



FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

AUGUST - DECEMBER 2015

Fall Fun at the Nature Center

FALL FUN DAY CAMP

Thursday & Friday, October 15-16 | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
\$35/day Thursday or Friday only, \$60 for two days

Take a break from school and attend the Fall Fun Day Camp at the Nature Center. This camp will include a hayrack ride, outdoor exploring, camp fires, hiking, marshmallow roasting, and much more. Ages 6-13. Register by October 9.

WILD FALL FESTIVAL

Friday, October 9 | 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm | FREE

Enjoy an evening at the Nature Center for our annual Wild Fall Festival. Games, activities, and lots of wild fall fun will take place as part of the event. Hayrack rides will be available for \$3/person. Food will also be available for purchase.



PRAIRIE RUN

Saturday, November 7 | 9:00 am - 1 mile, 9:30 am - 5k
Register at www.getmeregistered.com
\$10/1 mile, 5-12 years old | \$20/5K, 13 and up

Adults wishing to run the 1 mile with child will need to register as an adult.

Participate in the one mile or 5K prairie trail run and help support the Nature Center. All proceeds will go towards the support of our land management and prairie restoration projects. Register by October 27th to receive a free t-shirt, registration open through November 5. All participants will be entered in a prize drawing.

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

Admission: Donation
\$3/person \$5/family \$10/group

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: parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter

Mailing Address: 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

FULL-TIME STAFF

Coordinator: Andrea Faas

Naturalist: Jamie Kelley

Land Manager: Aaron Druery

Preschool Director: Sueann Ahrens

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

GRANDPARENTS AND GARDENS

Sunday, September 13
Prairie Building

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
\$15/family



Celebrate grandparents with a garden scavenger hunt and other activities. Lemonade and cookies will also be provided. *Register by September 10.*

COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS

Saturday, September 19
Compositng Demo Site

10:00 – 11:00 am
Free

Saturday, October 17
Composting Demo Site

10:00 - 11:00 am
Free

Learn how to be successful with composting by attending a composting demonstration sponsored by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln recycling office. *No pre-registration required.*



NIGHT HIKE

Friday, November 13
Prairie Building

6:30 – 8:00 pm
\$7/person

Explore what is lurking in the dark during this Friday the 13th guided night hike. Enjoy hot cocoa after the hike. *Register by November 10.*

WINTER BIRDING

Monday-Thursday
December 28- 31
Chet Ager Building

10:00 am – Noon
\$3/donation

The Chet Ager building will be open to provide a warm and cozy spot for bird watching this winter. Bring your favorite warm beverage, sit back and enjoy nature's show. Binoculars and birding guides will be available. Staff will also be on hand to help identify and discuss sightings.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

PRAIRIE EXPLORATION GUIDED HIKE

Tuesday, September 29
Prairie Building

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
\$4/child

Come discover the treasures of the tall grass prairie on this guided afternoon hike.

WOODLAND WONDERS GUIDED HIKE

Tuesday, October 27
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Prairie Building
\$4/child

Explore the wonders of the woodlands in the fall. This guided hike will take you through the woods and along the Haines Branch Creek.



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

HOLIDAY GREENERY WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 5
Prairie Building

9:00 – 11:00 am
\$25/person

Bring a basket, mug, vase, or select one from us and create festive holiday décor. Greenery, pine cones, ribbon, wire, and design ideas will be provided during this workshop. Each participant will create and will take home a finished piece. *Register by December 3.*

EAGLE WATCHING TRIP

Saturday, December 5
Meeting Location: TBA

7:00 am – 3:00 pm
\$45/person

Road trip with us to Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Mound City, MO for Eagle Days on December 5. Events include live eagle programs, exhibits, activities, and access to spotting scopes. Bring your own or borrow a pair of binoculars to view eagles and other migrating waterfowl. Transportation and a sack lunch will be provided. *Register by December 1.*

HYDE OBSERVATORY

FREE PUBLIC PROGRAMS EVERY SATURDAY

November - March, 7:00 - 10:00 pm
April - October, 8:00 - 11:00 pm

Enjoy programs about astronomy and space exploration, learn from knowledgeable volunteers, and take a peek into the universe through three different telescopes. Programs change monthly. Visit hydeobservatory.info for more details.

Hyde Observatory is located on the south side of Holmes Lake in Homes Park. 3701 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

FALL HAYRACK RIDES

Plan a hayrack ride through the Nature Center for a group, family, or corporate event. Hayrack rides can be scheduled from September 18th through October 31st on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. Also included are refreshments at the campfire. Reservations should be made at least two weeks in advance. Spaces fill up quickly so book early.

Group Rates:

Up to 30 \$200 (one 45 minute ride)
31-60 \$325 (two 45 minute rides)

Please call to make special arrangements for groups over 60.



BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Have your next party at the Nature Center.

Call 402-441-7985 for more information.

FRIENDS OF PPNC



Saturday, August 29 | 3:00 - 8:00 pm

The Prairie Jazz Festival will promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and awareness of Lincoln's rare and precious professional jazz music in the splendid, open-air surroundings of Lincoln's equally rare and precious tallgrass prairie. Event sponsors include: Brewsky's in the Haymarket, Allstate, Lincoln Parks Foundation, Sandhills Publishing, Union Bank and Trust, and the Berman Music Foundation. For more information about the Prairie Jazz Festival and to purchase tickets visit www.prairiejazzfestival.org.

Save the Date Friends Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 30 | 9:00 am

All are invited to the Friends Annual Meeting. Find out more about the Friends and enjoy refreshments and good conversation.



Join the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center and receive access to special Friends programming, 10% off all Nature Center gift shop items, free or reduced admission to other nature centers nationwide and the satisfaction of supporting a valuable community resource.

THANK YOU

Around the Nature Center Eagle Scout Project

Nick Hues worked on his Eagle Scout project at the Nature Center this summer, adding six new rubbing post at various destinations around the Nature Center.

Stop in to pick up an Around the Nature Center rubbing post sheet then follow the clues to find each post. Nick and his volunteers also helped remove buckthorn, an invasive plant, during his project. Thanks Nick, for all of your hard work.

New Rope Fence at Raptor Cages

There is a new rope fence in front of the raptor enclosures on the west side of the animal loop. Jared Buehler, working towards his Eagle Scout award, coordinated this project.

Jared and a group of boy scouts volunteered their time to remove the old fence posts and replace them with new fence. Thanks to Jared and his team of volunteers for completing this project.

Welcome Kiosk and Bike Racks

Thanks to Eagle Scout and Nature Center Preschool alumni, Thomas Graul, new bike racks will be added next to the welcome kiosk he built for the Nature Center.

These additions will complement the newly paved parking lot and walking path that welcome all of the Nature Center visitors. Thank you, Thomas, for your design and leadership on this project.

SCOUT HIKES

One hour teacher/naturalist-led hikes are available for scouts. Arrangements must be made at least two weeks in advance. \$4/scout, minimum 10 scouts.

Pioneers Park Nature Center

Lincoln Parks & Recreation
2740 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

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online. Email
naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov
to receive your next newsletter
electronically.



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.



NATURE CENTER PRESCHOOL

Registration for the 2016/2017 school year begins February 1, 2016.

Space is limited.

Hike, dig, climb, build, explore, and learn while being outdoors at the Nature Center Preschool.

To learn more about the nature based preschool and pre-kindergarten programs attend one of the open houses or contact the Preschool Director at 402-441-8669 for more information.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 21

10:00 - 11:00 am or 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Incident weather date: January 28

OR

Thursday, February 25

10:00 - 11:00 am

