own fishing lure that's best suited for fall!
OCTOBER 14 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Trout Smoking
Smoking trout is a good option to bring out all the great flavors that trout has to offer. Join us for cooking instruction and a taste test of a couple easy recipes you can do at home.
OCTOBER 15 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wild Game Cooking
Come learn a new recipe or way to prepare wild game! Families welcome.
OCTOBER 16 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Black Hills Wildlife Identification
We will be talking about various species that you may come across and how to properly identify them based on physical characteristics and the trails they may leave behind!
OCTOBER 16 | 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+.
OCTOBER 19 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Sandhill Crane Behavior and Hunting
Learn about sandhill cranes, their behavior, how it changes throughout the year, and what to know about hunting sandhill cranes in South Dakota! Ages 8+.
OCTOBER 20 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

ALL YOUTH PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT. PROGRAMS MAY BE ADDED AT ANY TIME.
Go to the events tab at www.gfp.sd.gov to register.

OUTDOOR CAMPUS

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

OCTOBER PROGRAMS

Intro to Trapping
Get hands on training with traps and the equipment for different furbearer species. Leather gloves for setting traps are recommended.
OCTOBER 20 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

South Dakota Game Bird Identification
Learn the upland and waterfowl game birds of South Dakota and how to identify them!
OCTOBER 20 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Paracord Bracelets for Hunting
Learn how to make paracord bracelets and how to use them in hunting situations. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
OCTOBER 21 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Fall Fishing
As air and water temperatures cool, how you fish changes! Come learn the ins and outs of fall fishing. Families welcome.
OCTOBER 21 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Date Night Archery
Bring your significant other to learn a new skill in archery or refine the ones you already have! Program limited to 5 couples.
OCTOBER 22 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Know Your Knots
Hunting, fishing, and camping all require some knot knowledge. Learn how to tie crucial knots for your next outdoor activity.
OCTOBER 22 | 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+.
OCTOBER 23 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Deer Processing
In this class we will show you how to butcher and process a deer from start to finish. Ages 14+.
OCTOBER 26 | 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.
OCTOBER 27 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Fall Fly Tying
Come learn the art of fly tying. We will be focusing on a fly pattern for autumn success right here in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 12+.
OCTOBER 28 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Fly Tying at Sawyer Brewing
Come learn to tie some flies while enjoying your favorite local brew. This event promises to be both educational and enjoyable for anyone interested in fishing and the great outdoors. Adults 21+. Event will be at Sawyer Brewing in Spearfish.
OCTOBER 29 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Firearms
Learn the operating components of different firearms and the fundamentals of safely. Class includes handling our inert safety guns. Youth must be accompanied by an adult, for ages 10+.
OCTOBER 29 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Archery Game Night
Come to archery game night where we'll have some fun and get the competitive juices flowing. Equipment provides. Ages 8+. You must attend or have attended an archery program or event with the Outdoor Campus to participate in this course!
OCTOBER 30 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ALL YOUTH PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT. PROGRAMS MAY BE ADDED AT ANY TIME.
Go to the events tab at www.gfp.sd.gov to register.

OUTDOOR CAMPUS

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

Intro to Firearms
The Outdoor Campus will teach you the operating components of different firearms and the fundamentals of safely. Class includes handling our inert safety guns. Youth must be accompanied by an adult, for ages 10+.
NOVEMBER 3 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Hunting First Aid
Prepare for unexpected hunting situations with this engaging, hands-on introduction to wilderness medicine. This is NOT a certification course. Children are able to attend with family under parent's discretion.
NOVEMBER 3 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Furbearers of South Dakota
Learn about what furbearers in South Dakota, their behaviors, and more! This will be a great program for those interested in trapping!
NOVEMBER 4 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Turkey Behavior and Hunting
Learn about turkeys, their behavior, how it changes throughout the year, and what to know about hunting turkeys in South Dakota! Ages 8+.
NOVEMBER 4 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 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+.
NOVEMBER 5 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

South Dakota Deer Diseases
Learn about the different diseases found in deer in South Dakota and how they affect animals.
NOVEMBER 5 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Wild Game Cooking
Come learn a new recipe or way to prepare wild game! Families welcome.
NOVEMBER 9 | 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. For ages 10+.
NOVEMBER 10 | 6:00 PM- 7:30 PM

Intro to Trapping
Get hands on training with traps and the equipment for different furbearer species. Leather gloves for setting traps are not required but recommended.
NOVEMBER 12 | 6:00PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Fly Tying
We will be learning a great introductory fly pattern for year-round success in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 10+.
NOVEMBER 13 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Rabbit Hunting Basics
Small game can be a delicious addition to our diets or a great substitute for more popular meats. Learn important facts about rabbits and the basics of hunting them!
NOVEMBER 16 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wild Game Cooking
Come learn a new recipe or way to prepare wild game! Families welcome.
NOVEMBER 17 | 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+.
NOVEMBER 18 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Knife Sharpening
Learn basic knife sharpening skills and general maintenance. Ages 14+, children must be accompanied by an adult.
NOVEMBER 18 | 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+.
NOVEMBER 19 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Fur Handling
We will show you how to properly skin, flesh, stretch, and dry your catch so that it is prepared for the tanning process.
NOVEMBER 20 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Birds of South Dakota
Learn about bird identification tips and tricks along with various adaptations that birds may have that make them unique!
NOVEMBER 20 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ALL YOUTH PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REGISTERED ADULT. PROGRAMS MAY BE ADDED AT ANY TIME.
Go to the events tab at www.gfp.sd.gov to register.

