



FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

MARCH-MAY, 2009

Isn't it time they explored the outdoors?

NATURE EXPLORERS CAMP



March 23-27

Discover how animals use their 'tools'
Hike the trails
Help feed Nature Center animals
Investigate signs of spring

6-12 year olds
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., \$140

Call 441-7895 to register

CAMP DISCOVERY

Outdoor exploration, crafts, puppets, games



Ages 3-6
Monday-Thursday
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
\$55/session

June 8-11: Of Horns & Antlers
June 22-25: Fun in the Mud
June 29 - July 2:
Flying Rainbows
July 13-16: Polliwogs,
Nymphs and Worms

WILDERNESS NATURE CAMP

Five great weeks in June and July,
each with a different theme

Adventure Nature Camp, ages 6-8
Extreme Nature Camp, ages 9-12



Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
\$140/week
Register by May 1st and
save \$10

Sliding scale fees for
those who qualify
Call 441-7895 for
a brochure

LEADERSHIP CAMP
(Junior Counselor training)

Ages 13+
June 8-12
\$50/youth

Applications due May 1st



PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

Admission: Free

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: nfulman@lincoln.ne.gov

Website: lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: nature)

Mailing Address: 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

KEEP WILDERNESS BEAUTIFUL

Saturday, April 25 8:30 a.m. - Noon
Wilderness Park, 1st & Park Blvd. Free

You can make a difference! Pitch in and help out with these service projects for our community! Sign up for one of three different tasks:

- Children, troops, or dens under 13 years old:
pick up litter along park trails
- Youth, troops, or dens 13 and over:
improve park habitat by removing cedar trees
- Adults: pick up litter along park roads

Free pizza and pop will be provided for those who pre-register before April 22.

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Saturday, April 25 10 a.m. - Noon
Composting Demonstration Area Free

Learn how to compost in your back yard through a training session provided by UNL Extension and the City Recycling Office at the Nature Center's backyard composting demonstration area. Attendees will receive a free compost thermometer or plastic compost bin. No registration necessary.

PRIMITIVE FIRE

Saturday, April 25 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Prairie Building \$8/person
Register by 4/22

Would you like to learn how to start a fire with tools forged from the earth with your own hands? Make bow drill tools and learn fire-starting techniques. Must be 10 years or older. Participants under 14 must have adult supervision. Important: Bring a sharp, large buck or carving knife - a lot of carving is involved. Youth must have written permission from a parent or guardian. Dress for the weather.

BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATIONS

Saturdays, May 2 & 9 9 a.m. - Noon
Bird Banding Station Free

Take this opportunity to see birds up close! Join a licensed bird bander to watch the banding process and to learn about this nation-wide research project. In case of rain or excessive heat, banding will be cancelled.

HERP SEARCH

Have you ever wondered what's crossing your path? Would you be willing to look out for turtles, snakes and amphibians as you walk our trails? If so, grab a HerpSearch form when you go out and return it with any sightings to either building. You can help UNL Extension Educator Dennis Ferraro gather data about herp populations.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST AND BIRDWALK

Sunday, May 10 8-10 a.m.
Chet Ager Building \$9/person
Register by 5/7

Treat your mother to a unique Mother's Day early morning birdwalk followed by a breakfast of rolls, fruit, and a beverage. Binoculars will be provided for those who do not have their own.



PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

MOMMY AND ME: SPRING SONG

Eight Mondays beginning March 16
10 - 11:30 a.m. \$55/child
Prairie Building Goldenrod Classroom

New buds, woodland flowers, the calls of birds and frogs, nest building: explore these natural marvels with your little one through hikes, games, crafts, stories and puppets. Dress for the weather, as we will be spending a portion of each class outside. A snack will be provided. Class size is limited, so register early. An afternoon session is possible if more are interested.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Treat your child to a special birthday at the Nature Center. An hour nature program, including a hike and indoor animal time, is followed by 45 minutes in the building for your birthday activities. We provide space and a birthday favor for each child, you provide refreshments. \$6 for each child up to 15, \$60 minimum charge. Call 441-7895 for reservations at least two weeks in advance.

THIS SUMMER'S DROP-IN PROGRAMS

10-11 a.m., June 16 - July 30, \$1/child
Tuesdays: Animal Antics Thursdays: Water Wildness

SPECIALLY FOR SCOUTS

FREE HIKES

One hour naturalist-led hikes are offered for scouts each Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. Call to register at least two weeks in advance. First come, first served.

BADGEWORK

Nature Center programming will help your group complete a badge in one morning or afternoon. Programs will rotate.

