



FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

APRIL-AUGUST, 2011

SUMMER NATURE CAMPS

WILDERNESS NATURE CAMP



Exploring + games + magic spots + crafts new friends + creeking + field trips = a great week!

Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
at Wilderness Park

	Ages 6-8	Ages 9-12
June 13-17	Dinos! and Reptiles	Survival! or Bike Camp
June 20-24	Ka-Sploosh	Wet-N-Wild
June 27-July 1	Natural Craft Creations	The Outdoor Artist or Bike Camp
July 11-15	Winged Wonders	Navigators
July 18-22	Hiking Through Habitats	Nature Photography
July 25-29	Critter Camp	X-treme Action Camp or Bike Camp

\$150/week, save \$10 if registered by May 1, scholarships available

Are you a little older? The Junior Counselor program offers leadership training and in-service opportunities. Applications due by May 1st.

CAMP DISCOVERY

Ages 3-6 Monday-Thursday 9:00-11:30 a.m.
Prairie Building Goldenrod Classroom \$60/child/session

Outdoor exploration, crafts, puppets, games, snacks

- June 6-9: Green and Growing
- June 13-16: Goin' on a Nature Hunt
- June 20-23: Scat, Tracks and Hidey Holes
- July 11-14: Scat Tracks and Hidey Holes
- July 18-21: Water All Around



Five Days
Five Places
One Camp!

July 25-29, Ages 6-9, \$210/child

Lincoln Children's Museum, Lux Center for the Arts, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln Children's Zoo, Pioneers Park Nature Center
More Information: <http://www.lincolnchildrensmuseum.org>

NATURE'S MARKET

April 16, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate spring!

Participate in a live auction beginning at 9:30 and bid for your favorite of the bird houses, functional or decorative, that have been created by local artists. Stroll down the trail and visit vendors of nature-related crafts and live plants. Bid on unique nature experiences at a silent auction. Munch on a luscious treat and have a cup of coffee. Children's crafts include the opportunity to build a bird house courtesy of Lowe's. PANgea Steel Drum Band and Prep Band will perform at 11:00.



NOTE FROM NANCY, COORDINATOR OF PPNC

Can you hear it? Is that the sounds of snow geese, crackling ice, or the chorus frogs telling us that spring is arriving? Living through March in Nebraska is like a roller coaster. One day it's warm and the next it's snowing. But April is a little more promising – at least the day length is longer. Hibernating animals immerge, the air is filled with the songs of birds, trees buds swell and open and some of us start in with allergies. Visit a variety of habitats around the Nature Center and see how many plants and animals you can discover making seasonal changes. It's a great time to be outside and awaken all of your senses. Hope to see you on the trails!

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: nfurman@lincoln.ne.gov

Website: parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter

Mailing Address: 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

FAMILY GUIDED HIKES

Saturdays and Sundays in April and May 3:30 p.m.

Prairie Building Suggested donation: \$5/family

Come along as we feed our raptors and notice what's happening along the trail.

BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATIONS

Wednesdays from April 6 to May 11 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturdays, April 30, May 7 and 14 9 a.m. - Noon

Bird Banding Station Donation

This is your opportunity to see up close some of the migratory birds that pass through our area as well as our year round residents. 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. Bird Banding Station. No registration necessary.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST AND BIRD WALK

May 8, Sunday 8-10 a.m.

Chet Ager Building \$9/person, register by May 4

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.

INTERNATIONAL MIGATORY BIRD DAY

May 14, Saturday

IMBD is an annual celebration of the amazing long distance travels of birds; an opportunity to learn more about these feathered wonders and what is required to keep bird populations healthy. This year the Nature Center will be celebrating with several activities: bird banding from 9 – noon, ongoing special children's crafts at the Prairie Building and a family hike at 3:30 p.m. No registration necessary.

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

May 14 and June 11, Saturdays 10-11:30 a.m.

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. Two lucky participants will receive a free soil thermometer or plastic compost bin. No registration necessary.

PRIMITIVE FIRE

May 14, Saturday 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Prairie Building \$10/person, register by May 11

Make bow drill tools, learn fire-starting techniques and experience the thrill of seeing that first bit of flame. 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.

TOAD COTTAGES

June 2, Thursday and June 11, Saturday 10-11:30 a.m.

Prairie Building \$10/family, register by May 31/June 8

Unleash your imagination! Build a miniature home and furnishings in our enchanted woodland. Families will gather natural building material and exchange tokens for special accents.

