WILDERNESS NATURE CAMP

Five great weeks in June and July, each with a different theme

Adventure Nature Camp, ages 6-8
Extreme Nature Camp, ages 9-12

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
$140/week, sliding scale fees for those who qualify
Call 441-7895 for a brochure

All sessions of Camp Discovery for ages 3–6 are full. We are taking a waiting list.

BREAKING NEWS
Barb Bartle, Executive Director of the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools, has obtained a grant from the Hugo A. and Thelma Aspegren Trust to fund the prairie immersion program for an additional ten years! This program makes it possible for 4th graders to spend a full day in our prairie.

The Heritage School, previously at State Fair Park, will be moved to the Nature Center. This facility allows all LPS 4th graders to experience a school day as it might have been in the late 1800s.

LAST NEWSLETTER
This is the last newsletter we will print and mail. Information about our programming and news of our activities will be available in several places.

Visit our new website: parks.lincoln.ne.gov. Send your email address to bwitulski@lincoln.ne.gov for periodic updates. We promise not to overload your inbox! Look for our new program sheets at Parks facilities.

NEW WEBSITE
The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department has a new website, parks.lincoln.ne.gov. You can look for Nature Center and other Parks information there. Instead of the Parks program guide that was delivered by mail or in the Lincoln Journal Star, program sheets for individual locations will be available at several Parks and Recreation facilities.

The Department has a new logo too!
PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

DISCOVERY DAYS

June, July and August
Times arranged
Call at least 2 weeks in advance
Chet Ager Bldg $3/person, $30 minimum
Naturalist-led programs are available for any group during the sunny summer months. Focusing on our natural environment, these programs are from one to two hours long. On hot days, part of the program is held indoors with our exhibit animals.

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Saturday, June 20 10 a.m. - Noon
Composting Demonstration Area Free
Learn how to compost in your back yard through a training session provided by UNL Extension and the City Recycling Office at the Nature Center’s backyard composting demonstration area. Attendees will receive a free compost thermometer or plastic compost bin. No registration necessary.

SCULPTED PAPER WORKSHOPS
WITH NOTED ARTIST ROBIN BRICKMAN

Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14
This is your chance to create three dimensional art with a nationally recognized artist! Sponsored by the Great Plains Chapter of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, these workshops are being held in conjunction with the exhibit “Salt Creek Environment: Local and Endangered” at the Haydon Art Center July 1 through 31. Selected student creations from the workshops will be hung at the Haydon and at the Nature Center. Fees are partially grant funded.

Saturday, June 13
9:00 - 9:50 a.m.: Wetlands Wildlife I
K- 3rd grade, $12/person
11:00 - 11:50 a.m.: Wetlands Wildlife II
4th - 6th grade, $12/person
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.: Wetlands in Watercolor
Adults, $30/person

Sunday, June 14
1:00 - 2:15 p.m.: Watercolor Wetlands I
7th and 8th grade, $17/person
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.: Watercolor Wetlands II
9th - 12th grades, $20/person
Call Becky Seth at 441-8708 to register. Pre-payment is required. Make checks payable to GNSI-Great Plains and send them to Becky Seth, Pioneers Park Nature Center, 2740 ‘A’ Street, Lincoln, NE 68502.

ROCK & MINERAL GRINDING PARTY

Sunday, July 12 1 - 4 p.m.
Chet Ager Building Free
What are some of the various gems and minerals found in the Great Plains? How are gemstones prepared for jewelry? Processes from the “rough” stone through cutting, polishing, and finishing will be demonstrated by members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club during this free drop-in program.

FROGGY WENT A-HUNTIN’

Friday, July 24 6 - 8 p.m.
Chet Ager Building $8/person, $15/family
Register by 7/22
A program specially for families that like to play outside! We will hunt frogs and tadpoles, look for water insects, and have fun in the mud. Wear old clothes and shoes and bring insect repellent. We’ll try to catch critters with hands and nets and get a good look before letting them go.

BUTTERFLY COUNT

Saturday, July 25 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Prairie Building $5/person
Register by 7/22
Spend a morning with the butterflies! Take part in the 33rd annual butterfly count sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). We’ll begin at the Nature Center with an informative hour-long introductory slide show. Participants will then disperse to the count areas: Pioneers Park Nature Center, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, and Nine-Mile Prairie. No need to be an expert, an experienced person will accompany each group. The count involves walking about 2 hours and covering 2 to 3 miles. Those who wish may gather back at Spring Creek to compare notes and share a light lunch after the count. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Fee includes the payment required by the NABA for each participant.

FAMILY NATURE NIGHT

Friday, July 31 7 - 9 p.m.
Wilderness Park $15/family
Register by 7/29
Wilderness Park is a great place to explore! Join us as we look for forest fairies on a scavenger hunt, meet a Nature Center animal up close, call the owls and enjoy a campfire with songs and stories.

