



# FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2015

## NATURE EXPLORERS CAMP

**WHO:** Children 6-12 years old

**WHAT:** Day Camp

**WHERE:** Pioneers Park Nature Center

**WHEN:** March 9-13, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

**HOW MUCH:** \$170/Camper



Children, 6-12 years old, can spend their Spring Break exploring, playing games, building magic spots, and making friends. Fun and adventure is guaranteed during Nature Explorers Camp, a week long day camp, at the Nature Center. Campers will get outside every day to investigate the natural world. Extended hours are available. Please register by March 3.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL

Over **1,000** people learned about wildlife, explored trails, and enjoyed the Nature Center at the Wild Fall Festival in October. Thank you to this year's sponsors Wild Bird Habitat Store, Sandhills Publishing, Lincoln Industries and Nebraska Humanities Council.

Numerous private and public Hayrack Rides provided enjoyment for **625** individuals of all ages this fall.

**1,500** Lincoln Public School 4th graders were educated through the Prairie Immersion Curriculum. This year completed the 7th year of a 10 year grant from the Hugo Aspegren Trust.

From August-November over **4,500** students visited the Nature Center for guided hikes focusing on Nebraska State Science Curriculum standards.

## PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, January 20

10:00-11:00 am and 1:00-2:00 pm

*Inclement weather date: Tuesday, January 27*

Learn about the wonderful nature-based preschool and pre-K programs at Pioneers Park Nature Center by attending one of the open houses on Tuesday, January 20th. Registration for 2015-16 school year begins on February 1st.

Our Nature Preschool program is built on the conviction that children learn by doing: hiking, climbing, digging, building and being outdoors regardless of the weather. Contact the Preschool Director at 402-442-8669 for more information.

## 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

**Website:** parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter

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

## PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

### PLAYFUL PUPPETS: ANIMALS IN WINTER

Monday, December 29 10:00 -11:00 am  
Prairie Building \$3/person

Enjoy a puppet show and learn what the animals of the Nature Center are up to in the winter. Are they sleeping? Where do they find their food? There will also be fun interactive activities following the show. *Register by December 26.*

### MUSIC AND STORY TIME

Friday, January 2 10:00-11:00am  
Prairie Building \$3/person

Make some music, listen to stories, and dance your sillies out!  
*Register by December 30.*

### HAND IN HAND: SPRING SONG

Mondays, April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11 & 18 10:00-11:30 am  
Prairie Building/Goldenrod Classroom  
\$50/child/6 week session

Together you and your child will discover the wonder of spring through walks, games, crafts, and stories. Please dress for the weather, since we will be spending a portion of each class outside. A snack will be provided. Ages 2 ½-3 ½-year-olds and accompanying adult. *Register by April 3.*

## PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

### SANDHILL CRANE TRIP

Thursday, March 19 Noon-11:00 pm  
Wild Bird Habitat Store (56th & Hwy 2) \$75/person

Experience one of our planet's most spectacular wildlife migrations! Visit the Nebraska Nature and Visitor Center, travel rural roads to see the cranes foraging and dancing in the fields, then watch and listen to them return to the Platte River at sunset from a Rowe Sanctuary blind. The fee includes van transportation, dinner, and blind costs. (The \$25 blind reservation fee is nonrefundable if the trip is cancelled, or if a participant cancels and a replacement cannot be found.) Must have the ability to walk uneven trails in low light with a guide. *Registration and payment required by February 19.*

## SPECIALLY FOR SCOUTS

### SCOUT HIKES

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

### BADGEWORK

Upon request, staff will work with leaders for badge programming with the following fee schedule:

2 hours or less: \$8/scout/minimum 10  
2.5-3 hours: \$12/scout/minimum 10

### NATURALIST ACTIVITY BADGE FOR WEBELOS

Saturday, May 2 9:30 am-Noon  
Prairie Building \$12/scout

Learn to identify the poisonous plants and venomous 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.*

## PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

### CROSS COUNTRY SKI WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 10 2:00-4:00 pm  
Prairie Building \$17/person

Travel by skis to explore the winter wonders at the Nature Center. Outdoor Adventures from the University of Nebraska will host a cross country ski workshop. Ski rental is included in the registration fee. If weather is not suitable for skiing, there will be presentation on winter outdoor recreation followed by a hike. Afterward, warm-up inside with hot chocolate. Recommended for individuals 12 and up. *Register by January 8.*

### NIGHT HIKE

Friday, January 30 7:00-8:30 pm  
Prairie Building \$7/person

Explore at night by moonlight. Join us to look and listen for nocturnal wildlife around the Nature Center. Following the hike there will be hot chocolate and winter stories. *Register by January 27.*

### POP-UP CARD MAKING CLASS

Saturday, February 7 10:00 am-Noon  
Prairie Building \$10/person

Learn from local artist Sally Cox how to make extra-special cards for fun or for a special Valentine. Supplies will be provided. Bring your creativity and when the class is done you will have something unique to share. Recommended for ages 8 and up. *Register by February 4.*

### GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Saturday, February 14 9:00-11:00 am  
Prairie Building \$5 Suggested Donation

Bundle up for a 9:00 am winter bird walk. Then meet at the Chet Ager Building for refreshments as we count the visitors at our bird garden. The Wild Bird Habitat Stores will be on hand to discuss how you can attract birds to your backyard. Numbers from the count will be submitted to Cornell University Bird Lab for the 17th annual Great Backyard Bird Count. *Register by February 11.*

### GEOLOGY DAY

Sunday, March 8 1:00-4:00 pm  
Chet Ager Building \$5 Suggested Donation

Learn about fossils, minerals, rocks, and gemstones through displays and demonstrations by members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club. They can also help you identify your own specimens during this drop-in program.

