



# FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

AUGUST-DECEMBER

## TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



The partial eclipse begins just after 11:30 am and will end by 2:30 pm. Totality will occur just after 1:00 pm in Lincoln and will range in length from almost 2 minutes in the most southern edge of Lincoln to only a few seconds in the northeast corner of town. A blanket to lay down or a lawn chair to recline in is recommended as the sun will be high in the sky during this event.

DO NOT look directly at the sun without proper eye protection! Sunglasses will not protect your eyes. Only approved solar filters allow adequate eye protection when viewing the sun. Total eclipse viewing glasses may be purchased at the Nature Center gift shop prior to the eclipse.

**Total Solar Eclipse**  
**Monday, August 21**  
**11:30 am – 2:30 pm**  
**Lincoln & surrounding areas.**

Enjoy the eclipse from anywhere in Lincoln including one of the 125 local parks or even your own yard.

## PRE-ECLIPSE EVENTS

### Hayrack Rides

**Friday, August 18 7 pm & 8 pm \$8/person**

Enjoy an evening hayrack ride through the prairie at the Nature Center. Guides will provide information about local flora and fauna and how the natural world may react to the total solar eclipse on Monday, August 21. Space is limited. Register by August 16 to receive a free pair of eclipse glasses with your registration.

### Dawn Hike

**Saturday, August 19 6:15 – 7:30 am \$6/person**

Join us for a sunrise hike at the Nature Center. This hike offers an opportunity to witness and listen to the morning rituals of wildlife at the Nature Center. Bring your own coffee and binoculars, and enjoy a peaceful early morning walk with your guide at the Nature Center. Space is limited. Register by August 16 to receive a free pair of eclipse glasses with your registration.

Visit [hydeobservatory.info](http://hydeobservatory.info) for more information about the eclipse.



## FRIENDS OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

The Friends promote and support the development, programming, and operation of the Nature Center. Learn more at [Inknaturecenter.org](http://Inknaturecenter.org).

### Mystery on the Prairie

**Saturday, August 26**

**6 - 9 pm**

**\$30/person**

**\$25 for Friends Members**

An evening of mystery set in 1890 in Coyote Canyon, Nebraska. Drinks, dinner, and theatre make for an entertaining night you won't want to miss. You will be witness to the challenges of life in Coyote Canyon. We will walk around the Nature Center to the school, town pub, general store, and boarding house to hear the local gossip and get an insight into who done it. Wear comfortable shoes for walking and be prepared for a lively night. Guests are encouraged to dress in character as we will have a costume contest with a prize for the best dressed. This is a fundraising event benefiting the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center. More information and tickets available at [Inknaturecenter.org](http://Inknaturecenter.org).



### We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

We are fortunate to be able to provide a dynamic Nature Center, open to everyone, year-round, with a wide range of programming.

Through fundraising events and memberships the Friends provide scholarships for children to attend the Nature Center Preschool/Pre-K program and summer camp. Funds raised also help cover the cost of school hikes and to keep admission to the Nature Center free. In the past, Friends have also purchased artwork and special equipment for the Nature Center. Becoming a member or attending fundraising events helps keep this tradition going. More info about Friends memberships inside.

# SCOUTS

COMING SOON

## Speak for the Trees

Girl Scouts, Cadette - Legacy Naturalist Tree Badge  
May 5, 2018 | 2-4 pm | \$15/Girl Scout

## Incredible Insects

Girl Scouts, Brownie - Bug Badge  
June 23, 2018 | 10 - Noon | \$15/Girl Scout

## Wildflower Wonders

Girl Scouts, Junior - Legacy Naturalist Flower Badge  
September 8, 2018 | 10-noon | \$15/Girl Scout

# BIRTHDAY PARTIES

## Spend your birthday at the Nature Center!

### Available times:

- Saturdays: 10:00 am - noon or 1:30 - 3:30 pm
- Sundays: 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Each birthday party includes a guided hike or activity, a special gift for the guest of honor, party bags for each child, and time for you to have your own activities and refreshments. Call 402-441-7895 to schedule your party, at least two weeks in advance, or for more information.