Hayrack rides begin September 11

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

SUMMER DROP-IN PROGRAMS

Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 - 11 a.m.
June 9 to July 30 $1/child
Prairie Building
Groups of 6 & more are asked to register

Tuesdays: Animal Antics (all ages)
Accompany our staff as we feed the bald eagle, red-tailed hawks or vultures, compare several snakes and watch one eat, or explore the fascinating adaptations of owls: each week we’ll learn about one or more of the animals that live at the Nature Center.

Thursdays: Water Wildness (5 years and up)
Hike to where the water is, play games, get wet and learn about the many things water is to us and the world around us.
BIRTHDAY PARTIES
Treat your child to a special birthday at the Nature Center. An hour nature program, including a hike and indoor animal time, is followed by 45 minutes in the building for your birthday activities. We provide space and a birthday favor for each child, you provide refreshments. $6 for each child up to 15, $60 minimum charge. Call 441-7895 for reservations at least two weeks in advance.

HYDE MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY
South side of Holmes Lake in Holmes Park.
Open Saturdays; November – March: 7-10 p.m.
April – October: 8 – 11 p.m.
Gaze at the night sky through three powerful telescopes, enjoy two programs about astronomy or space exploration that change monthly, and interact with knowledgeable volunteers. Free.
Weekday special showings for groups of 20 or more may be arranged with two weeks notice by calling 441-8708.
For more information visit www.hydeobservatory.info

REGISTRATION FORM
Registration: Reservations may be made by phone or mail. Payment must be made at the time of registration. Call 441-7895 to register and pay by credit card or send this form with payment to: Pioneers Park Nature Center 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502. Participants will receive confirmation of registration.
Deadline: Unless noted otherwise, registration deadline is three days prior to the start of the program.
Refunds: Refund requests must be made 72 hours prior to the program date and are subject to a $5.00 service charge.
Cancellations: PPNC reserves the right to cancel classes due to conditions beyond its control. Participants will be notified prior to the program; they may choose to obtain a full refund or sign up for another available program.

CLASSES:

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>FEE</th>
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<tr>
<td>7/24</td>
<td>Froggy Went a-Huntin’</td>
<td>$8/person, $15/family</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/25</td>
<td>Butterfly Count</td>
<td>$5/person</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/31</td>
<td>Family Nature Night</td>
<td>$15/family</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/15</td>
<td>A Morning with Herbs</td>
<td>$10/person</td>
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Name(s) _________________________________________________________ Phone __________________________
Address ____________________________________ City _________________ State _____ Zip __________________
E-mail Address ____________________________________________________________________________________
Payment:   ____ Check (made payable to Lincoln Parks and Recreation) ____ Credit Card  ____ Visa _____ MC _____ Discover
Card Number _________________________________________________________ Expiration __________________
Total Fees Enclosed __________________ Signature __________________________________________

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, CALL 441-7895
The sun peeked out in time for the annual Nature’s Market sponsored by the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center on April 18th. There were lots of things to do: 25 artistic rain barrels were auctioned after their appearances around town, 23 vendors offered their wares, the cinnamon rolls were as big as your foot (and a whole lot tastier!) and kids made bird feeders, decorated and planted pots, and danced to the String Beans under the big tent. Proceeds will be used for scholarships for nature camps and preschool.

THANK YOU!

RAIN BARREL ARTISTS, TOM BASSETT, AUCTIONEER, AND AUCTION BIDDERS
CITY OF LINCOLN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

SILENT AUCTION DONORS

A Novel Idea Bookstore
A & R Fine Arts
Antelope Creek Veterinary Healthcare Center
Avant Card
Barb’s Hallmark
Becky Witulski
Bella Skin Care & Massage Therapy
Campbell’s Nurseries & Garden Centers
Casey Larkins
Chad Miller, Chiropractic Neurology & Sports Rehab
Christie Dionisopoulos
David Peace
Diane Pratt
Dish Restaurant
Earl May Nursery & Garden Center
El Toro Mexican Restaurant
Family Dental, PC: Bruce Condello, DDS, Lance Lindermuth, DDS
Finke Gardens & Nursery
Firethorn Golf Club

Footloose & Fancy
Goldworks Jeweler
Good Sip Coffee Co.
Greenfield’s Pancake House & Restaurant
Carol Greenwald, Discovery Toys
Habitat
Hangups Gallery
Happy Dog Nutrition
Hillis & Co.
Indigo Bridge Bookstore
Ivanna Cone
Jet Splash Judy Strain, Celebrating Home
Karen Herrold, Upercase Living
Kathie Putensen
Knight’s Clothing Store
Lee Booksellers
Lincoln Poultry
Lincoln Running Company
Lincoln Staats Hockey
LLC Custom Blinds & Design
London Bridge Toys
Madsen Bowling & Billiards
Mark Rexinger, Rex Art
NAMC
Nancy Furman
Nebraska Animal Clinic
Nebraska Game & Parks
One More Time
Consignment Store
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLIE)
Paint Yourself Silly
Porridge Papers
Prairie Life Fitness
Prairie Mile Tile

