



FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2013

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER IS 50!

Pioneers Park Nature Center will be celebrating 50 years of environmental education during 2013. We've grown from 40 acres to 668 acres and from 200 school children to over 12,000 students participating in educational hikes annually. Last year alone over 1400 fourth graders participated in Prairie Immersion where they spent a day in the tallgrass prairie learning about pioneer culture and natural history. Additionally, about 300 volunteers donated over 1650 hours conserving local habitats, assisting with programs and helping with animal care.



Chet Ager Building July 31, 1966



PIONEERS PARK
NATURE CENTER

*Celebrating 50 years of
Environmental Education*

Join in the festivities all year long as we commemorate your Pioneers Park Nature Center. The kick off event will be at Nature's Market on April 27th. This year it will feature a garden bench auction. If you would like to make and donate a bench contact the Nature Center and submit your design by January 15. Benches must be completed by April 15th. The proceeds from the event provide partial support for school hikes and scholarships for Nature Center camps and preschool.

Watch for more special events this spring, summer and fall as there is something for everyone!



NATURE EXPLORERS CAMP: ANGRY BIRDS

March 11-15, Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Prairie Building \$170/child

School's out... spring is here and the competition is fierce in the fight for space and a mate! Discover what March madness is really all about. Plus have a crazy good time with friends. NEC is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Camp activities will be held from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration will begin January 15, 2013.



PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

Admission: Free; donations encouraged

Location: 3201 S. Coddington (west end of
Pioneers Park) Lincoln, NE 68522

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 402.441.7895

E-mail: naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov

Website: lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/naturecenter

Mailing Address: 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

SNOWSHOEING / WINTER HIKE

January 12, Saturday 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Prairie Building Donation

It may be cold outside but we can still enjoy the outdoors! Bring a friend and snowshoe around the Nature Center to see what animals are keeping active in winter. Participants will need to provide their own snowshoes and rentals are available through UNL Campus Recreation at 402-472-4777. If there isn't enough snow for snowshoes we will go for a winter walk followed by hot cocoa.

WINTER POETRY ON THE PRAIRIE

January 27, Sunday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Prairie Building \$5 Suggested Donation

Winter is the perfect time for creativity. Looking out over the prairie and pond join us to share poetry – your own or that of other poets you treasure, or just come and listen.

STAR GAZING

February 9, Saturday 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Prairie Building \$7/person

Hike under the brilliant stars of the Winter Hexagon, learn to find them in the night sky. Listen to their stories as you warm up with hot cocoa. We might even hear the sounds of nocturnal animals around us. This is recommended for ages 6 and up. *Register by January 31.*

GEOLOGY DAY

February 10, Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Chet Ager Building \$5 Suggested Donation

Learn about fossils, minerals, rocks and gemstones through displays and demonstrations by the members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club. They can also help you identify your own specimens during this drop-in program.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

February 16, Saturday 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Prairie Building \$5 Suggested Donation

Bundle up and join us at Pioneers Park Nature Center for a 9:00 a.m. winter bird walk. Then meet with other birders at the Chet Ager Building for hot mulled cider and a snack as we count the visitors at our bird garden. That data will be submitted to the biologists at the Cornell University Bird Lab for the 16th Annual Great Bird Count. The Wild Bird Habitat Stores will be on hand to discuss how you can attract birds to your backyard and participate in the GBBC's fun, four day free bird count. No registrations necessary for this drop-in program but please call 402-441-7895 if you plan to attend the bird walk.

DUTCH OVEN COOKING

March 2, Saturday 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Prairie Building \$10/person

Campfire cooking is so much more than beans and hotdogs. Learn how to make delicious dishes over the fire. We will go over caring for cast iron, preparing the fire, recipes and try some wild herbal teas. This class is in collaboration with Nebraska Game and Parks. Recommended for ages 14 and up. Register by February 21.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

HAND IN HAND: WINTER WONDERS

Mondays, Jan 14, 28, Feb 4, 11, 25, March 4
Ages 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 with accompanying adult
10:00-11:30 a.m. \$45/child/6 week session
Chet Ager Building

Discover the wonders of winter with your child through hikes, games and stories. Please dress for the weather as a portion of each class will be outside. A snack will be provided. Ages 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 year olds and accompanying adult. *Register by January 4.*

PRESCHOOL AND PRE-K OPEN HOUSE

January 22, Tuesday Free
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Learn about the wonderful nature based preschool and pre-K programs at Pioneers Park Nature Center by attending one of the open house sessions. Children explore the Nature Center daily developing inquiry, motor and social skills. *If there is inclement weather Open House will be Tuesday, January 29.*

Registration for 2013-14 school year starts on February 1st.

