


Spring 2023 Environmental Education Opportunities



Pre-registration REQUIRED for most events but is appreciated for all events, please visit our website at 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.



March 11-Fossil, Artifact, ROCK and Bone Day

Open house 9:30am-noon

Do you have a fossil, artifact or bone you would like identified? How about a ROCK you would like to show us? Bring it to the Prairie Woods Nature Center, and we will attempt to help you identify it anytime between 9:30 and noon! Evan DeGroot and James Mahaffey, local fossil lovers from Sioux Center, will be available with his collection and resources to share with you. This is the second year we have held this event and it was super popular last year! Don't miss it! We added Rocks to this year's program!



March 21 – Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)

10:00, 12:30 and 2:30pm

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Enjoy coffee, treats, fellowship and a short presentation. Topic: Ornithology the study of birds



March 22-Wild Child Nature Series

Choose from 10am or 1pm

Attention animal and nature lovers ages 2 through 5! Our Wild Child Nature Series is a one-hour nature- based experience that will get your child exploring, moving, playing and using their senses. An adult is required to join child(ren). No fee. Pre-registration required.

Topic: Lunch for a Bear



March 25-Hunter Safety Field Day

8:30-noon or 1-4:30pm

Those ages 11 and over are invited to join us for a hunter safety field day. You will need to do two things online: register for class (there is a fee through the Iowa DNR) at www.gooutdoorsiowa.com AND take the online portion of the course at www.hunter-ed.com. This half-day class will cover firearm safety, hunter ethics, hunting laws and much more. Final exam will be given at the end of class. Please dress for indoor and outdoor weather.

April 3-Summer Camp Sign Up Online

8am start

This is the day to sign your child(ren) up for this year's summer camp season! Topics, dates and times will be posted prior to this date. Registration will open at 8am on April 3 at www.mycountyparks.com.



April 12-Wild Child Nature Series

Choose from 10am or 1pm

Attention animal and nature lovers ages 2 through 5! Our Wild Child Nature Series is a one-hour nature- based experience that will get your child exploring, moving, playing and using their senses. An adult is required to join child(ren). No fee. Pre-registration required.

Topic: Wildlife is Everywhere



April 18 – Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)

10:00, 12:30 and 2:30pm

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Enjoy coffee, treats, fellowship and a short presentation. Topic: Anthecology the study of pollination



April 27, 29, May 6- Fly Fishing and Fly Tying with Donald Mulder

Enroll in this fly-fishing session 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 27th 6-8pm will be fly tying, limited to 10 participants; Saturday April 29 9:30am-2:30pm fly

fishing limited to 20 participants; Saturday May 6 from 9:30am-2:30pm fly fishing limited to 20 participants. Bring a sack lunch and equipment if you have it. Attend one or all sessions.



May date TBD- For the Love of Bees!

If you were able to hear Dr. Duane Bajema's program on beekeeping last Spring, then you KNOW why we asked him again! He is coming back with even more information and hopes to bring co-presenters Dean and Barb Johnson with their observation hives! Dr. Bajema has been beekeeping for 44+ years, and will give a hands-on presentation on all things Bees, including dispelling some myths! The presentation is geared for kids and adults who know nothing about bees and for those of you who have some experience! After the main presentation, there will be a time of sharing and learning about bees with ample time for everyone to ask questions! **Minimum participation is required to host program.**



May 13 -Bird Watching at Big Sioux Rec Area

8am-?

Join area birder Eric Harrold at Big Sioux Rec Area to look and listen for migrating songbirds including warblers, vireos, grosbeaks, thrushes, and more! If you have a bird guide or binoculars, you're encouraged to bring those along. Early on, the focus will be observing birds as their activity decreases further from sunrise with an informative session on migratory bird conservation to occur afterward. Meet at the entrance booth at 8:00 a.m. Hike will last about an hour.



May 16 – Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)

10:00, 12:30 and 2:30pm

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Enjoy coffee, treats, fellowship and a short presentation. Topic: Phenology the study of seasonal natural phenomena



Starting end of May-Nature Center mural

Nature Center Hours

Local K-2nd grade classrooms have been working hard on the mural in the Prairie Woods Nature Center entrance. The picture will come together as classes return their work. It's a must-see and everyone is excited about finding out what the final mural will look like!

June 8- 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. Cost is \$5. First 270 kids will be accepted. This is an annual event that kids always look forward to!

June 10- 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 Center Library and Sioux County Sportsmen's Club. Those 16 year of age and older must have a valid fishing license to actively fish.

June 14-Dutch Oven Class at Sandy Hollow Rec. Area

6-8:30pm

This is an intro to Dutch Oven class that includes preparing dishes and as a reward, eating them! Cost is \$15 a person, class size is limited. Cosponsored by Sioux Center Library. Please look for sign up on their website as we get closer.



June 20- Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)

10:00, 12:30 and 2:30pm

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Enjoy coffee, treats, fellowship and a short presentation. Topic: Archeology the study of past cultures



June 22-Books and Birds! Book Discussion and Naturalist Presentation

6-7pm

Please join the Prairie Woods Nature Center, Hawarden Public Library, and One Book One Sioux County for a night of books and birds! We will be discussing the book Sugar Birds by Cheryl Grey Bostrom. A layered, evocative coming-of-age story set in the breathtaking natural world where characters encounter the mending power of forgiveness—for themselves and for those who have failed them (GoodReads). A Sioux County Naturalist presentation on birds and bird

nests will follow the discussion. All Sioux County libraries have a copy of the book but multiple copies will be available at the Hawarden Public Library after May 1st. All are welcome and reading the book is encouraged but not required.



June 24-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 Opegard will provide all instruction and supplies to make a beautiful southwest style gourd bowl. This year's design is Thunderbird. This class is limited to 14 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. For questions call 712/552-3057.

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 18- Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)

10:00, 12:30 and 2:30pm

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Enjoy coffee, treats, fellowship and a short presentation. Topic: Ecology the study of relationships between all living things

August 5- 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 26th 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 8- 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. 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 15- Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)

10:00, 12:30 and 2:30pm

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. We promise you will enjoy your- SELF! Topic: Hydrology the study of water

August 17-Book Discussion Braiding Sweetgrass

6-7pm

Braiding Sweetgrass, by author Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, is a blend of indigenous and scientific knowledge that will have you wanting to spend time outdoors using your new enhanced Naturalist vision. Find this book at your local library. You don't have to read the book to participate, but it is encouraged. We will have an optional walk outdoors at the Nature Center gardens following the discussion. Discussion will happen on the back deck of the Nature Center if weather allows.

Mark your calendar for our upcoming events: ...



September 16-Dutch Oven Gathering

September 19-SELF

October 14-Trick or Treat Hike

October 21-Youth Pheasant Hunt

