



# FROM THE TRAILS

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

## SAVE THE DATES

Camp Registration Opens Jan 22

Fall Preschool Reg. Opens Feb 1

Wild Adventures FREE  
March 31 SAT 10 am-1 pm

Volunteer Work Day  
April 21 SAT 9 am-12 pm

## PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Join us for the Preschool Open House to learn how building with sticks, counting pine cones, and crafting with leaves and seeds will become a part of your child's educational experience. The nature preschool at Pioneers Park Nature Center offers a preschool program for ages 3-4 and per-kindergarten program for ages 4-5. Registration for the 2018-19 school year begins Feb. 1. **Please, adults only at the open house.** For more information please contact the Preschool Director at 402-441-8669.

Jan 16 TUES 10-10:45 am

*Jan 23 Inclement weather date*

## FRIENDS OF PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER:

### Annual Meeting

Join the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center for their annual gathering. Come learn more about the Friends and enjoy refreshments and conversation.

Presentations will include Nebraska's Unique Landscape Time-Lapse project by Adrian Olivera and Landscapes Planted for a Purpose by Bob Hendrickson with Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

Jan 27 SAT 9-11 am

Prairie Bldg. Free



## SANDHILL CRANE TRIP

One of the world's greatest migrations converges right here in Nebraska. For thousands of years Sandhill cranes have used the central Platte River valley for their stopover grounds on their way to breeding grounds in the north.

Witness these spectacular birds as they forage in fields along country roads, perform their dances, and fly above us on our way to the Ian Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary in Gibbon, Nebraska. Stops will include a visit to the Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center and dinner at Burchell's White Hill Farmhouse. At Rowe Sanctuary we will hear a short presentation on cranes and make our way to a private viewing blind along the Platte River. As we watch the sunset, we'll listen to thousands of cranes and observe them as they gather on the river for the night.

Included in this remarkable experience is transportation, dinner, and cost of the blind. (The blind reservation fee is nonrefundable if the trip is cancelled.) Participants must have the ability to walk uneven trails in low light. Vans will depart from Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park. Space is limited. Register by February 9.

March 9 FRI 12-10:30 pm  
Meet at Auld Pavilion \$85/person



## WILD ADVENTURES

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, educational booths, food vendors, plus more .

March 31 SAT 10-1 pm  
Prairie Bldg & Outdoor Areas Free

## VOLUNTEER: Spring Cleaning

Celebrate Earth Day and help the Nature Center spruce up our grounds. Dress for the weather as most tasks will be outdoors in the gardens or along trails. Volunteers must sign a waiver before participating. Families are welcome, children must be accompanied by adults. Call 402-441-8708 to sign up.

April 21 SAT 9 am-12 pm

## Welcome Jeff!

Jeff Grasmick joined the Nature Center in October as our Facility and Grounds Manager. Jeff



comes to the Nature Center from the Lincoln Fire Department.



# PROGRAMS & EVENTS

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

# CAMP

## COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS:

### Birding and Travel, Ruth Stearns

Enjoy the afternoon sharing birding and travel stories over coffee at the Nature Center. Join us in January with local birder, Ruth Stearns. Coffee and tea provided.

Jan 11	THUR	2-4 pm
Prairie Bldg.	Sug. Donation \$5	



## WINTER RECREATION:

### Cross Country Skiing

Slide and glide over the snow during the cross country ski workshop lead by Outdoor Adventures from University of Nebraska. This workshop is geared towards those who have never cross country skied or are looking for some tips and tricks for a better skiing experience. Ski rental is included in the registration fee. If weather is not ideal for skiing we'll strap on our boots and clip into skis for an indoor class, and all participants will receive a coupon for ski rental from Outdoor Adventures. Recommended for individuals 12 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. [Register by Jan 17.](#)

Jan 20	SAT	2-4 pm
Prairie Bldg.	\$20/person	

## ART CLASS! Drawing Birds

Are you a budding artist or would you like to learn how to better draw our winged friends? Learn the basics of drawing birds in pencil with instruction from artist Glenda Dietrich Moore. All supplies will be included for this art class. This program is designed for adults, youth and children in 3rd grade or older. No previous drawing experience is necessary. [Register by Jan 31.](#)

Feb 3	SAT	1:30-3:30 pm
Prairie Bldg.	\$13/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, 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 Feb. 14.](#)

