

# FROM THE TRAILS

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

## NATURE PRESCHOOL

Pioneers Park Nature Center offers Preschool and Pre-k 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 nature.

**Registration for 2020/21 sessions opens Feb. 3, 2020.**

<b>PRESCHOOL</b>	AGES 3-4	TUES/THUR
AM SESSION	9-11:30 AM	\$103/MO
<b>PREK</b>	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.



## WILD ADVENTURES

SATURDAY, APRIL 4  
1-4 PM | FREE

Mark your calendars for a wild good time during our annual spring festival, Wild Adventures.

This event provides a family friendly environment to learn about nature up-close. Games, crafts, special presentation, live animals, educational booths, and more will be included.

This year we will also be highlighting activities gearing up for the **2020 City Nature Challenge, April 24-27**, where cities around the world will be competing to see who can make the most observations of nature, find the most species, and engage the most people.

## CITY NATURE CHALLENGE



APRIL 24-27

The Pioneers Park Nature Center in partnership with Nebraska Game and Parks invite you to join us in the 2020 City Nature Challenge. Cities around the world will be competing to see who can make the most observations of nature, find the most species, and engage the most people. Join us at Wild Adventures on April 4th to learn more about the City Nature Challenge and how you can become involved.



## SPRING CAMP

Spend the week with us at the Nature Center during Lincoln Public School's spring break. Learn about ecology, wildlife, and more during this fun filled week of day camp. We'll be outdoors every day hiking, exploring, playing games, making crafts, and so much more. Dress for the weather and bring a sack lunch. Register by March 2.

MAR 9-13 8:30 AM - 5 PM

\*Extended hours available: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm.

PRAIRIE BLDG \$190/CAMPER

# 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

# BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Included in your party is a guided hike or other nature activity, 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.*

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.

# 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

# ANNUAL MEETING JAN. 25 9 AM



## BECOME A FRIEND

Memberships start at \$25/year. Join at [LNKnaturecenter.org](http://LNKnaturecenter.org).

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

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.



## SAVE THE DATE

## BBB FOR PPNC

## SAT. JUNE 27

## BIKES, BITES, AND BISON!

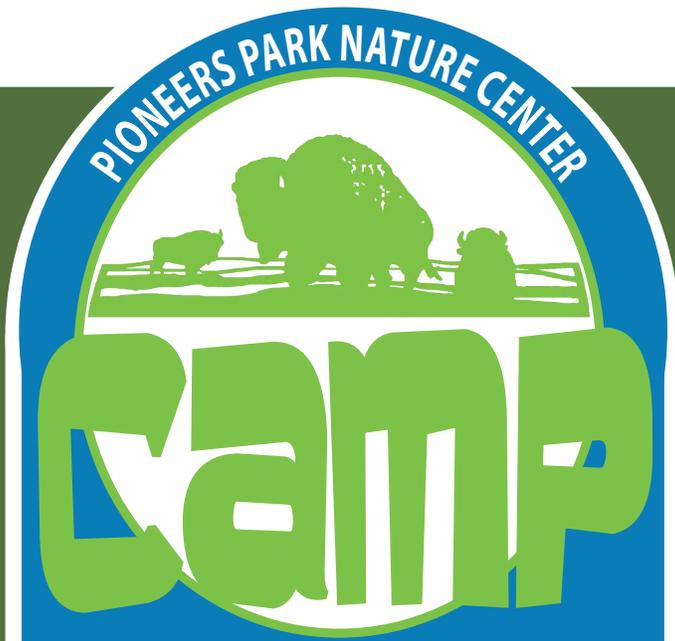


Choose the distance you want to ride, make a few stops to enjoy nature, trails, and local food and brews. This is a fundraising event hosted by the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center.

More information and tickets will be available at [LNKnaturecenter.org](http://LNKnaturecenter.org).

CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS JAN 21.

