

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER



CAMP



NATURE BASED DAY CAMPS FOR AGES 3-17.





NATURE CAMP PROGRAM GUIDE

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The information contained within this guide explains the requirements, policies, and procedures of the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department. If you have questions about these policies, procedures, schedules, or anything related to our programs, please do not hesitate to contact us.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pioneers Park Nature Center
 3201 S. Coddington Ave.
 Lincoln, NE 68522

402-441-7895 | naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER



ABOUT THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

The Pioneers Park Nature Center's mission 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.

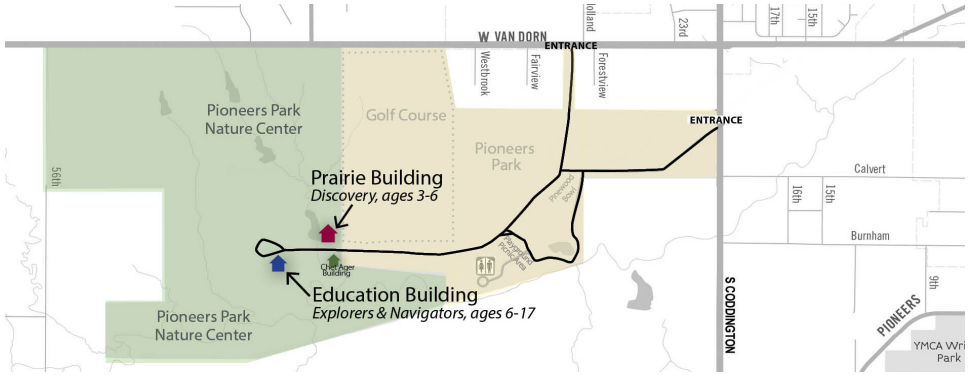
The Pioneers Park Nature Center (PPNC) is owned and operated by the City of Lincoln's Parks and Recreation Department. The Nature Center, originally 40 acres and called the Chet Ager Bird and Wildlife Nature Study Sanctuary, was dedicated on May 21, 1963. Presently, PPNC includes 668 acres of woodland, wetland, and prairie habitats, over eight miles of hiking trails, two interpretive centers with indoor exhibits and live animals. Outdoor areas include a natural play area, gardens and viewing of a small herd of bison and non-releaseable raptors.

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. Pioneers Park Nature Center offers summer day camp programming for ages 3-17, as well as day camps for elementary age children during fall, winter, and spring breaks.

For more information visit, parks.lincoln.ne.gov,
search: 'Pioneers Park Nature Center.'

LOCATION

The Pioneers Park Nature Center is located on the west end of Pioneers Park.



PRAIRIE BUILDING



Discovery Camp, preschool classrooms, auditorium, offices, and exhibits.

EDUCATION BUILDING

Explorers Camp, Navigators Camp, school field trips, scout and other programs.



A half-day camp for young children to learn about the world around them. Activities are planned around nature-based weekly themes.

PROGRAM DATES

Monday-Friday, June and July

LOCATION

Prairie Building classrooms at Pioneers Park Nature Center

CAMP HOURS

Camp begins at 9:00 am and ends at 11:30 am.

- Please be sure campers are dropped off at 9:00 am so that camp activities may begin on time.
- Please be sure to pick-up campers at 11:30 am.
Late pick-up fees: \$5.00 will be assessed for every 5 minutes the child remains at the program after 11:30 am.

PICK-UP AND IDENTIFICATION

Children will only be released to the parent(s)/guardian(s) listed on the program registration form. Written and signed permission from a parent/guardian will be required for the child to be released to any other adult. IDs will be checked when staff does not recognize the person picking up a child.

SNACKS

The Nature Center provides daily snack. Please alert the staff of any food allergies or restrictions.

For your child's health and safety we will:

- Serve foods that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- Prohibit outside candy/treats.