### SPRING POETRY

Sunday, March 22 1:00-3:00 pm  
Prairie Building \$5 Suggested Donation

Celebrate the change of seasons with poetry. Share your own piece of writing, a piece you love, or just come to listen. All ages are welcome to participate. *Register by March 19.*

### HYDE OBSERVATORY

Hyde Memorial Observatory, located at Holmes Park, is open to the general public every Saturday. Hours are 7:00-10:00 p.m. The Observatory is free, suitable for all ages and handicapped accessible.

## BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Choose the theme that will make for an exciting birthday celebration. Reptiles Rock, Insect Investigations, Nature's Scavenger Hunt, Amazing Birds, Marvelous Mammals or Grow in the Garden.

A favor bag for each child and a special gift for the guest of honor is provided.

Facilities are available from  
10 am - noon on Saturdays and  
1:30-3:30 pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

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

## Thank you for supporting Pioneers Park Nature Center!

### Irene Alexander Memorials

Donations will go to the ongoing maintenance of the George & Irene Alexander Bird Garden.

George Alexander	Jeanie Imler
Byron & Marilyn Anderson	Brent & Pamela Jackman
Paul & Bonita Bennett	Melvin & Glema King
Jackie Boden	Randy & Carolyn Madison
Mark & Janice Brown	Todd, Candy, & Whitney Mason
Gregory & Shawn Carlson	Ellen Mayer
Ruth Chandler	Sharon & TJ McDonald
Mark Claude	Edith Meints
JR & Sally Connel	Charles & Karen Messenger
Sharon Dalton	Jeff & Michelle Monhollon
Barbara Dorn	Rosalind Morris
Myrna Drawing	Becky Moyer
Rick & Kathleen Dudley	David Paschon
Larry & Paula Einemann	John & Monica Reid
Barbara & Charles Francis	Myron & Viola Roker
Nancy Furman	Susan Samson
Tracy Gabriel	Roger & Julie Sand
Terry Genrich	Robert & Lenore Sandfort
Gary & Angela Gustafson	Jeffrey & Jill Schroder
Chuck & Veronica Haggart	Sharad & Rebecca Seth
Janet & C.W. Haws	Rudy & Betty Srb
David & Cynthia Hilsabeck	Joyce & Lyle Vannier
Roger & Janet Hirsch	Jan Wagner

### Melissa Akin Memorials

Lois Akin	Jason & Gretchen Lee
Britton & Barbara Bailey	George & Cindy Maly
Michael & Marsha Brito	David & Ann Myers
Larry & Amy Feerhusen	Mrs. Charles Oldfather
Judith Frederick	Mary Pack
Vicki & John Hallet	Mary Helen Peters
Dennis & Elizabeth Klawonn	Nancy Smith
Cay Lacy	

### Donations for Preschool

Family of Emilee Terry  
Family of Britton Peterson

### Catherine McDonald Memorial

New chairs for bird watching were purchased for the Chet Ager Building through the support from the Catherine McDonald Memorial.

### Leaving Your Legacy

Your legacy can live on through bequest giving. Please consider a gift to help sustain the Nature Center. Your gift of a personal trust can help care for the many acres of tallgrass prairie, woodlands, and wetlands within the Nature Center, support nature education programs, and help ensure the future of Pioneers Park Nature Center. For more information on ways to give contact Andrea Faas, Nature Center Coordinator, at 402-441-8709.

## FRIENDS OF PPNC

### FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 24

9:00-11:00 am

Prairie Building

Free

All are invited to the Friends Annual Meeting. Find out more about the Friends and enjoy refreshments and good conversation.

The Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center promote and support the development, programming, and operation of the Nature Center.

## DONATIONS

### Amphitheater Remodeled

New seating and a new campfire ring were made possible through an anonymous donation to the Nature Center.



*The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating.*

- Peter Ellyard

# Pioneers Park Nature Center

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

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



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.



## NEW NATURE CENTER COORDINATOR AND NATURALIST

### MEET THE NEW COORDINATOR AND NATURALIST

In September, Andrea Faas became the Nature Center Coordinator. Andrea's environmental education career spans over 15 years working for organizations including Fontenelle Nature Association, Foothill Horizons Outdoor School, Yosemite Institute, and Nebraska Game and Parks. Andrea joined the staff at Pioneers Park Nature Center in 2012 as the Naturalist. She loves the diverse habitats of the Nature Center and the opportunity to provide educational and recreational experiences for the Lincoln community. She and her husband enjoy taking their two young kids, Penelope and Simon, for bike rides and walks in Wilderness Park.



Following Andrea's transition to Nature Center Coordinator, Jamie Kelley started as the Naturalist in November. Jamie comes to the Nature Center with experience in environmental education, volunteer coordination, program development, as well as natural resources conservation and protection. Previously Jamie was a Program Manager at The Groundwater Foundation and most recently was the Community Education Director at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. Jamie is passionate about nature and is thrilled to be a part of the staff at the Nature Center. You might run into Jamie and her husband Bobby walking trails throughout Lincoln with their dog Franklin.



Stop in and say "Hi" to Andrea and Jamie!

### FULL-TIME STAFF

Coordinator: Andrea Faas, [AFaas@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:AFaas@lincoln.ne.gov)  
Naturalist: Jamie Kelley, [JKelley@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:JKelley@lincoln.ne.gov)

Land Manager: Aaron Druery, [ADruery@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:ADruery@lincoln.ne.gov)  
Preschool Director: Sueann Ahrens, [SKAhrens@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SKAhrens@lincoln.ne.gov)