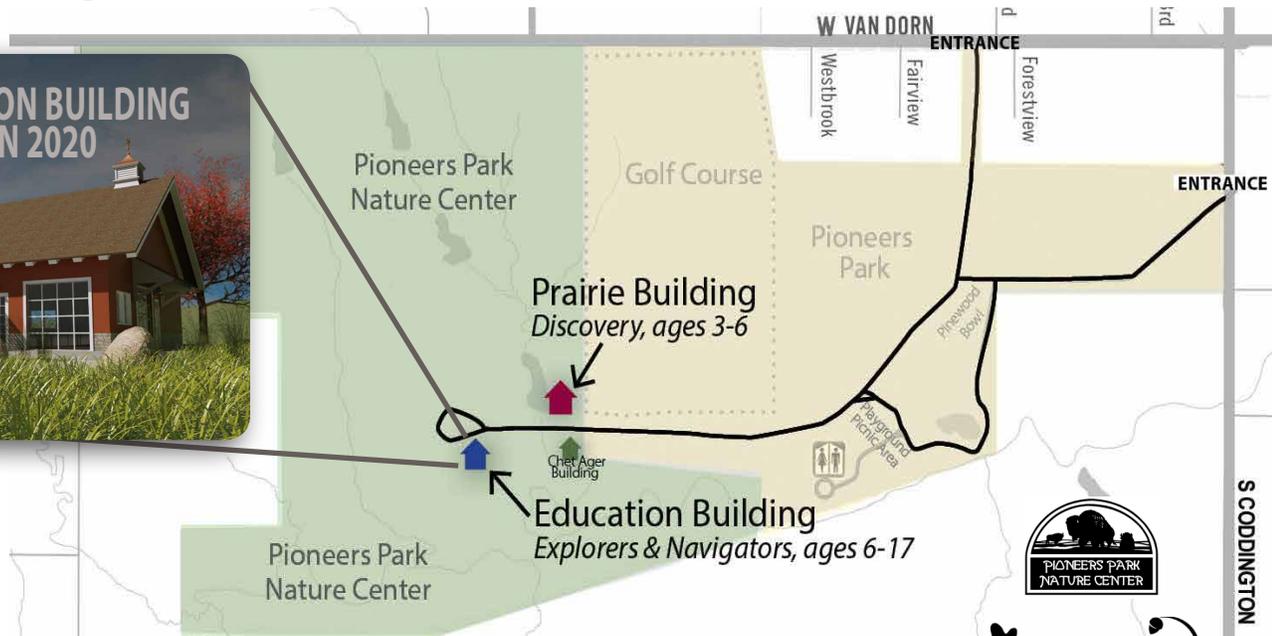
# COME OUT & PLAY!



**Pioneers Park Nature Center offers summer day camps for ages 3-17.**



*Nature Camp is...  
Summer days spent outside  
learning, playing, and exploring.*



## Pioneers Park Nature Center offers summer day camps for ages 3-17.

Our day camp programs are designed to inspire curiosity and build understanding of others and of their surroundings through guidance of caring staff, featuring the outdoors, and natural wonder.

### DISCOVERY (3-6 YEAR OLDS)

MON-THUR 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
PRAIRIE BLDG \$90/CAMPER  
PER SESSION

*\$25 non-refundable deposit/camp due with registration.*

*Deposit is applied to total camp cost.*

Come prepared to be outdoors, get dirty, and have fun. A camp t-shirt is included with registration. Campers meet in the Prairie Building Preschool Classrooms.

### June 1-4 Outdoor Classroom

Dig in the sand like a badger, jump from place to place like a frog, and crawl in the hollow log like an ant. The outdoor classroom provides the ideal setting for learning, play, and exploration.

### June 8-11 Beaks, Feathers, and Wings

Learn all about birds, from where they live to what they eat. Our hikes will take us to see the Nature Center's resident owls, turkey vultures, and hawks.

### June 15-18 More to Explore

This week we'll go for hikes to explore hidden hollows, hidey holes, and see the animals in the Chet Ager Building.

### June 22-25 Sticks, Sticks, and More Sticks

Count, stack, pile, and build. Sticks are so much fun. This week at camp we'll play, learn, and create with sticks.

### July 6-9 Ponds, Puddles, and Polliwogs

Our hikes will take us to ponds and wetlands to learn about what animals and plants may live there.

### July 13-16 Outdoor Classroom

Dig in the sand like a badger, jump from place to place like a frog, and crawl in the hollow log like an ant. The outdoor classroom provides the ideal setting for learning, play, and exploration.

