



Schramm Education Center

PROGRAM GUIDE

NEBRASKA



Discover, Learn, Play
Book your visit today!

Gretna, Nebraska
402-332-5022



About Us

The Schramm Education Center allows visitors to learn about Nebraska's freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems through unique, interactive exhibits. The Education Center is located at Schramm Park State Recreation Area, which offers over three miles of trails through eastern deciduous forests with abundant wildlife and bird species, a geological display, canyon ponds, a historic Hatch House museum, and more.

Schramm Education Center offers a full range of field trip programs for a variety of groups and audiences. From school field trips with curriculum aligned to state standards to naturalist programs that allow you to explore nature and outdoor skills, our programming offers immersive experiences indoors and out.

Through education, we aim to inspire appreciation and knowledge of Nebraska's natural and cultural resources while promoting greater understanding, support for and participation in conservation and outdoor recreation.



About Us

HOURS

Schramm Education Center

9:00 am-5:00 pm Daily (Office)

10:00-5:00 pm Daily (Education Center)

*Field trips may start as early as 9:00am.

Schramm Park State Recreation Area

Open daily from sunrise to sunset.

VEHICLES

A State Park vehicle entry permit is required on your vehicle if entering the park. Buy online at outdoornebraska.gov, at the Schramm Education Center, or with cash at the unmanned ranger station at park entry.

Daily Park Entry Permit

\$6 resident, \$12 non-resident

Annual Park Entry Permit:

\$30 Resident, \$60 non-resident

GENERAL ADMISSION RATES

Adults \$10, Seniors \$7

Youth \$7 (4-12 years), 3 and under are free

GROUP ADMISSION RATES

There is special pricing for groups with a reservation or for field trips. Please see the next page.

LOCATION

The Schramm Education Center is located at 21502 W. Hwy 31, Gretna, NE 68028. We are approximately 40 minutes from Lincoln or Omaha.

Schramm is part of Nebraska's Venture Park Region. The Venture Park Region includes parks within a close driving distance to the Omaha/Lincoln Metro Areas. These parks provide something to enjoy for all within five zones of interest: discovery, exploration, excitement, serenity, and imagination.



CONTACT US & FIND US ONLINE

Main Desk: (402) 332-3901

Education Team and Reservations: (402) 332-5022

Website: <http://outdoornebraska.gov/schrammeducationcenter/>

Outdoor Education Specialists:

- Kelly Ekue (Kelly.ekue@nebraska.gov)
- Jen Ruyle (Jennifer.ruyle@nebraska.gov)



Facebook:

@schrammeducationcenter



Instagram:

@schrammparknebraska



Pinterest:

@ngpc

Field Trips

Our education team is here to help plan your outing. Descriptions for the programs listed below can be found by reading further in this guide. You must make a reservation before your visit to receive the group pricing below. Please send inquiries according to your specific needs.

JEN RUYLE

Jennifer.ruyle@nebraska.gov

Field Trips (Schools, Homeschools, Daycares, Senior Centers, Other)

Schramm Classroom and Facility Rentals

KELLY EKUE

Kelly.ekue@nebraska.gov

Community Programs (Scouts, 4-H, Partner Organizations, Other)

Venture Park Region Education

	Cost per Youth	Cost per Adult
Self-Guided Visit	\$2.50	\$3.00
Field Trip -Option 1 Includes a 45-60 minute program and self-guided time in the Education Center.	\$4.00	\$5.00
Field Trip—Option 2 Includes a two-hour program and self-guided time in the Education Center.	\$5.00	\$6.00
Field Trip—Option 3 Includes three-hours of programming and self-guided time in the Education Center.	\$6.00	\$7.00



Request a field trip via phone, email, or the Google Form linked on our website. You can scan the QR code here to go directly to the Google Form.

45-60 Minute Programs

Sensory Scientists
 Turtles of Nebraska
 Snakes of Nebraska
 Owls of Nebraska
 Hikes and Hunts
 Beginning Birding
 Reading the Rocks (Geology)
 Math in Nature
 Nature Journaling
 Animal Tracks and Signs
 Insect Investigation
 Pack Tactics
 Pond Ecology (seasonal)
 FINtastic Fishing (seasonal)

Two Hour Programs

These programs support Nebraska Science Standards for the grade level listed.

