



# FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

APRIL - AUGUST 2015

## 2ND ANNUAL WILD ADVENTURE DAY

Saturday, April 25 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Free!

Activities for all ages will be set-up throughout the Nature Center.

- Raptor Recovery show at 11 am
- Up close encounters with reptiles and raptors
- Learn about aquatic life and bird watch
- Explore the children's garden and outdoor classroom
- Hike out in the prairie, into the woods, and along wetlands
- Food vendors, music, and other entertainment
- Winner of the Nebraska Wildlife Federation Poster Contest announced at noon.



The Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center, Nebraska Wildlife Federation, and Nebraska Game and Parks invite everyone to enjoy a fun filled day of exploring, discovering, and outdoor fun.



Featuring the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra

Saturday, August 29, 2015, 3:00 - 8:00 pm

Learn more at [www.prairiejazzfestival.org](http://www.prairiejazzfestival.org).

The inaugural Prairie Jazz Festival at Pioneers Park Nature Center will take place on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

This event, hosted by the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center, offers guests the unique opportunity to enjoy professional jazz music in the open tallgrass prairie.

Annette Murrell with Jim Williams will open for the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra. The Nebraska Jazz Orchestra will be perform for 90 minutes. Performances begin at 5:30 pm.

There will be activities including wildflower walks, tours of the heritage school, educational displays, and special art offerings.

## PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

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

**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:** [naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov)

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

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

### FULL-TIME STAFF

**Coordinator:** Andrea Faas

**Naturalist:** Jamie Kelley

**Land Manager:** Aaron Druery

**Preschool Director:** Sueann Ahrens

## PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH



### GARDEN FRIENDS PARTY

Thursday, June 25 2:00-3:00 pm  
Prairie Building \$5/person

Gnomes, fairies, games, and snacks will be part of this afternoon garden tea party. Dress up if you like, we will be playing outside. *Register by June 22.*

## PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

### BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Saturdays, May 16 and June 20 10:00 am  
Composting Demonstration Area Free

Learn how to compost in your backyard, UNL Extension and the City Recycling Office will host a workshop at the Nature Center's backyard composting demonstration area. Two lucky participants will receive a free soil thermometer or plastic compost bin.

### MOTHER'S DAY BIRD WALK

Sunday, May 10 8:00 -10:00 am  
Prairie Building \$15/person

Spend the morning celebrating Mother's Day and enjoy an early morning bird walk and breakfast. Rolls, fruit, and beverages are included. Binoculars are available for those who need them. *Register by May 7*

### RECYCLING RAINWATER

Saturday, May 30 9:00 -11:00 am  
Sunday, May 31 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Prairie Building \$25/person

Want to have a more resilient landscape to enjoy around your home? There are two opportunities to attend this workshop that will focus on native landscaping, improving soils, and rain water harvesting, with an overall goal of helping you create a more sustainable landscape. *Register for either Saturday or Sunday's workshop by May 27.*

### WALK AMONG WILDFLOWERS

Sunday, June 7  
Prairie Building  
1:00 -2:00 pm  
\$3/person

This guided hike will take you through the prairie to observe the early June wildflowers. Along this guided hike you will learn about the unique and beautiful flora of Nebraska.

*Register by June 4*



### NATURE TREKKERS

Wednesdays in June and July 10:00-11:00 am  
Prairie Building \$3/person

Each week we'll trek to a new destination. We'll explore these areas and learn about different plants and animals here at the Nature Center. Children groups must be supervised: one adult for every six kids. *Register by the Monday before each program.*

June 10: Nature Play Area July 1: Harrington Prairie  
June 17: Hudson Cabin & School House July 8: Children's Garden  
June 24: Martin Pond July 15: Heron Wetlands  
July 22: Flemming Woods

### FROGS AND FLOATS

Sunday, June 21 1:00 -3:00 pm  
Prairie Building \$8/person, \$15/family

Celebrate Father's Day catching frogs, tadpoles, and other exotic looking critters that make their home in our ponds and streams. We'll use nets to dip in the pond and magnifiers to take a closer look at our findings. Refreshing root beer floats will be served after we let all of our critters go back in the pond. Old shoes and clothes are encouraged for this adventure. Insects repellent is also recommended.

*Register by June 18.*



### BUTTERFLY COUNT

Saturday, July 11 9:00 -12:30 am  
Prairie Building \$5/person

Take part in the annual butterfly count sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). We'll begin with an 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 approximately 2 hours and covering 2-3 miles. Children must be accompanied by an adult. *Register by July 8.*

### ROCK AND MINERAL GRINDING PARTY

Sunday, July 12 1:00 -4:00 am  
Prairie Building \$5 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. *No registration required.*

## SAVE THE DATE

### PRAIRIE RUN

Saturday, November 7 Start Time: 9 am  
1 mile and 5K

Experience the Nature Center's prairie in a whole new way. Run on trails through tall grass and support prairie restoration. Register at [getmeregistered.com](http://getmeregistered.com).