### EXPLORERS (6-13 YEAR OLDS)

MON-FRI 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Extended hours: 7:30 am-5:30 pm  
EDUCATION BLDG \$190/CAMPER  
PER SESSION

*\$25 non-refundable deposit/camp due with registration. Deposit is applied to total camp cost.*

Each week includes educational activities and time to explore the creek, woods, ponds, and prairie. We'll hike, build forts, play camp games, and more. A camp t-shirt is included with registration. Snacks and water are provided. Campers bring lunch, water bottle, bug spray, sunscreen, extra clothes, and old shoes.

### June 8-12 Things with Wings

It's a bird, it's a plane... it's a thing with wings! We'll explore a variety of creatures that fly, soar, and glide through the air. *Special guest presenters and on-site experiences will be included in this week's camp.*

### June 15-19 Wet, Wild, and Wacky

From predaceous diving beetles to muskrats: Our exploration of the ponds, creek, and mud pits are sure to lead us to wet, wild, and wacky discoveries. Don't forget your towel. *This week's camp includes an off-site field trip experience.*

### June 22-26 Earth Advocates (ages 6-13)

#### Earth Advocates + Biking\* (ages 9-13)

Do you want to make a difference? We'll learn about how we can do our part from saving energy to helping keep wild places wild. *Special guest presenters and on-site experiences will be included in this week's camp.*  
\*Earth Advocates + Biking participants will bike part of each day, Tuesday-Thursday.

### July 6-10 Neat-O Nature Art

Explore your creative side during this art filled week. We'll use the outdoors as our inspiration and create some unique masterpieces. *Special guest presenters and on-site experiences will be included in this week's camp.*

### July 13-17 Wilderness Explorers

Learn orienteering and survival skills, explore new terrain, and document your journey using writing, illustration, and photography or video. *This week's camp includes an off-site field trip experience.*

### EXPLORERS CONT.

#### July 20-24 Aquatic Adventures

Get ready to get wet and muddy. We'll explore ponds, creeks, and wetlands while learning about aquatic life. *This week camp includes an off-site field trip experience.*

#### July 27-31 Extraordinary Creatures

From migration to hibernation we'll explore how animals adapt and thrive under extreme conditions and along amazing journeys. This week we'll explore many natural wonders right in our own backyard. *Special guest presenters and on-site experiences will be included in this week's camp.*

### NAVIGATORS (14-17 YEAR OLDS)

JUNE 1-5 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Extended hours: 7:30 am-5:30 pm  
EDUCATION BLDG \$160/CAMPER

*\$25 non-refundable deposit due with registration. Deposit applied to total camp cost.*

During Leadership Camp youth will grow as leaders and role models, gain outdoor skills, increase their knowledge of natural science, make new friends, and have the opportunity to earn volunteer hours during the summer. An off-site field trip is also included in the week's activities.

Leadership Camp participants have the opportunity to volunteer as Junior Counselors (JCs) and assist camp staff with daily activities. To become a JC, participants must attend the current year of Leadership Camp, complete an application, and exhibit leadership and positive role modeling skills.

If asked to become a JC, volunteer weeks will be assigned based on preference and needs. Volunteer assignments will be finalized June 5. Applications, registration, waivers, and payment are due May 8.

For more info or to register for any of our camps: 402-441-7895 | naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov parks.lincoln.ne.gov (search: nature camps)



# PROGRAMS & EVENTS

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

## NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT WINTER WONDERLAND

Do you have cabin fever? This guided hike and scavenger hunt will get you out for fresh air and time to enjoy time in nature as well as time to explore the indoor animals and exhibits. After our hike we will enjoy hot cocoa and talk about what we found. Register by January 8.

JAN 11 SAT 1-3 PM  
PRAIRIE BLDG \$4/PERSON

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Join us and the Wild Bird Habitat Store for this annual bird walk and count event. This is a national program, started by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, and is great for birders of all levels. We'll meet at the Chet Ager Building, watch the feeders, and then head out for a hike, weather permitting. Register by February 12, if you plan to attend.

FEB 15 SAT 9-11AM  
CHET AGER BLDG  
SUGGESTED DONATION \$5

## DRAW A BISON

Join local artist Glenda Dietrich Moore to learn how to draw the great American bison. Techniques and skills to be taught include correct shapes and proportions, shading, fur, and facial features. This class is for adults and older youth who are accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Glenda Dietrich Moore, Lincoln, NE, [www.glendadietrich.com](http://www.glendadietrich.com), professional artist and art instructor. Materials to bring: 2-3 drawing pencils, one kneaded eraser, one 12" ruler, at least six pieces of or a pad of drawing paper, approximately 9 x 12", and a pencil sharpener (an electric pencil sharpener will be available). Color photographs of bison will be provided.

