



# FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

APRIL-AUGUST, 2012

## SUMMER NATURE CAMPS

### WILDERNESS NATURE CAMP



Have fun outdoors  
Build forts  
Go creeking  
Make new friends

Monday-Friday  
at Wilderness Park  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
**extended hours  
available**

#### Ages 6-8

June 11-15 Let's Explore  
June 18-22 Critter Theater  
June 25-29 Creature Feature  
July 9-13 Super Heroes  
July 16-20 Puddles & Ponds  
July 23-27 How Does Your Garden Grow?

#### Ages 9-12

Hungry Hunters or Bike Camp  
That's Disgusting!  
Xtreme Action Camp (\$170)  
Survival of the Fittest  
Wet-N-Wild  
Plant, Reap & Eat  
or Junior Veterinarian

\$160/week, save \$10 if registered by May 1, scholarships available  
Extended hours, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., \$10 extra/week

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 \$65/child/session

Outdoor exploration, crafts, puppets, games, snacks

June 4-7: Green and Growing  
June 11-14: Goin' on a Nature Hunt  
June 18-21: Horns and Antlers  
June 25-28: Polliwogs, Nymphs & Worms  
July 9-12: Polliwogs, Nymphs & Worms



Five Days  
Five Places  
One Camp!

July 23-27, 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 21, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Celebrate spring!*

It's going to be an exciting day filled with lots of activities. Visit food, jewelry, plant, and craft booths. Purchase raffle tickets for two rain barrels painted by Albert Maxey. Participate in a novel silent auction that will include Nature Center experiences such as a campfire or birthday party, a hayrack ride, or a tea party in Heritage School as well as nature items such as elk antlers. Bid on 25 artistic bird houses during a live auction at 11:00 a.m. (After a month in area businesses, all the houses will be on display at the Nature Center starting April 7.) Enjoy entertainment by the String Beans at noon. Children can participate in creating a work of recycled art and make one to take home. It is a day of fun for all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center, all proceeds support scholarships to Nature Center programming.



### NATURE CENTER PRESCHOOL

The snowstorm provided the Pre-K classes with wonderful Rabbit tracks for R week! In addition to Snakes, State Symbols also begins with S. The children are studying Nebraska's symbols such as the meadowlark, white-tailed deer, cottonwood, and prairie agate as we celebrate Nebraska's 145th birthday.

The preschool children are in the middle of a unit on birds. They are exploring the things that make a bird a bird and the range of wingspans and wing beats. They are hiking the trails and visiting our bird garden to watch for birds, observing our study mounts up close and doing a bird color recognition activity.

There are still a few spaces left in the afternoon PreK and Preschool sessions for the 2012/13 school year. Call Sueann at 402-441-8669 for more information or to arrange a visit.

### 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](mailto:nfurman@lincoln.ne.gov)

**Website:** [parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter](http://parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter)

**Mailing Address:** 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

## PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

### LINCOLN EARTH DAY, SUNDAY APRIL 22

Join in the celebration!

7:30 a.m. check-in: Fun Run at Wilderness Park for children and adults

Noon – 5:00 p.m.: Festival at Antelope Park – Farmer's Market, activities, information sessions and more

5:30 p.m.: Native plant information session and seed planting at the Nature Center

7:00 p.m. – Celebration at the Rococo Theatre

Go to [lincolnearthday.org](http://lincolnearthday.org) to find details about happenings throughout the day and get involved in the fun!

### BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATIONS

Saturdays, April 28 and May 19

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. No registration necessary.

### BIRD IDENTIFICATION 101

Saturdays, April 28 and May 5

8-10 a.m.

Prairie Building \$20/2 sessions, register by April 25

Birding is the fastest growing form of outdoor recreation in the US and is popular all over the world. This class will provide participants with some basic identification tips and acquaint them with the tools available to enhance their birding experience. The class, led by Dave Titterington of the Wild Bird Habitat Stores, will conclude with a morning bird walk through the Nature Center to try out your skills and a bird banding demonstration on April 28.

### POETRY ON THE PRAIRIE

Sunday, April 29

2-3:30 p.m.