Feb 11	SAT	9-11 am
Chet Ager Bldg.	Sug. Donation \$5	

## MOONRISE HIKE

Watch the moonrise over the Nature Center during this evening hike. Your guide will take you through the trails for a special nighttime experience. This program is open to all, however it may not be suitable for young children and all children must be accompanied by an adult. [Register by Feb. 28.](#)

March 2	FRI	6:30-8 pm
Prairie Bldg.	\$8/person	



## SATURDAY WITH OUR NATURALIST: Spring

Join us for a guided hike with the Nature Center's Naturalist. We'll go for a guided hike on the Nature Center trails to observe what's blooming, the wildlife that is around, and enjoy the current season. Hikes will have various themes and cover different areas of the Nature Center. Dress comfortably for the weather, we'll be outdoors for the entire hour. [Register by the Wednesday before each hike.](#)

March 17	SAT	2-3 pm
April 21	SAT	2-3 pm
May 19	SAT	2-3 pm
Prairie Bldg.	\$5/person	



## SUNSET HIKE

Enjoy a guided hike at the Nature Center while the sun slips below the horizon and dusk falls on the landscape. Witness the changes in the sights and sounds as day becomes night at the Nature Center. [Register by April 11.](#)

April 13	FRI	7:30-9 pm
Prairie Bldg.	\$8/person	

## MOTHER'S DAY: Bird Walk & Brunch

Enjoy a day to celebrate mothers by joining us on an early morning bird walk followed by breakfast at the Nature Center. A guide for your walk plus a continental breakfast will be provided. Binoculars are also available for those who need them. [Register by May 9.](#)

May 13	SUN	8-10 am
Prairie Bldg.	\$16/person	

## COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Learn how to be successful with composting by attending a free composting 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 19	SAT	10-11 am
Compost Demo Area	Free	

## NATURE EXPLORERS CAMP (ELEMENTARY STUDENTS)

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 everyday hiking, exploring, playing games, making crafts, and so much more. Dress for the weather, bring a sack lunch and be ready to have some fun. [Register by March 2.](#)

March 12 - 16	MON-FRI	8:30 am-5:00 pm
		<i>Extended hours: 7:30 am-5:30 pm</i>
Pioneers Park Nature Center		\$185/person



## CAMP DISCOVERY (3-6 YEAR OLDS)

This is a half day camp designed for young explorers. Camp activities will be planned around each week's nature-based theme. From crafts to hikes your child will have a wonderful experience learning about the natural world around them. [Registration must be received the Monday prior to camp starting. A camp t-shirt is included in registration.](#)

June 4-7	Dig, Dig, Dig
June 11-14	Forest Builders
June 18-21	Outdoor Classroom
June 25-28	Splish-Splash
July 9-12	Animals, Head to Toe
July 16-19	Sticks, Stones, and Pinecones
MON-THUR	9-11:30 am
Pioneers Park Nature Center	\$90/session



## LEADERSHIP CAMP (14-17 YEAR OLDS)

Learn outdoor and leadership skills while making new friends at Wilderness Nature Camp's Leadership Camp. This camp is designed for young adults looking to build skills and learn new talents, from team building to survival skills. Following Leadership Camp, attendees can assist at Wilderness Nature Camp over the summer as Junior Counselors. Space is limited. [All registration, waiver, and payments must be received by Monday, May 28.](#)

June 4-8	MON-FRI	8:30 am-5:00 pm
		<i>Extended hours: 7:30 am-5:30 pm</i>
Pioneers Park		\$150/person

## WILDERNESS NATURE CAMP (6-13 YEAR OLDS)

Spend the summer immersed in nature, hiking, exploring, and going on adventures with your friends. Sound like fun? Come to Wilderness Nature Camp at Pioneers Park. This day camp experience is like no other camp around. Each week includes a field trip to a different location, time to explore the creek and build forts, and of course games such as capture the flag. Themes and activities change each week. A camp t-shirt is included with registration. [All registration, waiver forms and payment must be received the Monday prior to camp starting.](#)

June 11-15	Animal Architect
June 18-22	Marvelous Mud
June 25-29	Bull's Eye
July 9-13	Wildlife Helpers (Zoology)
July 16-20	Bike Week (ages 9-13)
July 16-20	Arts in Nature (ages 6-13)
July 23-27	Aquatic Adventures
July 30-Aug 3	Photography
MON-FRI	8:30 am-5:00 pm
<i>Extended hours: 7:30 am-5:30 pm</i>	
Pioneers Park	\$185/person

# SCOUTS

## GUIDED HIKES

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

## GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMS

In partnership with the Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska we will be offering three different Girl Scout badge programs in 2018.