### Themes Include:

- Reptiles Rock
- Amazing Birds
- Marvelous Mammals
- Nature's Scavenger Hunt
- Grow in the Garden (spring-summer)
- Insect Investigations (late summer-fall)

# PRESCHOOL

## The Nature Center offers a nature based preschool and pre-kindergarten program for ages 3-5.

We believe that early childhood is a time for discovery and a time to enjoy the many miracles of the natural world. Our philosophy is that children learn by doing: hiking, climbing, digging, building, while being outdoors. Yearly open enrollment begins Feb 1. Call the Nature Center Preschool Director for more info: 402-441-8669.

# HAYRACK RIDES

Fri/Sat/Sun Sept. 29 – Nov. 4

Plan a unique event for your friends, family, co-workers, or group. The Nature Center offers group hayrack rides, Friday-Sunday evening in the fall. Call the Nature Center for more information and to reserve a date for your group.

### Group Rates:

Up to 30	\$215
31-60	\$350
60 or more	Please call for special arrangements.



402.441.7895  
[naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov)  
[parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter](http://parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter)

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

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

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



# FRIENDS OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

Join the Friends and support the Nature Center.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to the Nature Center mailing list. I'd like to receive the newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_ in the mail, \_\_\_\_\_ emailed to me. (choose one)

## Annual Membership Levels

_____	Coneflower	\$25
_____	Goldenrod	\$50
_____	Bluestem	\$100
_____	Cottonwood	\$500
_____	Bur Oak	\$1000

## Benefits to becoming a Friend include:

- Special access to Friends programming.
- 10% off all Nature Center gift shop items.
- Passes to Saturday with the Naturalist Program.  
*2 passes with the Goldenrod level or 4 passes with a Bluestem level membership.*
- From the Trails newsletter distributed three times/year.
- Free or reduced admission to other centers nationwide.
- The satisfaction of supporting a valuable community resource.

Please include a check payable to the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center and send to 3201 S. Coddington Ave, Lincoln, NE 68522  
Membership payments and donations can also be made online at [lnknaturecenter.org](http://lnknaturecenter.org)



# PROGRAMS & EVENTS PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

## Composting Workshops

**Sat. Sept 9 and Oct 21**      **10 am**      **Compost Demonstration Area**      **Free**

Learn how to be successful with composting by attending a free composting demonstration workshop sponsored by Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln Recycling Office. Demonstrations are presented by Extension Master Gardeners and include three types of composting bins and how to use them. This workshop takes place at the composting demonstration area just across the road from the Prairie Building.

## Wild Fall Festival

**Fri. Sept. 15**      **5 – 8 pm**      **Prairie Building**      **Free**

Join the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center for family fun at the Nature Center. Hayrack rides for \$3/person (tickets available at the door only), guest presenters, hands-on activities, and live animals will be on display. Food from vendors will also be available for purchase.

## Saturday with our Naturalist

**Sept. 16 , Oct. 21, Nov 18**      **2 – 3 pm**      **Prairie Building**      **\$5/person per hike**

Join us for a guided hike with, Jamie, the Nature Center's Naturalist. We'll go for a guided hike on the Nature Center trails to observe what's blooming, the wildlife that is around, and enjoy the current season. Themes: Sept: Visit the Prairie, Oct: Autumn at the Nature Center, Nov: Winter is Coming? Dress comfortably for the weather, we'll be outdoors for the entire hour. *Register by the Wednesday before each hike.*

## Fall Fun Days

**Mon-Tues Oct. 16 and 17**      **8:30 am - 5 pm** **Prairie Building**      **\$40/day**

*Extended hours 7:45 am – 5:30 pm are available*      *Registration due by Oct. 9.*

Spend fall break on an adventure at the Nature Center. Your days will be filled with games, hiking, hanging out in the outdoors, and learning about nature! This program is for youth in kindergarten through 6th grade. Space is limited, all payments, registration forms, and waivers must be completed and returned by October 9th. Call the Nature Center at 402-441-7895 or visit [parks.lincoln.ne.gov](http://parks.lincoln.ne.gov) for more information.



