



FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

December 2009-February 2010

Winter is a great time to visit the Nature Center. It is often quiet. Recent snowfalls turn the trails into a magical landscape with all sorts of signs of animal activity. Heritage School stands on a rise north of the parking lot and makes a lovely sight etched against the sky. Many exhibits were changed in November. Our visitor's services staff is ready to take out an animal for you to touch. We are closed on Christmas and New Years.

Winter programming highlights are listed below. You can find more information on these programs on the attached programming sheet or at our website: parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter.

NATURE CENTER PRESCHOOL

Open House, Wednesday, January 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-1:30 p.m. or call for an appointment
Registration for the 2010-11 school year begins February 1st

NATURE CAMP: WINTER DETECTIVES

Mon. & Tues., Jan. 18 & 19, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., 1st - 5th graders,
\$30/day/child, register by 1/11

VOLUNTEER/STAFF POTLUCK

Friday, January 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Auld, watch for your invitation!

PRIMITIVE PINE NEEDLE BASKETS

Saturday, January 23, 1:00-4:00 p.m., \$8/person, register by 1/20

MOMMY AND ME: WINTER WONDERS

Nature experiences for 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 year olds plus adult
Eight Mondays beginning January 25, 10-11:30 a.m., \$60/child

FRIENDS OF PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 30, 9:30-11:00 a.m., free informative presentation

FULL MOON RAMBLE

Saturday, January 30, 7:00 -8:30 p.m., \$8/person, register by 1/27

HERBAL DREAMS, TEA AND SCONES

Saturday, February 6, 10:00-11:30 a.m., \$8/person, register by 2/3

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT ACTIVITY DAY

Saturday, February 13, 9:00-11:30 a.m., free drop-in program

GEOLOGY DAY

Sunday, February 14, 1:00-4:00 p.m., free drop-in program

SATURDAY SCIENCE FOR SCOUTS AND 4-H

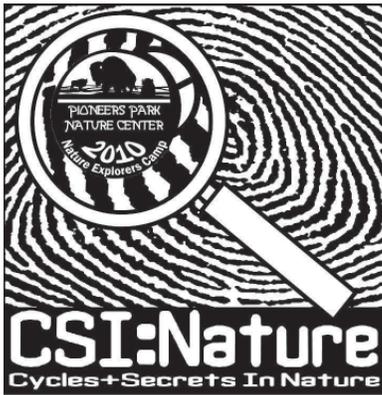
Saturday, February 20, 8:45 a.m.-Noon, \$10/youth, register by 2/17



'Curly' welcomes you to the Prairie Building



Heritage School in the snow



Nature Explorers Camp

Jump into an adventure!
Dive into an investigation!
Swim in a sea of questions!

March 22-26, M-F

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

6-12 year olds

We'll unravel the mysteries of extinction, examine the virtues of adaptation, marvel at the wonders of metamorphosis, peek into the process of decomposition, learn the steps to conservation, study the patterns of hibernation and migration, enjoy the ever-changing seasons, take a field trip, and celebrate our new discoveries with a family potluck dinner and sunset hike.

\$150/child, save \$10 if registered by 2/22
Call 441-7895 for a registration form

NATURE CENTER NEWS

PRAIRIE IMMERSION

1481 fourth graders from 22 LPS schools spent a day on the Nature Center's prairie this fall as part of the Prairie Immersion program. They imagined what it might have been like to go on a bison hunt as a Pawnee, walk with a covered wagon as a settler child, live in a sod house and use prairie resources for food, tools, and medicine. They investigated the plants and animals of the prairie, spent time alone in the grass, wrote in their journals, and played predator-prey. The generosity of the Hugo A. and Thelma Aspegren Trust makes this program possible.

OTHER FALL ACTIVITIES

Plans are moving forward for the launch of a financial sustainability strategy for the Nature Center.

Besides the Prairie Immersion program, Nature Center staff guided over 4415 students on hikes. Life cycles was the most popular topic this fall.

Wild Puppets presented 36 shows, delighting 1894 children. We reached over 25,000 during our time at the Cyber Fair at the Nebraska State Fair and another 1700 during an additional 25 outreach programs.

890 people enjoyed our nature-oriented hayrack rides, 129 scouts completed a badge with our guidance

NATURE CENTER PRESCHOOL

This fall the preschool children investigated the plants, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals that make the prairie their home, imagined life in a sod house and played historic games.

Pre-K classes concentrate on one letter per week. One of the favorites this fall was H is for hawks. The children were able to compare sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks with the Nature Center's study mounts and visit our 3 live red-tailed hawks. H is also for habitats of course and the children challenged each other to identify the habitats of a variety of animals.

HERITAGE SCHOOL

The school was moved from its former home at State Fair Park to the Nature Center on November 1st and was ready to welcome 4th graders on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

BISON BENCH

The Nature Center has a new piece of art. "Curly", a bison bench created by Carl Weiss of Weiss Studios and Gardens in Springfield, Nebraska, now welcomes visitors to the Prairie Building.

Call 441-7895 or visit our website: parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter

