


# Environmental Education Opportunities

Pre-registration REQUIRED for most events but is appreciated for all events, please visit our website at [siouxcountyparks.org/events](http://siouxcountyparks.org/events) to learn more about the programs and how to register. Programs held at the Prairie Woods Nature Center are indicated by:  All other program location noted in description. Cancellation of programs will be posted on our Facebook page and on 93.9 FM. Call 712/552-3057 for more information.

## April 1 – Summer Camp Sign Up

starts at 8am online only

This is the day to sign your kids up for this year's summer camp season! Topics, dates, and times will be posted prior to this date. Registration will be open at 8am on [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com) starting April 1.

## April 9-Writing Nature: using words to engage the natural world

10am-2pm

Through this writing workshop attendees will improve their writing ability to perceive the natural world and to reflect on the meanings found in nature. Participants will learn through a series of short presentations, indoor writing exercises, and group discussions at the Prairie Woods Nature Center. Ann Lundberg is a Professor of English at Northwestern College. She specializes in environmental and nature writing as taught for the Creation Care Studies Program in Kaikoura, New Zealand. A native of Colorado, she has a Bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Wyoming and has spent several summers working as a Ranger with the National Park Service. Pre-registration required, only 15 spots open. \$10 cost that may be paid at class. Ages teen through adult. Location is Prairie Woods Nature Center. After registration, a selection of *optional readings* will be emailed to do in advance of class.

## April 19 – Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)

9:30 am and 2pm

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Enjoy coffee, treats and fellowship and a short presentation. Each month we take time to learn more about a chosen creature(s) of our wonderful world! We promise you will enjoy your-SELF!

Topic: Bald Eagles

## April 20-Wild Child Nature Series

10am and 1pm

Attention animal and nature lovers ages 2 through 5! Our Wild Child Nature Series is a new nature-based experience that will get your child exploring, moving, playing, and using their senses. It is offered on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of Feb, March and April. An adult is required to join the child(ren). No fee. May attend all or just one of the sessions.

## April 21- Emerald Ash Borer Public Meeting

6pm-7:30pm

Topics Include: How to identify EAB; Signs of an EAB infestation; Is the tree safe; Is it a candidate for treatment; EAB treatment options; Ash tree I.D. & replacement options. This public meeting is for homeowners and other concerned citizens. The meeting is FREE and pre-registration is appreciated. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small beetle that kills all species of ash trees. The invasive insect has been found in over 80 of Iowa's counties and continues to spread across the state. Presented by Mike Kintner, Emerald Ash Borer Coordinator, IA Dept. Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS)

## April 23- Rock the Park

9am-noon

Join our experienced volunteer, David Moss, for a leisurely morning hike around Oak Grove Park. Your guide will give advice about hiking including planning, gear, proper hiking technique, and etiquette. No experience needed and families are welcome to join part or all of the hike. The trails will require moderate effort with some uphill and downhill walking. We will be trekking various terrains and ecosystems including prairie, woodland, and river environments.



**April 28, April 30, May 7<sup>th</sup>- Fly Fishing 101 with Donald Mulder**

Enroll in fly fishing 101 and enjoy free basic instruction from local hobbyist, Donald Mulder of Sioux Center. This three-session course will cover everything from equipment, casting techniques, fly tying, knots, matching flies to fish, and presentation. Each session includes participants actively fly fishing at Oak Grove Pond. All sessions will be based out of the Prairie Woods Nature Center at Oak Grove Park, and are geared towards teens and adults, although anyone is welcome. A current valid Iowa fishing license is needed for ages 16 and older for the fishing session. Dates and times are as follows: Thursday, April 28th 6-8pm; Saturday April 30 9:30am-2:30pm; Saturday May 7 from 9:30am-2:30pm. Bring a sack lunch and equipment if you have it. Limited to 20 attendees per session. Attend one or all sessions.



**May 17 – Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)**

**9:30 am and 2pm**

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Enjoy coffee, treats and fellowship and a short presentation. Each month we take time to learn more about a chosen creature(s) of our wonderful world! We promise you will enjoy your-SELF!