OUTDOOR CAMPUS

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

Deer Processing
In this class we will show you how to butcher and process a deer from start to finish. Ages 14+.
NOVEMBER 23 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Intro to Muzzleloaders
This class will explore the basics of muzzleloaders and how to shoot them. Ages 12+. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
NOVEMBER 24 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 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+, all children must be accompanied by an adult.
NOVEMBER 30 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

Arrow Repair and Maintenence
Learn the steps to repairing your own arrows learn how to build your own arrow setup.
DECEMBER 1 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Intro to Trapping
Get hands on training with traps and the equipment for different furbearer species. Leather gloves for setting traps are not required but recommended.
DECEMBER 1 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Women's Intro to Firearms
The Outdoor Campus will teach you the operating components of different firearms and the fundamentals of safely. Class includes handling our inert safety guns. Youth must be accompanied by an adult, for ages 10+. Girls and women only, please.
DECEMBER 2 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Winter Camping
If you are interested in learning the basics to take your camping trips to the next level, this class is for you! This class will cover all the basic gear you need to consider when going out on a camping trip in the winter.
DECEMBER 3 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Upland Bird Behavior and Hunting
Learn about the upland birds of South Dakota, their behavior, how it changes throughout the year, and what to know about hunting them in South Dakota! Ages 8+.
DECEMBER 3 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Rod Building - Ice Fishing Rods
Ice fishing season is coming up and what a better way to enjoy fishing on the ice then with your own rod you made in class. Rod black kits will be provided. $25 donation is suggested to cover material cost but not required. Ages 16 and above please. Must attend all 3 days.
DECEMBER 3 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
DECEMBER 4 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
DECEMBER 5 | 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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OUTDOOR CAMPUS

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

Hunting Basics
Interested in getting into hunting? Interested in why hunting is important to conservation? This class is for you! This will be a general overview of the importance of hunting, licensing, regulation, and other hunting basics!
DECEMBER 7 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Intro to Ice Fishing
Join us at the Outdoor Campus for a hands-on class learning all about ice fishing equipment, safety, locations, and techniques. This class will also talk about how to check out our free ice fishing kits. Class is held indoors at the Outdoor Campus West.
DECEMBER 7 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Know Your Knots
Hunting, fishing, and camping all require some know tying knowledge. Learn how to tie some of the crucial knots for your next outdoor activity. Ages 10+.
DECEMBER 8 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Date Night Archery
Bring your significant other to learn a new skill in archery or refine the ones you already have! Program limited to 5 couples.
DECEMBER 9 | 6:00PM - 8:00 PM

Gun Cleaning
Learn gun cleaning and maintenance basics. Ages 14+.
DECEMBER 10 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wild Game Cooking
Come learn a new recipe or way to prepare wild game! Families welcome.
DECEMBER 14 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Cold Weather Fly Tying
Come learn the art of fly tying. We will be focusing on a fly pattern for cold weather success right here in the Black Hills. No equipment or supplies needed. Ages 12+.
DECEMBER 17 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wild Game Cooking
Come learn a new recipe or way to prepare wild game! Families welcome.
DECEMBER 22 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

For program questions or to inquire about a private group event, please contact Molly at Molly.Boyum@state.sd.us

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OUTDOOR CAMPUS
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

HOMESCHOOL AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

Homeschool/Family Fire Starting and Safety
Fire Prevention Week is October 4 - October 10! Come learn fire safety and how to properly start and care for a campfire! Ages 8 - 18, plus family members.
OCTOBER 7 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Homeschool/Family Raptors and Owl Pellets
This program will cover South Dakota's raptor species and the opportunity to dissect owl pellets! Ages 6-18, plus family members.
OCTOBER 13 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Family Night: Mountain Lion Characteristics and Habitat
Come with the family to learn about mountain lions! There will be an informative presentation followed by interactive lessons that utilize our "Cougar Crate" that can be checked out by families here at the Outdoor Campus West!
OCTOBER 20 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Homeschool/Family: Intro to Firearms
The Outdoor Campus will teach you the operating components of different firearms and the fundamentals of safely. Class includes handling our inert safety guns. For ages 10 -18, plus family members.
OCTOBER 21 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Homeschool/Family: Creatures of the Night
Come learn about the nocturnal animals of South Dakota and their different behaviors and adaptations! Ages 8-18, plus family members.
OCTOBER 30 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 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 12-18, plus family members.
NOVEMBER 4 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Family Night: Habitats - Understanding South Dakota's Landscapes
Come with the family to walk through our habitat exhibits in the Outdoor Campus West and learn more about what makes each so unique! There will be discussions on the various wildlife you may come across in each and distinguishing characteristics.
NOVEMBER 6 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Homeschool/Family: South Dakota Waterfowl ID
Learn about the different types of waterfowl that can be found across South Dakota and how to identify and differentiate them! Ages 6 - 18, plus family members.
NOVEMBER 10 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Homeschool/Family: South Dakota Animal Adaptations
Learn about how popular species in South Dakota adapt to changing weather and seasons! Ages 6 - 18, plus family members.
NOVEMBER 19 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Homeschool/Family: Archery Turkey Shoot
Get into the autumn and Thanksgiving mood by shooting at our 3D turkey targets! Ages 8 - 18, plus family members
NOVEMBER 23 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

For school, homeschool, or family program questions or to inquire about a school, homeschool, or family event, please contact Daniel AND Molly:

- ***Daniel.Cox@state.sd.us***
- ***Molly.Boyum@state.sd.us***

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