## Almost Full Moon Guided Hike

**Fri. Nov. 3**      **7 – 8:30 pm**      **Prairie Building**      **\$8/person**

Enjoy the sights and sounds of night at the Nature Center under the, almost, full moon. This program is open to all, however it may not be suitable for young children and all children must be accompanied by an adult. *Register by Nov 1.*

## Prairie Run 1 mile loop & 5K options.

**Sat. Nov. 4**      **9 am**      **Heritage School**      **12 and under - \$10**      **13 and up - \$20**  
**To register visit: [getmeregistered.com](http://getmeregistered.com) (search: Prairie Run)**

Help support the Nature Center and the work we do to preserve the tallgrass prairie. This walk/run will take you along mowed trails through the prairie, up and over rolling hills, along groundwater fed ponds, and through the tallgrass prairie. The 1 Mile option is a moderate route on mowed trails with some hills. The 5 K option is a challenging hilly course along uneven terrain. All participants will be entered into a prize drawing and receive a participation gift. This event is not officially timed. Check-in: Saturday, 8:30 am.

## Eagle Watching Trip

**Sat. Dec. 2**      **7 am – 3 pm**      **Meet at Auld Pavilion**      **\$50/person**

Join us for a bus trip to the Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge (formerly, Squaw Creek) just outside of St. Joseph, Missouri. This trip to Loess Bluffs takes place during their Eagle Days event, a weekend of activities that includes live eagle shows, spotting scope stations, exhibits, and other activities. We'll be your guides on this tour to Missouri for a day of eagle and wildlife watching! A sack lunch will be provided, please let us know of any dietary restrictions. You are welcome to bring your own snacks as well. This program is geared towards adults. *Register by Nov. 27*

## DIY Holiday Greenery Workshop

**Sat. Dec. 2**      **9 – 11 am**      **Prairie Building**      **\$35/person**

Create your own centerpiece, swag, or door hanging for the holidays. We will provide the greenery, ribbon, various holiday accessories, wire and other supplies, and one mug or small basket per person. You may bring a vase, basket, or other container of your own and any of your own ribbon or décor to add to the arrangement. This workshop is a fun and social class that will definitely get you and your home ready for the holidays! *Register by Nov. 29.*



**FOLLOW US: @LNKNATURECENTER**



# Pioneers Park Nature Center

Lincoln Parks & Recreation  
3140 N Street, Ste 300  
Lincoln, NE 68510

**LAST PRINT ISSUE**

We'll be saving trees and dollars!  
Please send your email to  
[naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov)  
to get our online version!

## A NEW LOOK COMING SOON



A look back at how the newsletter has changed.

To be more eco-friendly and cost efficient we have decided to change the format of the newsletter. Starting in the new year, the printed version will look a little different but will still include all the updates about our programs and what's happening at the Nature Center. The printed version will only be available in the mail to members of the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center. There will, of course, continue to be an online version available for free to everyone via email and our website.

### 6 WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED!

1. Contact us with your email to receive the online version of the newsletter in your inbox. You may call, 402-441-7895, or email, [naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov).
2. Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center may request the newsletter be sent to you in the mail. If you are already a member, please contact us to let us know your preference of mail or email to receive the newsletter.
3. Stop in to pick up program information at the Nature Center.
4. Print a copy from the website: [parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter](http://parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter) or [lnknaturecenter.org](http://lnknaturecenter.org)
5. Check out the Lincoln Parks and Rec Program Guide. The guide is available in the Lincoln Journal Star and free to pick-up at many local grocery stores, at all of the Lincoln City Libraries, Lincoln City Golf courses, Parks and Rec admin offices, recreation centers, and the Nature Center.
6. Follow us @lnknaturecenter on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.