PRINTS AND GRAPHICS BADGE FOR JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS

Saturday, March 7 9 a.m. - Noon
Prairie Building \$10/scout
Register by 3/4

Take a hike to gather raw materials, and then produce various types of prints and graphic designs based on nature themes. We'll complete activities 1, 2, 3, 7, 9 and 10. Fees include all material costs.

EARTH CONNECTIONS FOR JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS

Saturday, April 4 9 a.m. - Noon
Prairie Building \$7/scout
Register by 4/1

Be an ecologist! With the help of Nature Center staff complete activities 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

WATER EVERYWHERE TRY-IT FOR BROWNIE SCOUTS

Saturday, May 2 10 a.m. - Noon
Prairie Building \$6/scout
Register by 4/29

Explore what lives in the Nature Center pond and stream. Investigate the important place that water has in our lives and the ways we can help conserve this precious resource. We will complete activities 1, 4, 5, and 6.

NATURALIST ACTIVITY BADGE FOR WEBELOS

Saturday, May 9 9:30 a.m. - Noon
Prairie Building \$7/scout
Register by 5/6

Learn to identify the poisonous plants and animals of our area, investigate bird flyways as Nature Center staff help you complete activities # 3, 5, 6, and 8.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

PRIMITIVE BASKET MAKING

Saturday, April 4 1:30 - 4 p.m.
Prairie Building \$8/person
Register by 4/1

Learn how to gather and prepare supplies for several types of baskets. Together the class will begin to create both a melon and sapling basket. Two members of the class will be chosen by raffle to take the sample projects home with supplies to finish them.

MEDITATION IN NATURE

Mondays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27
6:30 - 8 p.m. Prairie Building
\$35/person/4 sessions Register by 4/1

Restore yourself by using nature to increase awareness and stillness in your daily life. This series of four sessions will progressively introduce basic meditation concepts and practice while walking the peaceful trails that surround the Nature Center. We will conclude each meeting with tea. Carrying these concepts and practices into your daily life will be emphasized.

BASIC BIRD IDENTIFICATION

Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21 and 28
6:30 - 8 p.m. Prairie Building
Saturdays, April 11, 18, 25 and May 2
8 - 10 a.m. Fieldtrips
\$45/person/8 sessions Register by 3/30

Learn to identify area birds during the exciting spring migration period. Evening sessions cover discussion of field guides, binoculars and scopes, tips on identifying birds, habitat and migration, publications, and organizations. Saturday morning field trips visit local birding hotspots (participants will carpool). This class is co-sponsored by the Wachiska Audubon Society.

AUDITORIUM RENTAL

With views of the prairie and elk pond, the Malinovskis Auditorium is a restful and scenic choice for your meetings. The facility seats 60 comfortably at tables and has a large screen, sound system and kitchenette for your use.

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration: All reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Send payment and completed registration form to: Pioneers Park Nature Center 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502. Telephone registrations by credit card only). Participants will receive confirmation of registration.

Deadline: Unless noted otherwise, registration deadline is three days prior to the start of the program.

Refunds: Refund requests must be made 72 hours prior to the program date and are subject to a \$5.00 service charge.

Cancellations: PPNC reserves the right to cancel classes due to conditions beyond its control. Participants will be notified prior to the program; they may choose to obtain a full refund or sign up for another available program.

CLASSES:

DATE	CLASS	FEE	# REGISTERING
3/7	Prints and Graphics Badge/Jr GS	\$10/scout	
3/16	Mommy and Me: Spring Song	\$55/child	
4/4	Earth Connections/Jr GS	\$7/scout	
4/4	Primitive Basket Making	\$8/person	
4/6	Meditation in Nature	\$35/person	
4/7	Basic Bird Identification	\$45/person	
4/25	Primitive Fire	\$8/person	
5/2	Water Everywhere/Brownies	\$6/scout	
5/9	Naturalist/Webelos	\$7/scout	
5/10	Mother's Day Breakfast and Birdwalk	\$9/person	

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Payment: Check (made payable to Lincoln Parks and Recreation)

Credit Card Visa MC Discover

Card Number _____ Expiration _____

Total Fees Enclosed _____ Signature _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, CALL 441-7895

THANK YOU

Kathie Putensen: \$1,000

\$325 for children's binoculars

Doole Family Foundation: \$1,000 for Herb Garden

Nebraska Herbal Society: \$200

Wells Fargo, University Place: Leupold Binoculars

Taylor Crawford: books for preschool

Aleya Cuttler: books for preschool

Scott Clarke Family

Memorials for Florence Amen:

Abel Foundation

Mary Arth

Ruth Boemer

Nanci Burchess-Smith

Eugene Edwards

Steven Gade & Nancy Arter

Tim and Betsy Kosier

John & Nancy Olsson

Sally Marshall

Carol McShane

Carl Mortenson, Jr.

