



FROM THE TRAILS

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

9 AM - 1 MILE | 9:30 AM - 5K

12 AND UNDER - \$12

13 AND UP - \$25

Help support the Nature Center and the work we do to care for the prairie.

This walk/run will take you along mowed prairie trails, up and over rolling hills, along groundwater fed ponds, and through the tallgrass prairie. The 1 mile option is a moderate route on mowed trails with some hills. The 5K option is a challenging hilly course along uneven terrain. All participants will be entered into a prize drawing and receive a participation gift. This event is not officially timed. Check-in Saturday, 8:30 am at the Heritage School House.

Getmeregistered.com (key word: Prairie Run)

FALL WAGON RIDES

Jump on our wagon (similar to a hayrack ride, minus the itchy hay) for a ride around the Nature Center. The Nature Center wagon rides are a great way to experience the fall prairie. Rides are 30 minutes. Space is limited. Tickets for rides should be purchased in advance to guarantee space for you and your family/friends. Choose your departure time when you purchase the tickets. Arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled time to get to the loading zone before departure. Remaining tickets are first come first serve.

SEPT 22	SUN	1-4 PM
SEPT 29	SUN	1-4 PM
PRAIRIE BLDG		\$4/PERSON

PRIVATE RIDES FOR GROUPS

Plan a unique event for your family, friends, co-workers, or group. Private rides available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings September 27-October 27. All private rides include a campfire and hot cocoa (or lemonade).

Up to 24	\$180
25-48	\$300
49-72	\$380



BECOME A FRIEND

Memberships start at \$25/year. Join at LNKnaturecenter.org.

Benefits to becoming a Friend include special access to Friends programming, 10% off all Nature Center gift shop items, Free or reduced admission to other centers nationwide, and the satisfaction of supporting a valuable community resource.

**ANNUAL MEETING
JAN. 25 | 9 AM**

Join the Friends for their annual meeting and gathering, Saturday, January 25, 9-11 am. Learn about membership, upcoming Friends events, and more.



GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN MULTI-DAY TRIP

SWITZER RANCH NEAR CALAMUS RESERVOIR & BURWELL, NE

NOON, FRIDAY - NOON, SUNDAY, APRIL 17-19

\$550/PERSON (DOUBLE)

Single room options may be available for additional \$100.

Meet on the south side of Auld Pavilion, 1650 Memorial Drive (02)

Experience the booming and dancing of the greater prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse during lek tours in the Sandhills on the Switzer Ranch through Calamus Outfitters.

This multi-day excursion includes transportation, two nights of lodging, dinner Friday thru breakfast on Sunday, early morning guided lek tours on Saturday and Sunday mornings, eco-tour of the Sandhills and birding and wildlife viewing at the Calamus reservoir.

Known for their mating dance, the greater prairie chickens display together in a gathering called a lek. The male prairie chickens raise their ear tuft feathers, inflate the bright orange air sacks on their neck, and stomp about in order to attract the females. Similarly the sharp-tailed grouse will display or dance to attract female grouse to their dancing grounds as well. Greater prairie chickens are a vulnerable species. Prairie habitat fragmentation and loss have been a factor in the reduction of numbers. Today, the populations of greater prairie chicken are isolated to the mixed grass prairies of the central United States. Preservation and restoration of prairie habitat have been successful at stabilizing population numbers.



\$250 deposit is due by December 31, 2019 and includes non-refundable \$50 fee. The remaining balance is due by March 1, 2020. The deposit minus the registration fee is refundable until December 31, 2019. The paid balance minus the deposit is refundable until March 1, 2020.

NATURE PRESCHOOL

Pioneers Park Nature Center offers preschool and prek programs for ages 3-5. The program, established in 2000, engages children in the outdoors while learning shapes, colors, numbers, and letters. The philosophy of the nature-based program is that children learn best by doing: exploring, hiking, digging, building, and being in the nature.

Registration for 2020/21 sessions opens Feb. 1, 2020.

PRESCHOOL	AGES 3-4	TUES/THUR
AM SESSION	9-11:30 AM	\$103/MO
PM SESSION	12:30-2:30 PM	\$86/MO
PREK	AGES 4-5	MON/WED/FRI
AM SESSION	9-11:30 AM	\$150/MO
PM SESSION	12:30-2:30 PM	\$120/MO



LEARN ABOUT OUR PRESCHOOL - PARENT MEETING

JAN 21 10-10:45 AM PRAIRIE BLDG. **Inclement weather date: Jan 28*

Join us to learn more about the Nature Center Preschool program. Does your child love being outdoors, is fascinated with sticks, and has tons of curiosity? Check out our preschool for ages 3-4 and pre-kindergarten program for ages 4-5. Please, adults only at the information meeting. For more information please contact the Preschool Director at 402-441-8669.



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

SATURDAY WITH OUR NATURALIST

Hit the trails with a Naturalist to explore and learn about plants, animals, insects, and more. Open to all. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Register by the Wednesday before each hike.

SEPT 21	SAT	2-3:30 PM
OCT 19	SAT	2-3:30 PM
NOV 16	SAT	2-3:30 PM
PRAIRIE BLDG		\$5/PERSON



COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Learn how to be successful with composting by attending a free demonstration workshop sponsored by Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln Recycling Office. Demonstrations are presented by Extension Master Gardeners and include three types of composting bins and how to use them. This workshop takes place at the composting demonstration area just across the road from the Prairie Building.