WHAT TO DO AND BRING:

- Please apply bug spray and sunscreen prior to camp. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a "broad-spectrum" sunscreen with a SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 15.
- Wear closed-toe shoes (REQUIRED). No sandals, flip flops, Crocs, etc.
- Hat or cap with front facing brim is recommended (optional).
- Wear play clothes that can get dirty during outdoor play and exploration activities.

Day camp programs for youth who like the outdoors. Camp activities include hands-on nature activities, games, crafts, and time to explore the creek, hike, and build forts. Other activities may include: fishing, archery, yoga, outdoor cooking and a variety of guest presenters and/or off site field trips. The majority of each day (weather permitting) is spent outdoors.

EXPLORERS SUMMER PROGRAM DATES (AGES 6-13)

Monday-Friday, 7-8 weeks starting after Memorial Day. Camp dates vary. Camp is not is session the week of the 4th of July.

EXPLORERS - KIDS DAY OFF (ELEMENTARY STUDENTS)

Day camp programs are also held during fall, winter, spring, and other breaks during the school year.

NAVIGATORS SUMMER CAMP (AGES 14-17)

A camp for youth to be immersed in the outdoors, build leadership skills, and appreciation and awareness of environmental issues. This program is held during the summer. Other involvement opportunities for program participant may be available.

LOCATION

Education Building at Pioneers Park Nature Center.

CAMP HOURS

Camp begins at 8:30 am and ends at 5:00 pm.

- Please be sure campers are checked in by 8:45 am so that camp activities can begin on time.
- For further details about the week activities and agenda, please refer to the schedule provided in the email newsletter.
- Extended care hours are available from 8:00-8:30 am and 5:00-5:30 pm with no extra charge. A donation can be made to the "Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center" in support of the Nature Center and our programs.
- Please be sure to pick-up campers by 5:30 pm, no later, no exceptions. Late pick-up fees: \$5.00 for every 5 minutes the child remains at the program after 5:30 pm will be assessed.

PLEASE NOTE: Pinewood Bowl and other park events may impact access to the park during camp hours. Specific instructions regarding which entrance to use during drop-off and/or pick-up will be communicated to parents/guardians when these events occur.

DROP-OFF/PICK-UP AND IDENTIFICATION

- Campers **MUST** be signed in by an adult every morning, and signed out every evening.
- Children will only be released to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or other approved adult listed on the program registration form. IDs will be checked when staff does not recognize the person picking up a child.
- It is your responsibility to make the Camp Director aware if someone other than those listed on the Participant Info and Waiver form will be picking up your child.
- Early drop-off begins at 8:00 am. All participants **MUST** be picked up by 5:30 pm.
- Due to the nature of our camp, we will likely be out-and-about throughout the day. The Camp Director must be notified if a participant will be:
 - Dropped off late..... after 9:00 am
 - Picked-up early..... before 4:30 pm

MEALS AND SNACKS

Lunch: Please help your child be prepared to meet the physical demands of long, active, and fun days at camp by providing a balanced lunch.

- Campers should bring lunch in insulated containers with self-contained cold packs; refrigeration is not available.
- In some cases, there may be participants with certain food allergies. If there are any foods that cannot be brought on to the site, parents will be notified ahead of time.
- Lunches are dropped off at the beginning of the day. Your child does not need to carry their lunch with them.
- Clearly mark their lunch box/sack with their name.

Snacks:

- Snacks will be provided daily for campers.
- Outside candy/treats are not allowed.

WHAT TO DO AND BRING:

Please be sure all personal gear is clearly labeled with camper's name. All items brought to camp can be stored in a backpack, cinch sack, or similar style bag.

- Wear weather appropriate attire.
- Closed-toe shoes (REQUIRED). No sandals, flip flops, Crocs, etc.
- Bring an extra change of clean clothes and closed-toe shoes. Bring these items in a plastic bag labeled with camper's name. The plastic bag will be used to store the dirty clothes after changing.
- Hat or cap with front facing brim, recommended.
- Sack lunch. See Meals and Snack sections for details.

- Reusable water bottle full of water. Refilled with water as needed.
- Bug spray/Insect repellent. Please apply bug spray prior to dropping off. Please make sure that the bug spray you send to camp works well and is something your child can apply easily and effectively. Bug spray goes fast at camp because the campers are running in and out of water and also running around getting muddy and sweaty. Thus, we re-apply many times a day. You should be prepared to use an ample supply.
- Sunscreen. Please apply prior to dropping off. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a “broad-spectrum” sunscreen with a SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 15. Sunscreen will be reapplied throughout the day as needed.

WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME

- Cell phones – if a parent prefers their child bring a cell phone, it **MUST** remain stored away with the child’s other personal belongings. Messages can be left for participants by calling the camp phone or the Camp Director.
- Hand-held video games, electronic tablets, and e-readers.
- Trading cards and games.
- Money, valuables, and sentimental items.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

SUMMER CREEKING:

- On creeking day, campers should arrive wearing old clothes and shoes or have a change of shoes for creeking. Clothes and shoes get very muddy, smelly and sometimes stained.
- Bring a second set of clothes and shoes. After creeking, campers will change into the clean, dry clothes and shoes.
- Shoes must be worn in the creek. Some slip-on style water shoes get sucked off and stuck in the mud, please have campers wear shoes that attach to feet securely. An old pair of tie-on sneakers work the best.
- Your child’s designated creeking day will be communicated to you the first day of camp.

FIELD TRIPS / OFF-SITE EXPERIENCES AND ON-SITE GUESTS

Special experiences such as guest presenters, off-site experiences and field trips will be communicated to participant families prior to camp.

EXPLORERS SAMPLE SCHEDULE

8:00 am	Early drop-off opens Choice of selected activities.
8:30 am	Campers Arrive Choice of selected activities and group games.
9:00 am	Welcome Flag ceremony, WNC pledge, daily announcements.
9:30 am	Morning Rotation Activities may include: Yoga, Magic Spots, Pond exploration, Special Guest/Presentations, etc.
11:30 am	Lunch Small Group Games
1:00 pm	Afternoon Rotation Activities may include: Creek/Pond Exploration, Campfire Cooking, Archery, Fishing, etc.
3:00 pm	Snack
3:30 pm	Group Down Time Arts and Crafts
4:30 pm	Campers prep for pick-up. Choice of selected activities and group games.
5:00 pm	Pick-up
5:30 pm	Camp closes

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS

Online registration is available for our camp programs.

Go to parks.lincoln.ne.gov, search "Nature Center Camps."

Once on the "Nature Center Camps" page complete the following steps:

- 1. Online enrollment.** Choose the "Online Enrollment" button. You will be redirected to the Parks and Recreation Online Class and Program Registration (PROCTOR) system. Under the "Programs" tab choose "Pioneers Park Nature Center" as your location, then click "Search". From here navigate to the program you wish to register. A **MyInterLinc** account is required to register online. Once your account is created you are able to review any current or future class registrations and pay online.
- 2. Participant Information and Waiver.** Next click the "Participant Information and Waiver" button on the "Nature Center Camps" page. This form needs to be completed by the participant's parent/guardian.

Paper versions of the Participant Information and Waiver form are available by request.

Registration is considered complete only when online enrollment, payment, and all forms are completed and submitted. Additional forms, including Medical Treatment and Documentation Form, may be requested. All forms must be completed, signed, and submitted before the start of camp. It is important that we have all participant info to ensure a safe and positive experience for your child.

If you need assistance please call the Nature Center, 402-441-7895. Our staff will assist you in registering for our programs and can accept payment over the phone.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Please refer to payment deadlines listed with registration information.

Summer camps follow the below payment schedule:

- Due upon registration.....Non-refundable deposit (\$25/session).
- Due May 15, 2021.....All Fees for camps taking place in June.
- Due June 15, 2021.....All Fees for camps taking place in July and August.

PAYMENT POLICY

- The City of Lincoln is dedicated to providing safe and supportive programming to the children and families served in our community while keeping program fees affordable.
- Payment is due in advance according to the schedule provided, unless a special payment plan is approved. You will not receive a bill.