John & Nancy Olsson

Mike Seacrest

Bus & Jeannie Whitehead

LINCOLN'S EARTH DAY CELEBRATION, SUNDAY, APRIL 19

HYDE MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY

South side of Holmes Lake in Holmes Park.
Open Saturdays; November – March: 7-10 p.m.
April – October: 8–11 p.m.

Gaze at the night sky through three powerful telescopes, enjoy two programs about astronomy or space exploration that change monthly, and interact with knowledgeable volunteers. Free.

Weekday special showings for groups of 20 or more may be arranged with two weeks notice by calling 441-8708.

For more information visit www.hydeobservatory.info

BEGINNING ASTRONOMY FIELD OBSERVING CLASS

Thursday and Friday, April 16 & 17
7 - 10 p.m. Hyde Observatory
Ages 10 and older
\$8/person, \$15/couple Register by 4/10

Do you want to learn how to use a telescope or binoculars to find objects in the night sky? Are you curious about stars, planets, and the wonders of the universe? Then you will want to register for this two-evening class sponsored by the Prairie Astronomy Club. Join us at Hyde Observatory where you will learn to use sky charts, binoculars, and telescopes through fun and interactive group activities, receiving friendly and knowledgeable help from members of the Prairie Astronomy Club, who understand the challenges faced by beginners. If weather permits you will use telescopes out under the stars provided by members of the Club. If you are thinking about purchasing a telescope we can provide lots of tips on what to look for when shopping for one. Classes will be held in any weather. Hyde Observatory (south side of Holmes Lake).

Class size is limited and you must register by calling Becky Seth at 441-8708. Pre-payment is required: make checks payable to the Prairie Astronomy Club but send them to Becky Seth, Pioneers Park Nature Center, 2740 'A' Street, Lincoln, NE 68502. For more info contact Jim Kvasnicka (423-7390) or Dave Churilla (467-1514).

NATURE CENTER GIFT SHOP

EARTH DAY SALE - March 22 - April 22

Do you need a new T-shirt or a field guide? Take advantage of the Nature Center Gift Shop's annual Earth Day Sale. Save 20% on all purchases, 30% if you belong to the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center.

NATURE CENTER PRESCHOOL

Where Kids Explore

T/Th and W/F
AM and PM
Sessions

Pre-K: MWF



We hope to:

- nurture a sense of wonder
- develop an appreciation of nature
- offer rich opportunities to explore
- integrate language, math and the arts
- cultivate conceptual understanding
- provide daily exercise in the out-of-doors

Using seasonal themes, daily activities include a hike, discussion circle, crafts, storytime, and a snack.

TRAILSIDE NEWS

VOLUNTEER/STAFF POTLUCK

Despite a slippery snowfall, 75 of us gathered on January 23rd for wonderful food, good conversation, an enjoyable power point loaded with photographic memories of 2008, prairie pictiography, and a silly parody of 'There was an Old Woman.' Volunteers are needed for our gardens. Call Becky at 441-8708.

HEALTHY FAMILIES PLAY OUTSIDE

Lincoln Safari 2009 is up and going. Enroll today and get your new guidebook and map with 31 new rubbing posts.

For your next family walk discuss the wind. Is it calm, breezy or gusting? You can't see it but you can watch the wind in action. Are leaves blowing, grasses swaying or water rippling? For older children research wind power and find out how wind turbines yield large amounts of energy. A Nebraskan knows the wind!

GROWING GREEN

Spring is a good season to re-examine our food habits. Here are some common suggestions to walk a bit more lightly on our earth.

Eat lower on the food chain; reduce meat consumption replacing it with healthful plant items such as beans, lentils, soy and nuts.

Increase your intake of fresh fruits and vegetables, and decrease packaged foods.

Go local: grow some of your own food, support the farmer's markets, join a CSA (Community Sponsored Agriculture) program.

NATURE'S MARKET

APRIL 18 – SATURDAY – 9 a.m. TO 1 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center



New this Year! Artistic Rain Barrel Auction

This is a fun and artistic way to promote rain barrels and draw attention to the value of water conservation. See local artists, young and professional, show off their talents. All proceeds will benefit the Nature Center's scholarships for summer camp and preschool programs.



Celebrate Spring with new items for your backyard. Walk the trails at the Nature Center while visiting booths from artists and artisans, exhibitors and vendors of all kinds, coffee and goodies, children's crafts to make, and lunch off the grill by Russ's Market. A **Silent Auction** will include items such as baskets and elk antlers. The **String Beans** perform at 11 a.m.

Friend's Garage Sale April 30 - May 2

3400 S. 31st Street

Donations accepted by Kathie, 423-0453

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.



PRRSRT STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 135

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