## DO YOU LOVE OUR NEWSLETTER BUT WANT TO SAVE PAPER?

Send an email to [naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov) to let us know you'd like the electronic version.

## PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

### COFFEE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE

Friday, May 15

At the School House

7:00-9:00 pm

\$15/person

Enjoy a casual evening on the prairie, watching the sunset, sipping beverages, and listening to acoustic music and poetry. Sponsored by Meadowlark Coffee and Espresso. This event will have unlimited coffee and tea. Advanced tickets recommended and are available at the Nature Center .

### HERBS: FROM THE GARDEN TO THE TABLE

Saturday, July 18

Prairie Building

9:00-11:00 am

\$12/person

Fresh herbs will be used to make an assortment of pestos and dipping sauces. Learn easy recipes, create, and sample some fun dishes that you can share with your friends and family. Register by July 14.

## SPECIALLY FOR SCOUTS

### NATURALIST ACTIVITY BADGE FOR WEBELOS

Saturday, May 2

Prairie Building

9:30 am-Noon

\$12/scout

Learn to identify plants and animals of our area, search for animals of our region, investigate food chains, bird flyways, and the importance of wetlands! Complete activities 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 with the help of Nature Center staff. Register by April 29.

### SCOUT HIKES

One hour naturalist-led hikes are available. Fee: \$4/scout/minimum 10. Arrange 2 weeks in advance.

### BADGEWORK

The Nature Center rotates scheduled badges and try-its. Upon request, staff will work with leaders for other badge programming with the following fee schedule:

2 hours or less: \$8/scout/minimum 10

2.5-3 hours: \$12/scout/minimum 10

## FRIENDS OF PPNC

The Friends of Pioneers Park have been busy, busy, busy. In addition to planning **Wild Adventures, coming up on April 25th**, they are also involved in the planning of the inaugural **Prairie Jazz Festival on August 29th**.

The Prairie Jazz Festival will promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and awareness of Lincoln's rare and precious professional jazz music in the splendid, open-air surroundings of Lincoln's equally rare and precious tallgrass prairie. More information about the Prairie Jazz Festival can be found at [www.prairiejazzfestival.org](http://www.prairiejazzfestival.org).



Join the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center and receive reduced ticket prices, 10% off in our gift shop and invitations to Friends only events.

## HYDE OBSERVATORY

### PUBLIC PROGRAMS EVERY SATURDAY

April - October, 8:00-11:00 pm

November - March, 7:00 -10:00 pm

Gaze at the night sky through three powerful telescopes, enjoy programs about astronomy or space exploration, and interact with knowledgeable volunteers. Programs change monthly. Visit [hydeobservatory.info](http://hydeobservatory.info) for more details.

Hyde Observatory is located on the south side of Holmes Lake in Homes Park. 3701 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE.

### BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Have your next party at the Nature Center.

Call 402-441-7985 for more information.



## DISCOVER THE WILD IN LINCOLN AT CAMP

### WILDERNESS NATURE CAMP FOR AGES 6-13, AT WILDERNESS PARK

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm \$170/week

Each week includes an off-site field trip.

Extended hours (7:30 am - 5:30 pm) are available.

Save \$10 if registered by May 1.

Need based scholarships are available for all camps.

For more information call the Nature Center or visit us online.

# Pioneers Park Nature Center

Lincoln Parks & Recreation  
2740 "A" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502

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more about what's  
happening at the  
Nature Center.  
[www.facebook.com/  
LNKParksRec](http://www.facebook.com/LNKParksRec)



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.



## NATURE CENTER PRESCHOOL



**NOW  
ENROLLING!**

*Space is limited.*

Our program is built on the conviction that children learn by doing: hiking, climbing, digging, building and being outdoors regardless of the weather. Children explore the Nature Center daily developing inquiry, motor, and social skills.

**Contact the Preschool Director at  
402-441-8669 for more information.**

## CAMP DISCOVERY FOR AGES 3-6, AT THE NATURE CENTER

Monday - Thursday  
9:00-11:30 am  
\$70/week

June 1-4	Green and Growing
June 8-11	Going on a Nature Hunt
June 15-18	Reptiles Rock
June 22-25	Reptiles Rock
June 29-July 2	Animals at the Nature Center
July 6-10	Fun in the Mud

## DONATIONS

### For Preschool

Family of Amorita Payne  
Family of Britton Peterson  
Family of Carter Krull

### For Herb Garden

The Dole Family Charitable  
Foundation  
Nebraska Herbal Society

*Thank you for your support.*