FEB 29 SAT 1:30-3:30 PM  
PRAIRIE BLDG \$15/PERSON

## NIGHT HIKE

Enjoy the Nature Center after dark. The night hike is scheduled to begin just as the sun is setting. The almost full moon will help light our way as we look and listen for wildlife and enjoy nature at night. Dress for the weather. Register by March 4.

MAR 6 FRI 6:30 - 8 PM  
PRAIRIE BLDG \$5/PERSON



## SPRING EQUINOX HIKE

Join us for a group hike in celebration of the changing seasons. We will look for signs of spring as we enjoy the Nature Center trails and landscape. This is a leisurely stroll, all ages welcome. Dress for the weather. Register by March 18.

MAR 21 SAT 3-4 PM  
PRAIRIE BLDG \$4/PERSON

## SPRING CLEANING VOLUNTEER DAY

Every spring the Nature Center invites our friends and visitors to help do some spring cleaning in our gardens and along trails. All are welcome, children may volunteer with an accompanying adult. All volunteers (or accompanying parent/guardian) must sign the Lincoln and Parks and Rec volunteer waiver form. Tasks will include physical labor, walking trails, using garden tools, and other outdoor tasks. No prior experience necessary. Please register by April 18 if you plan to attend.

APR 11 SAT 10 AM -NOON  
PRAIRIE BLDG

## GIRL SCOUTS - ECO FRIEND

Earn your Eco Friend badge (Brownies) and prepare for Earth Day (April 22) by spending time outdoor with friends and learning how you can help take care of the earth. We'll hike, make a campfire, learn about and explore different habitats, and meet some of the Nature Center resident animals including turtles, snakes, and birds of prey. Fee includes materials for all activities, snack, and Eco Friend badge. Register through [girlscoutsnebraska.org](http://girlscoutsnebraska.org).

APR 18 SAT 10 AM-NOON  
PRAIRIE BLDG \$15/GIRL  
SCOUT \$2/ADULT

## MOTHER'S DAY NATURE HIKE AND PICNIC

Enjoy nature with Mom. Included is a short hike to Flemming Woods, time for nature exploration, and a picnic snack. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions during registration. Register by May 6.

MAY 9 SAT 2-4 PM  
PRAIRIE BLDG \$20/FAMILY

## 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.

MAY 16 SAT 10-11 AM  
JUNE 6 SAT 10-11 AM  
COMPOST DEMO AREA FREE

**GET REGISTERED**

402-441-7895

[PARKS.LINCOLN.NE.GOV](http://PARKS.LINCOLN.NE.GOV)

# SANDHILL CRANE TRIP

Join the Nature Center for Sandhill crane viewing during spring migration. One of the world's greatest migrations converges right here in Nebraska. Witness these spectacular birds as they forage and dance in the fields, fly above us, and gather on the Platte River. Stops on this day trip will include the Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center and the Ian Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary. Each evening, groups will hear a short presentation on cranes and the importance of the Platte River habitat before heading to the viewing blinds. From the viewing blinds we will be able to watch the sunset, listen to thousands of cranes, and observe them as they gather on the river for the night. Included in this remarkable experience is transportation, late afternoon/evening meal, and cost of the blind. The \$40 blind reservation fee is nonrefundable if the trip is canceled. Participants must have the ability to walk uneven trails in low light. Space is limited. Public registration is open January 2 - February 28.

**MARCH 27 FRI NOON-11:30 PM**  
**\$100/PERSON**

*Meet at Auld Pavilion,  
1650 Memorial Drive*

Trip includes an evening blind experience at the Crane Trust near Alda, Nebraska.

**MARCH 28 SAT NOON-11:30 PM**  
**\$100/PERSON**

*Meet at Auld Pavilion,  
1650 Memorial Drive*

Trip includes an evening blind experience at Rowe Sanctuary, near Gibbon, Nebraska.



## 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.*

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. Limited space is available please contact the Nature Center for additional details.



## 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

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

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



**FOLLOW US: @LNKNATURECENTER**

**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