Prairie Building

\$5 suggested donation

Looking out over prairie and pond, take some time out to share poetry – your own or that of other poets you treasure, or just come to listen. If the weather cooperates, we will spend much of the time outdoors. No registration necessary.

### BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Saturdays, May 12 and June 9

10 a.m.

Composting Demonstration Area

Free

Learn how to compost in your backyard 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. The program is approximately one hour long. No registration necessary.

### MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST AND BIRD WALK

May 13, Sunday

8-10 a.m.

Chet Ager Building

\$10/person, register by May 9

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.

## HYDE MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY

In Holmes Park. Open to the public each Saturday, 8-11 p.m. Free. View the night sky through three telescopes, visit with knowledgeable volunteers and enjoy two video programs.

## PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE (CON)

### SCHOOL HOUSES AND LOG CABINS

May 19, Saturday

10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Bison chip throwing contest at 1:30 p.m. (schoolhouse)

Heritage School and Hudson Cabin

Donation

As part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Homestead Act, explore a one room school house and the oldest surviving log cabin in the Lincoln area. You'll have the chance to make a button buzz saw and a simple rag doll. To top off the day, try your hand at a bison chip throwing contest. While you're at the Nature Center, take a walk in the prairie, experience bird banding demonstrations from 9-12 and check out the bison and other exhibit animals.

### BECOMING AN OUTDOOR FAMILY:

#### BACKYARD CAMPING

June 16, Saturday

4:45-8 p.m.

Prairie Building

\$5/person, register by June 9

Fee includes supper & activity supplies

Presented in cooperation with Nebraska Game and Parks, this program will involve the entire family in setting up a campsite, fire building, outdoor cooking, games, and exploring nature at dusk. Call 402.441.7895 for a registration form.

### FROGGY WENT A-HUNTIN'

June 22, Friday

7-8:30 p.m.

Chet Ager Bldg \$8/person, \$15/family, register by June 20

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.

### ROCK AND MINERAL GRINDING PARTY

July 8, 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.

### BUTTERFLY COUNT

July 14, Saturday

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Prairie Building

\$5/person, register by July 12

Spend a morning with the butterflies! Take part in the 36th 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.

### FAMILY NATURE NIGHT

August 3, Friday

7-8:30 p.m.

Prairie Building

\$15/family, register by August 1

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.

## PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

### DISCOVERY DAYS

Naturalist-led programs are available for any group during the sunny summer months. Focusing on our natural environment or our gardens, these programs are from one to two hours long. On hot days, part of the program is held indoors with our exhibit animals. Times arranged, must be booked 2 weeks in advance. Fee: \$3/person, \$30 minimum, children's supervisors free.

### PLANT, REAP & EAT: A CHILD'S GARDEN CLUB

April 24, Tuesday 3-4:30 p.m.  
May 31, June 14 & 28, July 12, Aug. 2 9:30-11 a.m.  
Childrens Garden \$10/child

Be a part of the first year of the Nature Center's Children's Garden! Learn skills from an experienced gardener. Each meeting will include weeding, watering and at least one of the following: planting, harvesting or preparing a garden-fresh snack. Ages 6-10. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24th at 3:00 p.m. (LPS early out). Then the club will meet on periodic Thursdays from May 31 to August 2, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. There will be a \$10 fee to join. If you come to 4 of the 6 meetings you will receive a gift. Join by calling 402-441-7895.

### ANIMAL ANTICS: SUMMER DROP-IN PROGRAM

Offered on Wednesdays from June 6th -27th, July 11 & 18 and August 1, 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 6: Songbirds July 11: Owls, Hawks & Falcons  
June 13: Bison, Elk & Deer July 18: Amphibians  
June 20: Bald Eagle or Wild Turkey? August 1: Insects and Spiders  
June 27: Snakes and Turtles

### NATURE'S POETRY - UNEARTHED!

June 28, Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Prairie Building \$5, register by June 25

Here is an opportunity for youth ages 9 to 13 to explore nature (and nature poetry) with a writer's eye, collect impressions, and construct a poem. Participants will also have a chance to share their work and get constructive feedback. A snack will be provided.

## PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

### EATING WILD

April 7, Saturday 10 a.m. - Noon  
Prairie Building \$10/person, register by April 4

Get acquainted with several spring wild plants that are good to eat. After some introductory information we'll hike out on a gathering expedition and return for some tasty treats. Recipes included.

### YOGA AND YOUR WELLNESS

April 28, Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Noon  
Prairie Building \$25/person, register by April 25

Spring is a great time to relax and connect with nature. Enjoy yoga with Melanie and also learn about nutrition, organic foods and a change of diet. Take a meditative nature walk. Enjoy an herbal tea and snack as we finish up with questions and answers.

### AN HERBAL AFFAIR

August 4, Saturday 9:30-11 a.m.  
Prairie Building \$10/person, register by August 1

Ideas for refreshing entertaining. We will make infused syrups to create aromatic beverages and explore savory snacks, all using herbs. Recipes and tastes included.

## 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 SCOUTS

### SCOUT HIKES

One hour naturalist-led hikes are available. Fee: \$3/scout/minimum 10. Call 402-441-7895.

### BADGEWORK

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

### NATURALIST ACTIVITY BADGE FOR WEBELOS

May 5, Saturday 9:30 a.m.-Noon  
Prairie Building \$10/scout, register by May 2

Learn to identify the poisonous plants and animals of our area, search for the animals of our region, investigate food chains, bird flyways and the importance of wetlands! Nature Center staff will help you complete activities # 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

### JUNIOR NATURALIST SERIES

for Daisies, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts  
Saturdays, April 14, May 19, June 16, July 21 & Aug. 18  
9:00-11:30 a.m. Prairie Building \$15/scout

Inspired by the "It's Your Planet, Love It" journey, go on an amazing outdoor adventure designed to help you learn more about nature and appreciate the crucial role it plays on our planet. A six month series, sign up for one day to all six. Fee includes instructor, supplies, snacks and recognition. Come dressed for the weather, we'll be outside for at least part of the time! Register through the Girls Scouts at [girlscoutsnebraska.org](http://girlscoutsnebraska.org) at least two weeks before the program. Find registration information on page 9 of the 2011/12 Program Book. Registration deadline: two weeks before each program.

April 14: More Than Just Feathers  
May 19: Grow in the Garden  
June 16: Grub in the Mud  
July 21: Is Something Bugging You?  
August 18: Portrait of a Prairie

## THANK YOU

Lincoln Garden Club - \$5,000  
Doole Family Charitable Foundation - \$1,000  
Campbell McConnell - \$250  
Margaret Rickers, Judy Cook and Sue Samson  
\$50 each for camp scholarships  
Nebraska Herbal Society - \$25  
Chuck Francis, UNL Crop Research Lab -  
crop seeds for Children's Garden  
Midlands Packaging Corporation - exhibit materials  
Kathie Putensen - books  
Open Harvest - donated eagle food

## TRAILSIDE NEWS

### PASSING THE TORCH

Becky Seth will be retiring at the end of May. What can I say about a co-worker that has been extraordinary in every aspect of her job? Becky started as part time staff in 1994 using her skills in teaching, gardening and Great Plains flora. She became our full time Naturalist in 2000, taking charge and helping the Nature Center grow in exhibits, programs, gardens, and marketing. This was no easy task with the new addition to the Prairie Building, remodeling the Chet Ager Building, adding native plant gardens and the new children's garden. Becky has always been up to every task she took on. It's not only her hard work, but her roaring laughter we can hear down the hall and scrumptious baking that will be missed the most. We look forward to seeing her back at the Nature Center as a volunteer in the gardens once she settles into retirement.



Andrea Faas has joined our staff as Naturalist. The Nature Center needs a person who can juggle many tasks and we found that in Andrea. She comes with a background in programming, coordinating volunteers, teaching educational wildlife and natural history classes and conducting camps. She really enjoyed working at Nebraska Game and Parks but felt her programming skills fit more as a naturalist and educator. We are excited to have Andrea on staff and look forward to having her enthusiastic input.

Nancy Furman, Coordinator



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