FROM THE TRAILS
OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2016

WILD FALL FESTIVAL

Friday, Oct. 7
Prairie Building
5 - 8 pm
FREE

Fun for all ages, including games, activities, hayrack rides, and more at the Nature Center’s Wild Fall Festival.

Hayrack rides will be available for $3/person.
Food will also be available for purchase. Bring the family and meet up with friends for this annual fall event.

FALL EVENTS

HAYRACK RIDES

The Nature Center offers group hayrack rides, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, through the fall. This is a great program for families, a church or youth group, a fun corporate event, or other large group gatherings. Contact the Nature Center to reserve a date this fall or for more information.

Group Rates:
Up to 30  $215
31-60  $350
Please call to make special arrangements for groups over 60.

FALL WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP CLUB

Tuesdays, Sept. 20 - Nov.1               6 - 8 pm
Prairie Building                    Grades 7-9

Learn by doing. Build wilderness and leadership skills during 7 sessions of outdoor, natural history, and leadership training. Sessions will include fire starting, shelter building, outdoor cooking, making your own camp gear, star navigation, and more! This program will be led by Sam Larson, runner up on season 1 of the History Channel’s survival series, Alone.

This program requires a participant application. Please contact the Nature Center for details.

FALL FUN DAY

Friday, Oct. 14                                 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Prairie Building                  $35/person
Grades K-5

Children in elementary school (K-5th grade) can spend a day with friends at the Nature Center. Games, crafts, hayrack rides, s’mores, hiking, and more will fill your day out of school. All children must come prepared to be outside for the majority of the day and bring a sack lunch.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LNKNatureCenter/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/LNKNatureCenter
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/lnknaturecenter/
NIGHT HIKE
Friday, Nov. 11  7-8:30 pm
Prairie Building  $8/person
Have you ever wondered what goes on at the Nature Center at night? Explore the trails, listen to the sounds, and gaze at the stars during the fall night hike. Register by Nov. 9.

HAWKWATCH TRIP
Saturday, Nov. 19  11 am -4:30 pm
Prairie Building  $45/person
Witness the fall migration of raptors as they soar along the “hawk highway” at Hitchcock Nature Center near Crescent, Iowa. Recognized as one of the top 25 hawkwatches in North America, thousands of eagles, hawks, and other raptors pass through the area as they migrate south. We will depart from the Pioneers Park Nature Center and travel by van to the Hitchcock Nature Center near Crescent, Iowa. Programs at the Hitchcock Nature Center will include live raptor demonstrations by Raptor Recovery, guided hike and refreshments. Please dress for the weather. The Hitchcock Nature Center will be accepting free-will donations at this event to help support their programming. Register by Nov. 9.

HOLIDAY GREENERY WORKSHOP
Saturday, Dec. 3  9-11 am
Prairie Building  $25/person
Bring a basket, vase, tin or select one from us and create a festive holiday centerpiece. Greenery, pine cones, ribbon, wire, and design ideas will be provided during the workshop. Each participant will create and take home a finished piece. Register by Nov. 30.

PROGRAMS CONT.

COMPOSTING DEMONSTRATIONS
Saturday, Sept. 24  10 am
Saturday, Oct 15  10 am
Backyard Composting Demo Area
Attend this free composting demonstration sponsored by the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln Recycling Office. You’ll see three types of composting bins and how to use them. At each composting program, two lucky participants will win either a composting thermometer or a composting bin.

INCLUDED WITH YOUR PARTY:
• A guided hike or other nature activity.
• A special gift for the guest of honor.
• Party bags for each child.
• Time for you to have your own activities and enjoy refreshments.

AVAILABLE TIMES
• Saturdays: 10 am - noon / 1:30 - 3:30 pm
• Sundays: 1:30 - 3:30 pm

PLANNING YOUR PARTY:
• Reserve a date and time, at least two weeks in advance, by contacting the Nature Center.
• Pick a theme.
• Invite guests.
• Bring cake or other refreshments.
• Have adult supervision for the hike and activity.
• No balloons or Styrofoam please.