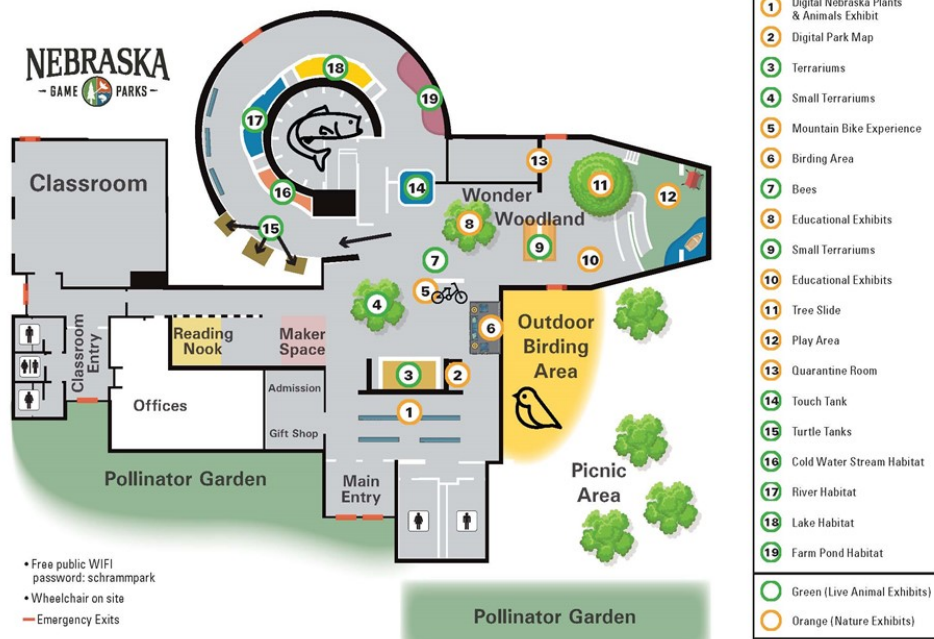
Sensory Scientists (ages 3-5)
 What's That? Habitat! (KG)
 Wildlife FUNctions (1st)
 Partners in Nature (2nd)
 Buggy World: Surviving and Thriving (3rd)
 Turtle-tastic Traits (4th)
 The Sun is the Source (5th)
 Birds of a Feather (6th)

Schramm Education Center

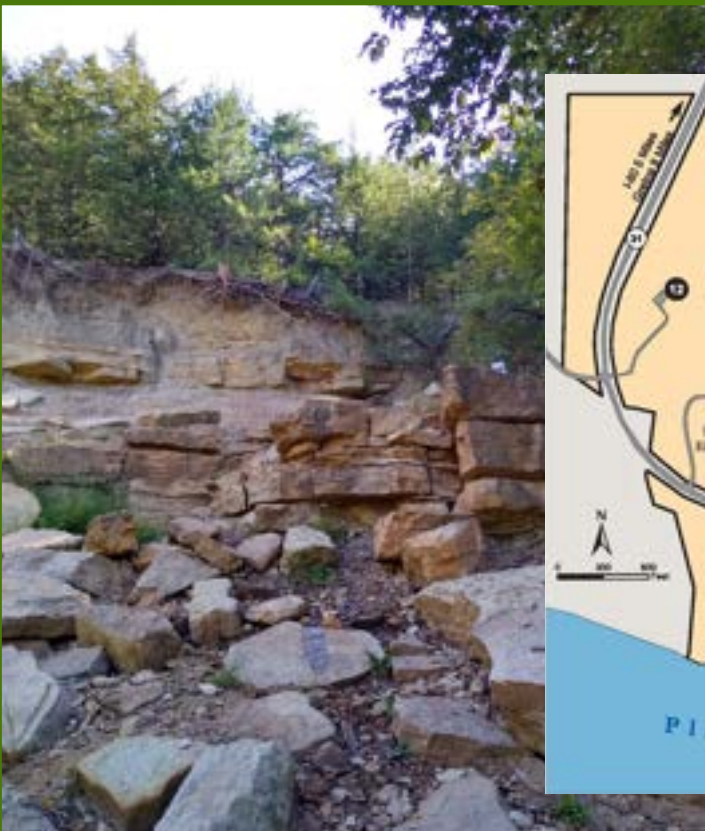
SCHRAMM EDUCATION CENTER EXHIBITS

Spark curiosity and wonder by exploring features of the Schramm Education Center:

- Live animal exhibits featuring over 60 species of turtles, frogs, toads, snakes, salamanders, and fish found in Nebraska
- Aquariums showcasing fish diversity in Nebraska's freshwater aquatic habitats: cool water streams, rivers, reservoirs and farm ponds
- Six tanks featuring smaller, lesser-known fish species, including the endangered Topeka Shiner
- Digital games including color-a-fish, lake stocking, and build-a-fish
- Virtual reality mountain biking experience
- Wonder Woodland imaginative play area
- Pallid Sturgeon Touch Tank
- Reading Nook
- Maker Space
- Bird-watching area
- Interactive educational exhibits
- *COMING in 2023: Natural Playground*



Schramm Park SRA



SCHRAMM PARK STATE RECREATION AREA

Groups can enjoy outdoor activities in the park such as hiking and bird watching before and/or after visiting the Education Center.