HAND IN HAND: SPRING SONG

Mondays, March 18, 25, April 8, 15, 22 & 29, May 6 & 13
Ages 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 with accompanying adult
10:00-11:30 a.m. \$65/child/8 week session
Goldenrod classroom in Prairie Building

Together you and your child will discover the wonders of spring through walks, games and stories. Please dress for the weather, we will be exploring outside for a portion of each class. A snack will be provided. Ages 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 year olds and accompanying adult. *Register by March 8.*



PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

STORYTELLING & MUSIC

January 2, 3 & 4 Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Prairie Building \$3/person

Children of all ages can explore the exciting world of nature through storytelling and music. Everyone will play music together. Instruments will be provided or bring your own. Each day will have a different theme: Wednesday is Winter, Thursday is Birds and Friday is Mammals.

ANIMAL THEATER & WINTER PLAY

February 2, Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Prairie Building \$3/person

Celebrate Groundhog's Day with the animals! Come see a show about wildlife at the Nature Center. Then head outside for some fun winter games. Dress for the weather.

SPECIALLY FOR SCOUTS

SCOUT HIKES

One hour naturalist-led hikes are available. Fee: \$3/scout/minimum 10. Call 402.441.7895 at least 2 weeks in advance.

BADGEWORK

The Nature Center rotates scheduled badges and try-its. Upon request, staff will work with leaders for other badge programming with the following fee schedule:

2 hours or less: \$7/scout/minimum 10

2.5-3 hours: \$10/scout/minimum 10

Call 402.441.7895 at least 2 weeks in advance.

NATURALIST ACTIVITY BADGE FOR WEBELOS

May 11, Saturday

9:30 a.m. - Noon

Prairie Building

\$10/scout

Learn to identify the poisonous plants and animals of our area, search for animals of our region, investigate food chains, bird flyways and the importance of wetlands! Complete activities 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 with the help of Nature Center staff. *Register by May 2.*

JUNIOR NATURALIST SERIES

"It's Your Planet, Love It"

Sundays, Mar 17, Apr 21, May 19, June 9, July 21, Aug 18

1:00-3:30 p.m.

Prairie Building

\$15/scout

This series of programs is targeted at Brownies but all levels of Girl Scouts are welcome to attend. A six month series, sign up for one day to all six. Fee includes instructor, supplies, snacks and recognition. Come dressed for the weather, we'll be outside for at least part of the time! *Register through the Girl Scouts at girlscoutsnebraska.org at least two weeks before the program. Fee \$15/scout.*

March 17 Bird Brained

April 21 Get Growing

May 19 Nature's Recyclers

June 9 Water Wonders

July 21 Exploring Turtles

Aug 18 Tree-rific!

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Reptiles Rock, Insect Investigations, Nature's Scavenger Hunt, Amazing Birds, Marvelous Mammals or Grow in the Garden. Choose the theme that will make for an exciting birthday celebration. Available from 10-12 on Saturdays and 2-4 on Saturdays and Sundays, there is time for a nature hike/activity and your birthday activities. We provide the space, program, a favor bag for each child and a special gift for the guest of honor. You provide the food and refreshments. Available facilities:

Birthday House, \$75 for up to 10 children and 3 adults

\$7 each additional child, maximum of 15 children

Auditorium, \$100 for up to 10 children and 5 adults

\$7 each additional child

\$3 each additional adult

Call 402.441.7895 for reservations at least two weeks in advance.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

PINE NEEDLE BASKET MAKING

January 19, Saturday

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Prairie Building

\$15/person

Learn how to make coil baskets. Each person will begin a pine needle basket to finish at home. Recommended for people 14 and older. *Register by January 10.*

SANDHILL CRANE TRIP

March 21, Thursday

Noon - 11:00 p.m.