THEMES
Reptiles Rock
Amazing Birds
Marvelous Mammals
Nature’s Scavenger Hunt
Grow in the Garden (spring-summer)
Insect Investigations (late summer-fall)

RESERVE YOUR PARTY
Email naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov or call 402.441.7895
Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance.
FREE PROGRAMS EVERY SATURDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>8-11 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>October-March (DST)</td>
<td>7-10 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March (DST) - August</td>
<td>Sundown - 11 pm</td>
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Enjoy programs about astronomy and space exploration, learn from knowledgeable volunteers, and take a peek into the universe through three different telescopes. Programs change monthly. Visit hydeobservatory.info for more details. Hyde Observatory is located on the south side of Holmes Lake in Holmes Park. 3701 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE.

HYDE OBSERVATORY

PRESCHOOL AND PRE-K

Registration begins February 1, 2017 for 2017/18 Preschool and Pre-K

“We believe that early childhood is a time for discovery, a time to enjoy the many miracles of the natural world.”

The Nature Preschool program at Pioneers Park Nature Center offers 3-5 year olds the opportunity to learn colors, letters, and numbers, make friends, climb, play and explore nature. The preschool staff has a strong commitment to both the environment and active learning.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 19, 2017

10-10:45 am

Inclement weather date: Thursday, January 26

(Open House is for adults only.)

Contact the Preschool Director at 402-441-8669 for more information about the nature-based preschool program.

PHOTO: Preschool

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Friends of PPNC

MYSTERY ON THE PRAIRIE

Friday, Sept. 23

6 - 8 pm

Prairie Building

Tickets available at LNKnaturecenter.org

Join the Friends of the Pioneers Park Nature Center for an 1890's murder mystery. Be prepared to think on your feet, decipher the clues and have a fantastic time with your friends. Come in 1890 western themed costume to be eligible for prizes. Meet in the “Old Saloon” for a chili dinner and drinks. For more information and tickets visit LNKnaturecenter.org. We will be walking on the trails between the Prairie Building, School House, and Chet Ager Building. Please dress for the weather.

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, Jan. 28

9 am

Prairie Building

FREE

Attend this annual gathering to learn more about the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center and upcoming fundraising events to support the Nature Center.

BECOME A FRIEND

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

Friends memberships start at just $25/year. Member benefits 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. Learn more at LNKnaturecenter.org.

PHOTO: Friends of the Pioneers Park Nature Center

LNKnaturecenter.org

“PPNC has been part of our family since my son and daughter went to day camps here. Then, they were Junior Counselors at Wilderness Nature Camps. It reminds me of the woods around my childhood home in Pennsylvania.”

~ Mary Ann, Friends of PPNC
The Nature Center is 668 acres of tallgrass, woodlands, and wetlands on the west end of Pioneers Park in Lincoln. Since 1963 the Nature Center has served the Lincoln area as an environmental education center and wildlife sanctuary. Eight miles of hiking trails wind through various habitats and take visitors past non-releasable raptor exhibits, as well as bison, elk, and white-tailed deer.

The Nature Center is a great place for people of any age to visit during all seasons. Come walk the trails through our prairie, meet our exhibit animals, and listen to birds in the bird garden. The Nature Center has two interpretive buildings with hands-on and small animal exhibits, a natural play area for children to dig, climb, and explore, and many gardens including a herb garden, children’s garden, and prairie garden.

SCOUTS

ONE HOUR GUIDED HIKES: $4.25/SCOUT
Minimum 10 scouts or $42.50

Schedule a guided hike for your scouts at the Nature Center. Explore trails, learn about plants and animals and discover wild things while at the Nature Center. Hikes can be adapted for specific scout level requirements. Hikes must be arranged at least two weeks in advance.

DONATIONS
Kane O’Toole - donated animal enclosure
Garden Club of Lincoln - donated plants for children’s garden

Donations for Preschool
Jeff and Kelly Niedbalski

ABOVE THE NATURE CENTER
The Nature Center is 668 acres of tallgrass, woodlands, and wetlands on the west end of Pioneers Park in Lincoln. Since 1963 the Nature Center has served the Lincoln area as an environmental education center and wildlife sanctuary. Eight miles of hiking trails wind through various habitats and take visitors past non-releasable raptor exhibits, as well as bison, elk, and white-tailed deer.

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