- Fees are charged on the basis of full-time enrollment. The fee is the same if a child is ill, out-of-town, suspended, or out for any other reason.
- We accept cash, checks, credit and debit cards, and money orders.
- Receipts are provided upon request.
- If we receive a returned check, future payments must be paid by cash, credit card, or money order.
- Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable.
- Families with past due balance may face possible termination of services.
- Families with past due fees may be turned over to the City Attorney's Office. You will not be able to enroll in any Parks and Recreation program until payment is received or a payment plan is approved.
- If payment has not been made and cancellation is not received at least one week prior to program start date, you will be charged in full.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online. Go to parks.lincoln.ne.gov, click the green "ePay" button. Sign up for or Login to your MyInterlinc account. If you have ever paid your water bill, pet license, or a parking ticket online, you already have an account. Call us if you need help.
- Call the Nature Center, 402-441-7895. We can take a credit or debit card payment over the phone.
- Mail payment: Pioneers Park Nature Center, 3201 S. Coddington Ave., Lincoln, NE, 68522.
- Pay in person at the Nature Center - Prairie Building.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations not received at least one week before camp are non-refundable. Cancellations received at least one week before camp are refundable minus a \$10 processing fee. Deposits are non-refundable.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

Statements for claiming child tax credits are available through MyInterlinc accounts or call the Nature Center for assistance.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Need based scholarships are available for 1 week of camp per season up to 40%. Contact the Pioneers Park Nature Center to request an application.

EXPECTATIONS, DISCIPLINE, LOST AND FOUND

Our programs are built around outdoor nature education. Thus, we are outdoors for the majority of our programs. Staff is aware there are times when it is unsafe to be outdoors. In the event of severe weather/inclement conditions alternative plans to keep our campers safe may be made, including taking cover in designated storm shelters. Any changes that may impact drop-off or pick-up time or location will be communicated to parents/guardians.

Please notify staff if your child will be absent. Refer to our Illness Exclusion Policy for information about when to keep your child home.

We follow the Standard Response Protocol of Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND PARTICIPANTS CAN EXPECT:

- A focus on outdoor and environmental education.
- Daily hiking and activities.
- A variety of activities including crafts, skills building activities, supervised unstructured play, and organized group games.
- Trained camp staff in American Red Cross (or equivalent) First Aid and CPR.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

The Parks and Recreation Department has put in place policies, procedures, waivers, and permission requests to help ensure the health and safety of all who participate in programs and the staff who work with your child. The goal is to create a safe and fun program for your child. By supporting and following the policies and procedures, you will help create a meaningful experience for your child and all who are involved in the program.

Expectations of Parent/Guardian:

- Complete all forms in full.
- Read, understand, follow, and support all written policies.
- Ensure all contact information is current including emergency contacts. There must be a phone number where program staff can immediately contact someone in case of illness, injury, or other issue.
- Send weather-appropriate footwear and clothing for outdoor activities. Closed-toe shoes must be worn daily.
- Parent/guardian or approved adult will sign participate in and out each day.
- Due to the nature of our camp, we may be out-and-about throughout the day. The Camp Director MUST be notified if a participant will need to be dropped off late or picked-up early.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

We reserve the right to discontinue enrollment at any time if we find parent/guardian behavior to be detrimental or disruptive to the program or staff during camp hours. If you do not agree with or no longer prefer the services of our program and how we facilitate them, you have the right to discontinue your child's participation at any time.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Our expectations for behavior: **Be safe. Be respectful. Be responsible.**

We use the Standard Discipline Policy of the Parks and Recreation Department. Please review this policy with your child.

Every effort will be made to resolve behavior problems, but please be aware that if there are continuous or serious behavior issues, your child may be suspended. If suspension becomes necessary, parents will be contacted the same day. We appreciate your support in managing behavioral issues.