\$75/person

Experience one of our planet's most spectacular wildlife migrations. Visit the Nebraska Nature and Visitor Center, travel rural roads to see the cranes foraging and dancing in the fields, then watch and listen to them return to the Platte River at sunset from a Rowe Sanctuary blind. The fee includes van transportation, dinner and blind costs. Must have the ability to walk uneven trails in low light with a guide. *Registration and payment required by February 21 for blind reservations.*

PRIMITIVE BASKET MAKING

March 23, Saturday

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Prairie Building

\$10/person

In this class, we will learn how to make baskets using primitive supplies. Students will learn how several types of primitive baskets are made using indigenous techniques. After class, students will never look at baskets in quite the same way. We will concentrate on a couple of group projects, and will draw names to see who will get to take them home. *Register by March 14.*

FRIENDS OF PPNC

ANNUAL MEETING

January 26, Saturday

9:30 a.m. - noon

Prairie Building

Free

Everyone is welcome to attend the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center's Annual Meeting. The meeting will cover some of the events planned for 2013, election of new board members and there will be a special presentation by Naturalist, Andrea Faas.

CALL FOR GARDEN BENCHS

We are inviting all artists, craftsman, architects, students and hobbyists to put their talents into building and donating a bench for our Garden Bench Auction at this year's Nature's Market. We want unique, well-designed garden benches that are sturdy, weather resistant and suitable for sitting. Typically, the benches raise between \$300-\$500 apiece.

Please send us a sketch and description of your proposal to be approved by Friends of the Nature Center Board by **January 15, 2013**. You will be informed of the designs that have been selected by January 30, 2013. **Benches need to be completed by April 15th**. Your name or business will appear on promotional and event materials and displayed on your bench. If you have questions please do not hesitate to call Nancy Furman at the Nature Center at 441-8709.

Return application to: PPNC, 2740 A street, Lincoln, NE 68502

THANK YOU

Donations:

Abby Lutz Family - Preschool supplies
Ali Gable Family - Preschool supplies
Nebraska Soybean Board - Crayons
Leo Shields - Craft and decoration materials

Spooktacular Donors:

Lincoln Industries
Sandhills Publishing
Union Bank & Trust
Russ's Market, Coddington & West A
Super Saver, 27th & Pine Lake
Wal-Mart Super Center, 4700 N. 27th

Spooktacular Volunteers:

Sue Stanoszek
Jesse Hanson
Sara Christiansen

Andrew Barry
Grace Barry
Tammy Barry
Doug Barry
Erin Frank
Zack Achen
Zoe Tien
Sue Guild
Peter Stegen
Laura McQuiston
Alex Crouse
Rachael Owen
Deidra Heier
Christianne Kroeker
Clark Haubrich
Janet Buck
Dakota Altman
Alec Schneider
Jessica Larson
Emily Cashmere
Becky Seth

Alyssa Plouzek
Shelby Travis
Brittany Bergmann
Shelby Spicka
Chelsea Luedtke
Makayla Hanna
James Landholm
Brian Ackman
Jake Fleecs
Brittanie Simonsen
Kelsey Gray
Makayla Hecks
Karis Overton
Madalyn Kautz
Amber Jensen
Emmalee Fishburn
Sue Sampson
Bob Furman
Roger Hansen

Judy Vitamvas
Veronica Smith
Peter Sojka
Monica Cluesson
Carmen Claesson
Heaven Hulshizer
Demi Jacobsen
Noah Glover-Ettrich
Monica Casey
Dianna Lear
Jill Savage
Tiffany Hoaglund
Jennifer Survil
Kayla Franzluebbbers
Jami Pritschau
Jodi Cook
Jonathan Ramirez
Russell Koos
Kara Foster



The mission of the Pioneers Park Nature Center is to interpret the natural history of Nebraska and the central great plains; to promote the enjoyment, appreciation and awareness of our natural environment; to practice and foster a conservation ethic; and to provide a sanctuary for wildlife and a peaceful retreat for people.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 135

Pioneers Park Nature Center
Lincoln Parks & Recreation
2740 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE 68502