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE (CON)

BUTTERFLY COUNT

July 9, Saturday 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Prairie Building \$5/person, register by July 6

Spend a morning with the butterflies! Take part in the 35th annual butterfly count sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). We'll begin at the Nature Center with an informative hour-long introductory slide show. Participants will then disperse to the count areas: Pioneers Park Nature Center, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, and Nine-Mile Prairie. No need to be an expert, an experienced person will accompany each group. The count involves walking about 2 hours and covering 2 to 3 miles. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Fee includes the payment required by the NABA for each participant.

ROCK AND MINERAL GRINDING PARTY

July 10, Sunday 1-4 p.m.

Chet Ager Building Donation

What are some of the various gems and minerals found in the Great Plains? How are gemstones prepared for jewelry? Processes from the "rough" stone through cutting, polishing, and finishing will be demonstrated by members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club during this free drop-in program.

FROGGY WENT A-HUNTIN'

July 15, Friday 6-7:30 p.m.

Chet Ager Bldg \$8/person, \$15/family register by July 13

Let's hunt frogs, tadpoles and a lot of exotic looking little critters that make their home in our pond or stream. We'll take a good look before letting them go. Wear old clothes and shoes and bring insect repellent.

FAMILY NATURE NIGHT

August 5, Friday 7-8:30

p.m.

Prairie Building \$15/family, register by August 3

Let's see if we can spot some crepuscular animals on our trails, then sing and tell stories around the campfire while enjoying s'mores.

HYDE MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY

Gaze at the sky with powerful telescopes, enjoy two programs about astronomy or space exploration that change monthly, and interact with knowledgeable volunteers. Free and open to the public Saturdays in Holmes Lake Park, April-October, 8-10 p.m. More information at hydeobservatory.info

PRAIRIE ASTRONOMY CLUB (PAC)

You are invited to the monthly meetings of this enthusiastic group of amateur astronomers on the last Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at Hyde Observatory. More information at prairieastronomyclub.org

BEGINNING ASTRONOMY class

April 7 & 8, Thursday & Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Hyde Observatory \$10/person, \$15/family

Open your eyes to the stars! Basic information on beginning astronomy will be covered. Participants are invited to stay on for the PAC lunar star party on Friday. Call 441-8708 to register. Checks should be made out to PAC but sent to Becky Seth, Pioneers Park Nature Center, 2740 'A' Street, Lincoln, NE 68502.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

PRESCHOOL NATURE PLAY

A series for preschoolers with an adult
Every 3rd Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. \$7/child
April 16: What's Blooming?
May 21: Eggs, Nests and Songs
June 18: Slithering Snakes
July 16: What's in the Pond?
August 20: Insects Everywhere

Prairie Building Goldenrod Classroom

Explore the wonders of nature with your little one through hikes, activities, and stories. Dress for the weather, as we will be spending a portion of each day outside. A snack will be provided.

Register by the Wednesday before each class.

ANIMAL ANTICS: SUMMER DROP-IN PROGRAM

Offered each Wednesday from June 1 to July 27, 10:00-11:00 a.m., these programs will start off from the Prairie Building. Each week we'll explore one or more of the animals that live at the Nature Center. Groups of six or more are asked to pre-register. Children's groups must be supervised: one adult/six children.

Fee: \$3/child

June 1: Songbirds	July 6: Bison, Elk and Deer
June 8: Bees	July 13: Owls
June 15: Snakes & Turtles	July 20: Hawks and Falcons
June 22: Insects & Spiders	July 27: Amphibians
June 29: Bald Eagle or Wild Turkey?	

PROGRAMS FOR SCOUTS

SCOUT HIKES

One hour naturalist-led hikes are available. Fee: \$3/scout/minimum 10. Call 441-7895

BADGEWORK

The Nature Center rotates scheduled badges. Upon request, staff will work with leaders for other badge programming.

NATURALIST ACTIVITY BADGE FOR WEBLOS

April 30, Saturday 9:30 a.m.-Noon
Prairie Building \$10/scout, register by April 27

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

WOW THAT'S WATER! FOR BROWNIE SCOUTS

May 7, Saturday 9:30 a.m.-Noon
Prairie Building \$10/scout, register by May 4

How much of our bodies is water? Is it really true that the water we drink may have been in a dinosaur? What critters can we find living in the water of a Nature Center pond or stream? What can we do to conserve water? Join other Brownie Scouts and investigate the wonderful world of water.

LINCOLN SAFARI ADVANCED

Have you joined the fun yet? Sign up at the Nature Center or any city library.