VENDORS

Andy’s Rustic Art
Barn Wood Treasurers
Becky Chilse
Betsy’s Upcycled Fish
Community Crops
Door Inspirations
Emmy & Ivy
Essence De Provence

Grandpa’s Toy Boxes
Great Harvest
Harvest Home
Herbs by Becky Seth
Hodgepodge Collage
Karl Neemann
Kathy Frank
Lincoln Espresso

Lindsay Rogers Images
Meghan Stratman
Rex Art
Russ’s Market, S. Coddington
Simple Accents
Sweet Cheeks
Urban Trail Gardens
Preschool
It’s been another special spring at the Nature Center Preschool, filled with lots of exciting discoveries such as the yellow-bellied racer hanging out right by the bathroom doors, lots of painted turtles and one huge snapper, two families of goslings that waddled by, and yes, even the many gorgeous yellow dandelions that never fail to enchant children. The Pre-K class has enjoyed exploring the pond floor as the water has been disappearing. They found tons of snail shells that little mice like to nibble on for calcium, lots of interesting rocks and even a few golf balls that didn’t quite land where intended. There are still a few spaces available in next year’s classes.

Land Management
Recent visitors may have noticed that the south end of the Martin Prairie is lush green after prescribed burns. Meanwhile the north end was off limits for hikers in April and May because of grazing cattle. It will be interesting to compare how the prairie responds to these two management techniques.

Art Wall
“The Flora of Nebraska”: Botanical Prints from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum were featured in May. Selections created at the Robin Brickman workshops will be showing during the summer.

Nature Center Preschool
Where Kids Explore
T/Th AM and PM and W/F AM Sessions
Pre-K: MWF AM and PM Sessions
We hope to:
- nurture a sense of wonder
- develop an appreciation of nature
- offer rich opportunities to explore
- integrate language, math and the arts
- cultivate conceptual understanding
- provide daily exercise in the out-of-doors
Using seasonal themes, daily activities include a hike, discussion circle, crafts, storytime, and a snack.

Safaris, Pursuits & Passports
You probably don’t need any reason to get out and explore the parks, museums and other attractions Lincoln and Nebraska have to offer. But in case you do, several programs might give you an extra nudge.

The Lincoln Safari is in its second year. There are 30 new outdoor spots to find and explore. Sign up at the Nature Center, city libraries or the zoo and get your new map and clue book.

Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown!
Get your Passport at the Nature Center. With stamps from 9 of the 17 participating attractions you will be eligible for the prizes that will be awarded at Friday Nights Live at SouthPointe Pavilions on August 22.

The Great Parks Pursuit wants to widen your scope of exploration beyond Lincoln. A program of Nebraska Game and Parks, you can find one of their special posts here at the Nature Center and attend a fun day in the park on June 20th. Register online at www.NEGPP.com and find out more about the program.

Healthy Families Play Outside
Summer is a great time to look for lady bugs. They are a benefit to gardens since lady bugs (really lady BEETLES) eat aphids that harm your plants. Their bright red hard hind wings and black dots make them hard to miss and are also a warning to birds that they don’t taste very good. As you search for lady beetles, notice if they all look the same. Do they all have the same number of dots? How do lady beetles move from one place to another? Be sure to handle them gently (they aren’t all ladies) and always put them back where you found them. Happy Hunting!

Thank You
Employees of Surety Life, an Allstate Company, and Melody Crowl: $345.75
Vicki Ayres: Memorial for Elinor Scharfen and Erma Schwartz
Kathi Putensen: 14 picture frames
Rosina Paolini: $20 donation
Unitarian Church Share the Plate Program: $511

Nature Center Gift Shop
Are you looking for a nature-oriented gift for that special someone? Browse our gift shop for children’s books, puppets and toys, field guides, T-shirts, Nebraska products, note cards and more.
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.

LANCASTER COUNTY’S AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES
Saturday, June 27    10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Prairie Building Auditorium
Meet a skink, spiny soft-shelled turtle, and Massasauga rattlesnake, plus many more, as you visit with Dennis Ferraro, UNL herpetologist.

THE INSECTS AROUND US
Saturday, August 8    10 a.m. - Noon
Prairie Building Auditorium
Come catch insects with a pro from the UNL Entomology Department and learn a bit about the amazing lives of the critters you net.

HERP SEARCH
Look out for turtles, snakes and amphibians as you walk our trails throughout the summer. Grab a HerpSearch form when you go out and return it with any sightings to either building. You can help us and UNL Extension Educator Dennis Ferraro gather data about herp populations.