- When there is an infraction of rules, we issue a warning and encourage children to continue participation when behavior is corrected.
- If disruptive behavior continues after one warning, the child is given a second warning and then may resume activity, if behavior is corrected.
- If disruptive behavior continues after two warnings (or refusal to listen) the child may be suspended for the following program day. Parents will be contacted.

The above process will be used again if there is a second incident of continued disruptive behavior. If a second suspension is necessary, it will again be for the following program day. If a third incident occurs and suspension is necessary, it will be for one week (seven consecutive program days). A fourth incident and suspension will again be for one week. Any additional suspensions could be for 30 calendar days, end of the program, or one year. Please note – Every situation is unique and we reserve the right to work through the steps of this policy at an appropriate rate for the situation. Physical aggression is taken very seriously. It is grounds for automatic suspension.

LOST AND FOUND

Please check with camp staff if your child has misplaced a personal item. Lost items will be taken to the Lost and Found at Pioneers Park Nature Center Prairie Building. Any items left unclaimed will be donated to a local charity.

Lincoln Parks and Recreation is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

MEDICATION AND ILLNESS

If your child needs to take medication at camp (prescription or over-the-counter), you must request and complete a Medication Consent Form. All medication is kept secured in a designated location and must be checked in with our program staff.

- All medication brought to camp must be in original container, with instructions, and accompanied by Medical Form and Release.
- Medications that are used on an “as needed” basis (or “PRN”) require a note from a medical professional describing the symptom(s) and dosage.
- Inhalers and epi-pens will be carried by the camper’s counselor.
- A log will be kept for your child with a record of medication/treatment provided, date, time, and staff initials.

FIRST AID/CPR

Our staff is trained in First Aid and CPR by the American Red Cross (or equivalent). This training includes preventing, recognizing, and properly responding to emergencies.

ILLNESS AND EXCLUSION POLICY*

Lincoln Parks and Recreation is committed to keeping the spread of illness to a minimum, and we take the following steps to do so:

- Adhere to current Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Directed Health Measures, implementing the necessary requirements and guidance provided by the agency.
- Participants and staff must wash hands upon entering and regularly throughout the day.
- Equipment is disinfected on a regular basis.
- Bathrooms and high touch surfaces are cleaned and disinfected multiple times per day.
- Parents are notified of any communicable disease outbreak at the program.
- Strict and consistent enforcement of our criteria for excluding participants due to illness.

Please do not send your child to the program if they cannot participate in regular daily activities or if signs of possible contagious illness are present. If signs of an illness become present during the program, a parent/guardian will be notified. If exclusion is required, a parent/guardian will be asked to pick up participant. Due to the additional care required when a child is ill, we request pick-up within 30 minutes.

Participants with the following must be excluded from the program.

- Close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Symptoms consistent with COVID-19 including: fever (above 100.4° F), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or two of the following: chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.
- Diarrhea, when water stool causes an “accident” or if the frequency of watery stools exceeds two stools in the past 24 hours.
- Vomiting two or more times in past 24 hours.
- Fever, temperature above 100.4° F and behavior change or other illness symptoms (e.g., sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.).
- Rash with fever or behavior change; until a physician has determined the illness is not contagious.
- Chickenpox - exclusion until all lesions have dried or crusted.
- Impetigo - blisters/sores on face, neck, and/or hands. Exclusion until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
- Mouth sores with drooling.
- Head lice or ring worm. Exclusion until after the first treatment.
- Any participant who requires more care than can be given by staff in a group setting or a child who is unable to participate in regular daily activities.

A participant will be readmitted after exclusion criteria for the specific illness/injury are resolved and participant is able to participate in regular daily activities. There may be times when it is necessary to present a doctor’s note to indicate an illness is not infectious. Staff may request that you consult with your child’s physician. The final decision on whether to exclude a child is made by the program Director or Coordinator.

Staff members will follow the same exclusion criteria as participants and not come to work, or will leave if these signs develop.

**Illness and Exclusion Policy update 2.22.21 per Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Directed Health Measures 2021-18 Requirements and Guidance for Childcare Facilities.*