Here's a special event for you: Follow the clues and complete a Safari adventure as part of Wyuka's Safari in the Park, Sunday, May 15th. This celebration of the restoration of Lincoln's first park includes a ribbon cutting and parade around the lake at 1 p.m. and family friendly activities such as a safari to the Wyuka wetlands and hands-on activities led by nature experts. Ed Zimmer will lead a historic walking tour at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Reptiles Rock, Insect Investigations, Nature's Scavenger Hunt, Amazing Birds, Marvelous Mammals, Grow in the Garden. Have a wonderful birthday at Pioneers Park Nature Center! An hour nature program is followed by an hour for your birthday activities. We provide the space, the program, which will include a hike, and indoor animal time or special activity, a favor bag for each child, and a special gift for the guest of honor. You provide refreshments. Adult supervision required. Available facilities:

Birthday House, \$75 for 10 children and 3 adults
\$7/each additional child, maximum of 15 children
Auditorium, \$100 for 10 children and 5 adults
\$7/each additional child, maximum of 15 children;
\$3/each additional adult

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

WOMEN'S WELLNESS

April 9, Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon
Prairie Building \$25/person, register by April 4

A morning just for you! Learn the difference between yoga appropriate for morning or evening, practicing several basic poses. Discover the benefits of walking meditation. Explore complementary health practices that promote self care. Taste some easy and flavorful ways to incorporate healthful ingredients into your diet.

POETRY ON THE PRAIRIE

April 10, Sunday 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Prairie Building \$5 suggested donation

We had such a wonderful time in January, we're doing it again! Come and share nature poetry, your own, or some of your favorites by other authors. We'll be outside if the weather cooperates. *No registration necessary.*

MORNING WITH HERBS

July 16, Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Noon
Prairie Building \$10/person, register by July 12

Enjoy the tastes and smells of herbs and join us for two exciting workshops.

9:30: Herbs, Beeswax and Candles Janet Salvati

Learn how to hand-dip a beeswax taper. Then, using fresh herbs, decorate a small pillar candle to take home.

10:45: Cold Herbal Soups Becky Seth

Demonstrations, recipes and sampling of some refreshing summer treats. We'll also discuss horseradish, the herb of the year.

TRAILSIDE NEWS

NATURE CENTER PRESCHOOL

The Nature Center Preschool just finished a fun unit on beavers. We studied the model of a beaver lodge, and then built our own out of sticks and also an edible one out of pretzels. The children enjoyed examining a beaver pelt, skull, tail, feet and beaver chew. We dressed up a child as a beaver, talking about all the adaptations needed for their life in the water and sang the Beaver Jive song.

In Pre-K classes our procession of letters continues; R for reptiles led naturally to S for snake and T for turtle. We learned the characteristics of these animals and had a wonderful time with Nature Center shells, snake skins and, most of all, live animals.

THANK YOU

Thomas Lawrence: snow goose filets for our raptors
Andrew Niedbalski's family: preschool donation
Sava Hitz's family: preschool donation

THANK YOU

We deeply appreciate the following donations to our recently-launched fund-raising campaign. These contributions sponsor a program, provide scholarships, adopt an acre, or purchase a brick or stepping stone.

\$100-\$499

Anonymous
Scott Baird
Teresa Brown
James and Judith Cook
John and Gwynette Dietrich
Kit and Ty Ehlers
Tom and Katie Graf
Dan and Nancy Hinnah
ZB and Lois Mayo
David and Leslie Tien
Penny and Rick Urwiler
Joyce and Lyle Vannier
Patricia and Loi Vo

\$500 - \$1000

Anonymous
Pete and Christie Dionisopoulos
Nancy and Bob Furman
Terry and Barb Genrich
Jill and Dan Grasso
Marilyn McNabb
Kathy Putensen
Becky and Sharad Seth

\$20-\$99

Anonymous (2)
Maryann Brock
Ron and Karen Case
Gerald and Karen Dimon
Dorrie Gage
Christine and David Niemann
Ernest and Audrey Rousek
Rachel Sandhorst and Jon Jensen
Judy Thietje

BIOBLITZ

Mark your calendars for the first ever Pioneers Park Nature Center Prairie/Prairie Pond BioBlitz on August 12th and 13th! We will have fun while we survey the biodiversity of approximately 200 acres of tall grass prairie at the park. Volunteers will team up with scientists to identify plants and animals with the goal of taking a "snapshot" inventory and creating species lists for grasses, flowers, shrubs, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and other invertebrates that call our prairie home. We'll begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday August 12th and wrap things up by 3:00 p.m. the following day. A schedule of when various surveys will be held will be available. Participants can come for one or more surveys, and can bring camping gear for an overnight stay. An evening snack, breakfast and lunch will be provided for those who sign up. There are no expertise requirements; anyone who likes to wander several miles through the prairie with their eyes wide open is welcome. Call Sally at 402-441-3826 or email her at PPNCBioBlitz@gmail.com if you have questions or wish to volunteer.



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.



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Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 135

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