\$13/scout. Fees include materials and badge.

Register at [girlscoutsnebraska.org](http://girlscoutsnebraska.org).

### Speak for the Trees

Discover the hidden story of trees. We'll take a close look at trees to uncover benefits of trees, identify native trees at the Nature Center, and explore the connection between trees and people. Participants will also learn about the emerald ash borer, an invasive species that is a threat to the ash trees in Nebraska. This program is designed for Cadettes, grades 6-8.

May 5 SAT 2-4 pm

### Incredible Insects

Investigate the micro world of insects. Learn about bugs, beetles, bees, and more to earn your Brownie Bug badge! We'll use tools and resources to search for insects at the Pioneers Park Nature Center. After observing these tiny creatures we'll use field guides to learn more about them, then get artsy during indoor craft time. Come prepared to explore outside. This program is designed for Brownies, grades 2-3.

June 23 SAT 10 am-12 pm

### Wildflower Wonders

Explore some of Nebraska's native wildflowers, discover the importance of native plants, have fun with flowers, and create a wildflower seed bouquet to share with others so they can start their own patch of prairie. This program is designed for Junior Girl Scouts, grades 4-5.

Sept 8 SAT 10 am-12 pm

# BIRTHDAY PARTIES

## Celebrate Your Birthday at the Nature Center

Each birthday party includes a guided hike or activity, a special gift for the guest of honor, party bags for each child, and time for your own activities and refreshments. Choose from one of the following themes:

- Amazing Birds
- Reptiles Rock
- Nature's Scavenger Hunt
- Marvelous Mammals
- Insect Investigation (*Offered late summer and fall*)
- Grow in the Garden (*Offered spring to mid-summer*)

Available times:	SAT	10 am-12 pm
<i>Schedule at least two weeks in advance.</i>		
	SAT	1:30-3:30 pm
	SUN	1:30-3:30 pm

\$110 for up to 10 children \$8 each additional child

# NOW HIRING

## SPRING & SUMMER PART-TIME & SEASONAL POSITIONS

### TEACHER NATURALISTS STAFF

Facilitate learning in the outdoors as a hike leader at the Nature Center for school age groups. Hike topics include life cycles, habitats, prairie, and wetlands. March 21-May 24 and/or August 23-November 17. 8-24 hours/week, must be available at least 2 days a week 9:30 am - 11:30 am and/or noon-2:30 pm (spring), 9:30 am-2:30 pm (fall).

### LAND MANAGEMENT

Help care for the land at the Nature Center. Responsibilities include mowing, trail maintenance, invasive species removal, landscaping, and other facility and grounds maintenance. Monday-Friday or Tuesday-Saturday shifts; April-September or May-August. Additional fall/winter hours may be available.

### WILDERNESS NATURE CAMP DIRECTOR

Coordinate nature camp at Pioneers Park for youth 6-13. Responsibilities include coordination of camp activities and counselors, supervision of campers, and develop camp curriculum. May 29-August 3.

### CAMP COUNSELORS

Spend the summer as a camp counselor for Wilderness Nature Camp a day camp for children 6-13 years old. Responsibilities include conducting nature activities, assist in curriculum development and program planning, and supervision of campers. May 29-August 3.

### PRESCHOOL TEACHER

Lead or assist the head teach of a classroom of preschool or pre-K students in nature based early childhood education. Assist the Preschool Director in planning, coordination, and implementation of pre-school programs and activities. 4-24 hours/week (mid-August-May), classes are held 9-11:30 am and 12:30-2 pm

Apply Online

[parks.lincoln.ne.gov](http://parks.lincoln.ne.gov) Click on 'Now Hiring'.



402.441.7895

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

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

3201 S. Coddington (west end of Pioneers Park) Lincoln, NE 68522

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Admission: Donation - \$3/person \$5/family \$10/group