Topic: Bees



**June TBD Do You Want to Be an Insect?**

**2:30-4pm**


This is our annual insect exploration with insect enthusiast, and professor of Agriculture at Dordt College, Jeremy Hummel. We will be armed with nets and Ziploc bags for a catch and release hike. Trails are not stroller friendly, bring a water bottle. Indoors is raining

**June 9- Outdoor Skills Day**

**Sandy Hollow Rec. Area**

**8:30 am- 4 pm**

All ages welcome! (Ages 8 and under must have an adult present). This is a fun-filled Thursday with sessions that may include: shotgun shooting, air rifles, archery, outdoor cooking, wrist rockets, deer hunting lessons, canoeing, improving outdoor skills, and much more! This event is cosponsored with 4-H Extension and Outreach and Sioux County Sportsmen’s Club. Lunch will be provided for participants. No cost for event. First 270 kids will be accepted. This is an annual event that kids always look forward to!



**June 11- Family Fishing Clinic**

**Sandy Hollow Rec. Area**

**9am- 12:30 pm**

All ages welcome! (Ages 8 and under must have an adult present). Join us at the shade shelter for a fun filled morning. Program will include fishing instruction, casting contest, fishing, lunch and giveaways. Fishing poles and bait provided or bring your own. No cost, entry fee to park waved for participants during event hours. Event is cosponsored with Sioux County Sportsmen’s Club. Those 16 year of age and older must have a valid fishing license to actively fish.

**June 21- Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)**

**9:30 am and 2 pm**

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We promise you will enjoy your- SELF!

Topic: Bison



**June 25-Gourd Painting**

**9am-4pm**

This class will teach you how to create works of art with gourds while enjoying the view from the Prairie Woods Nature Center in Oak Grove Park! Instructor Dave Oppegard will provide all instruction and supplies to make a beautiful southwest style gourd bowl. This will be a different design than last year. This class is limited to 10 people ages teen through adult and cost is \$20 per person to be paid at the door. Gourds are supplied. Class time is 9am-4pm. Please bring your own sack lunch and snacks. No red liquid allowed in the nature center. Sign up online at [siouxcountyparks.org](http://siouxcountyparks.org). For questions call 712/552-3057.

**July Date TBD- Family Fishing Clinic****Rivers Bend Campground in Rock Valley, IA 9- 11:30 am**

All ages are welcome! (Ages 8 and under must have an adult present). Fishing poles and bait will be available or bring your own lucky fishing pole along. Those 16 years of age and older must have valid Iowa fishing license to actively fish. Event is cosponsored with the City of Rock Valley. Phone in pre-registration is required with the City of Rock Valley at 712/476-6065 after June 11. No cost, entrance fee waived to participants during program.

**July 19- Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)****9:30 am and 2 pm**

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Enjoy coffee, treats, fellowship and a short presentation. Each month we will take the time to explore how the specific design of our chosen topic is essential to its owner. We promise you will enjoy your- SELF!

**August 6- Ringneck Rendezvous****Rock Valley Gun Club****4- 8:30 pm**

Archery, live animals, outdoor obstacle races, tossing games, water guns, bb guns, trapping, dog training, LOTS OF PRIZES and more can be found at this annual event in Rock Valley. We are welcoming trick shooter, the Gould Brothers, back to the event. If you haven't seen his show, you MUST COME! A one-handed push up while shooting a clay? That's small stuff! A \$10 registration fee for all youth and adults attending. Must register by July 27<sup>th</sup> by following the link on our website. Pre-registration includes merchandise and chances at door prizes. First 400 kids will be accepted. Event cosponsored by Sioux County Conservation Board, Sioux Prairie Pheasants Forever and Rock Valley Gun Club.

**August 9- Hunter Education Classroom Course****9 am- 7 pm**

All ages 11 and over are invited to join us for this course. Participants must attend full length of class. Must register for course online at [www.gooutdoorsiowa.com](http://www.gooutdoorsiowa.com). Once you have registered you will receive an email with the Hunter Safety Manual. You will need to complete the review questions and bring them to class. Class will cover firearm safety, hunting ethics, first aid, hunting laws and much more. Students will need a sack lunch and snacks for the day, supper will be provided.

**August 16- Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)****9:30 am and 2 pm**

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Enjoy coffee, treats and fellowship and a short presentation. Each month we will take the time to explore how the specific design of our chosen topic is essential to its owner.

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Topic: Turtles

**Mark your calendar for our upcoming events: ...**

September 10-Painting class

September 17-Dutch Oven Gathering

September 20-SELF

October 8-Trick or Treat Hike

October 22-Youth Pheasant Hunt