SEPT 21	SAT	10-11 AM
OCT 12	SAT	10-11 AM
COMPOST DEMO AREA		FREE

NIGHT HIKE

Experience a fall evening at the Nature Center after dark. We'll begin the hike after sunset to enjoy the sights and sounds of the nocturnal world around us. If it is a clear evening we'll hike to a spot to enjoy the moonrise. Register by Oct. 2.

OCT 4	FRI	7:30-9 PM
PRAIRIE BLDG		\$5/PERSON

GIRL SCOUTS - ECO LEARNER

Get outside and learn how you can help protect nature at Pioneers Park Nature Center. Daisy Girl Scouts can earn their Eco Learner badge by working together to prepare for a group hike and exploring the outdoors. While out on the trails we'll spend some time exploring what animals and plants live in the wetlands, woodlands, and prairies at the Nature Center. We'll talk about what belongs in the wild and what does not and how we can leave the area better than we found it. Fees include materials for all activities, snack, and Eco Learner Badge. All participants should bring their own reusable water bottle. Please register at girlscoutsnebraska.org

OCT 12	SAT	10 AM-NOON
PRAIRIE BLDG		\$15/GIRL SCOUT \$2/ADULT



FALL FUN DAYS

No School! Let's have fun at camp. This day camp for students (K-5th grade) will include a wagon ride, outdoor exploring, a camp fire, hiking, marshmallow roasting, and much more. Come prepared to be outdoors. Participants should bring their own water bottle and lunch. Lincoln Public Schools are not in session. Register by October 9.

OCT 17	THUR	8:30 AM-5 PM
OCT 18	FRI	8:30 AM-5 PM
*Extended hours available: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm.		
PRAIRIE BLDG		\$40/DAY



FALL HARVEST: SEED COLLECTION

Volunteer to help Pioneers Park Nature Center collect seed for prairie restoration. Each year seeds are collected from the grasses and forbs in the prairie. These seeds are distributed in areas with less diversity to enhance the prairie ecosystem. No prior experience necessary. Dress for the weather, wear suitable shoes for walking off trail in the prairie, and bring your own work gloves if you have them. Register to volunteer by Wednesday, October 16.

OCT 19	SAT	9-11 AM
PRAIRIE BLDG		

WINTER SOLSTICE HIKE

Enjoy the crisp early winter weather and wildlife at the Nature Center during a guided hike. Open to all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Register by December 18.

DEC 20	FRI	4:30-5:30 PM
PRAIRIE BLDG		\$4/PERSON

GET REGISTERED

402-441-7895
PARKS.LINCOLN.NE.GOV

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Celebrate your birthday at the Nature Center. Included in your party is a guided hike or other nature activity depending on the theme, a special gift for the guest of honor, party bags for each child, and time for you to have your own activities. *Birthday party programming is recommended for ages 5-12.*

Choose from one of the following themes:

- Amazing Birds
- Reptiles Rock
- Nature's Scavenger Hunt
- Insect Investigation
(Offered late summer to fall)
- Grow in the Garden
(Offered spring to mid-summer)

Available Times:

SAT 10 AM-NOON	SAT 1:30-3:30 PM
SUN 1:30-3:30 PM	

\$125 for up to 10 children, \$8.50 each additional child.

Call the Nature Center at least two weeks in advance to schedule your party.

AUDITORIUM RENTAL

HAVE YOUR NEXT EVENT AT THE NATURE CENTER

Auditorium space is available for meetings and gatherings.

The space provides auditorium-style seating for 80 or seating at tables for 60. Rental includes: tables, chairs, AV equipment, and access to the kitchenette.

\$58.00/HR (3 HR. MIN)	\$375/DAY
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SCOUTS

GUIDED HIKES FOR SCOUTS

Schedule a guided hike for your scout group at the Nature Center. Hikes can be adapted for specific scout level and requirements. Hikes must be arranged at least two weeks in advance. 1 or 2 hour programs are available.

\$4.25/SCOUT/HOUR, 10 SCOUT MINIMUM



HYDE OBSERVATORY

YOUR WINDOW ON THE UNIVERSE.

Free astronomy programs every Saturday night!

Enjoy programs about astronomy and space exploration, learn from knowledgeable volunteers, and take a peek into the universe through telescopes. Programs change monthly. *The Hyde Observatory is located on the south side of Holmes Lake on South Shore Rd.*

SEPTEMBER	8-11 PM
OCTOBER - MARCH	7-10 PM
APRIL - AUGUST	SUNDOWN - 11 PM



NATURE CAMPS

Pioneers Park Nature Center offers nature-themed summer camps for ages 3-17. A new education building and home for summer camps (for ages 6-17) is now under construction. Plans are on track to have the new building open for camp next summer. Stay tuned for more info about our new building. Registration for 2020 camps begins in January.

The mission of 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.



402.441.7895

naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov

parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter

3201 S. Coddington (west end of Pioneers Park) Lincoln, NE 68522

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday: Noon - 5:00 pm

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



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