The park features:

- Three miles of trails through eastern deciduous forests, a suspension bridge, and a river trail
- Abundant wildlife and bird species
- Canyon Ponds with fish, geese and more
- Picnic tables and picnic shelters
- Historic Fish Hatchery Museum (open 10:00 am—4:30 pm Memorial Day —Labor Day)
- Geological Outcrop where guests can view fossils that date back 350 million years
- A playground
- **COMING in 2023:** Treehouse Classroom



NEBRASKA
— GAME PARKS —

45-60 Minute Programs

ANIMAL TRACKS & SIGNS

Animals are all around us, although we might not see them every day. You'll learn how to identify different Nebraska animals by their tracks and signs and then head out on a hike with a naturalist to make observations on the trails.

BEGINNING BIRDING

This interactive bird-watching session will introduce how to use binoculars and field guides, and you'll learn how to identify some common Nebraska birds.

FINTASTIC FISHING

Ages 8+. Available April—September.

Learn about fishing basics in this hands-on session. Casting the line, knot tying and identifying common Nebraska fish are all part of the experience as we learn how to fish.

HIKES AND HUNTS

Investigate the woods and prairie on a guided hike. We offer several different types of nature hikes, including hikes focused on using the five senses, colors, plants and animals, and others. We even have a rainy day option!

INSECT INVESTIGATION

What makes a bug, a bug? What insects live in Nebraska? Join a naturalist on an insect hike, and get up close and personal to amazing insects found in our prairie and woodland habitats.

PACK TACTICS

From prairie dogs to bighorn sheep, some Nebraska animals form groups in order to survive. Learn about the physical and behavioral adaptations of several Nebraska animals as your group acts out pack tactics!



MATH IN NATURE

Plants may not have square roots, but they do have Fibonacci numbers. Older students will find Fibonacci numbers in nature, draw a golden mean, and use pi to calculate the circumference of a tree's trunk.

Younger learners will investigate shapes, patterns, and symmetry in nature.

NATURE JOURNALING

This program combines art, science, and writing as a way to record the changes of seasons, wildlife encounters, and other fascinating phenomena that are found outdoors. Learn about famous naturalists that are known for their nature observations and illustrations, and assemble your own journal and practice ways to draw and record.

OWLS OF NEBRASKA

Learn to identify Nebraska owls by sight and sound, and find out what makes an owl, an owl! Then, dissect an owl pellet to gather evidence and make explanations of where owls fit in a food web.

POND ECOLOGY

Available April - September

With nets in tow, we'll hike to the hatchery ponds to investigate underwater organisms—both big and small. Then we will develop explanations about the quality and diversity of aquatic habitats through the data we collect.

READING THE ROCKS

Just as we read a book to pursue knowledge and entertain ourselves with adventures, we can read the layers of rock in the Earth. Learn how to "Read the Rocks" at our Geological Display and interpret Earth's history while searching for fossils.

SNAKES OF NEBRASKA

Learn about the different species of snakes that live in Nebraska, their unique adaptations and the habitats they inhabit in Nebraska, and meet a live snake.



TURTLES OF NEBRASKA

Learn about Nebraska's nine turtle species and meet a live turtle as you examine adaptations that make these reptiles amazing: shells, scutes, and more!

Two Hour Programs

SENSORY SCIENTISTS (ages 3-5)

NE Birth to Five Learning and Development Standards S.01, S.02

Dirt, sand, water and mud: dig into this sensory science session! Learn about the five senses and how animals use their senses to explore the environment. Students will use their sense of smell, touch, sight and hearing as we explore the nature center and trails.

WHAT'S THAT? HABITAT! (Kindergarten)

NE Science Standard SC.K.7.2.A, SC.K.7.2.C

What do plants, animals and humans need to survive? Explore the needs of living things through games, art and scientific observation. While hiking on a trail, find the habitat of some native Nebraska animals and look for patterns in the forest and prairie.

WILDLIFE FUNCTIONS (First Grade)

NE Science Standard SC.1.6.2, SC.1.6.2.A

How does an animal's form – its wings, beak, fins and more– affect its function – how it moves, how it eats, how it survives? Explore the physical features of living things at Schramm and determine how these features impact how they move, eat and survive. Then, explore the aquarium, forest and field to see these adaptations in action.

PARTNERS IN NATURE (Second Grade)

NE Science Standard SC.2.7.2.B, SC.2.7.2.C

How do plants and animals rely on each other? One way is through pollination, which we will learn about while visiting our pollinator garden and designing a pollinator. We will also explore habitats to discover patterns of interdependence in nature and the diversity of life in different habitats.

IT'S A BUGGY WORLD (Third Grade)

NE Science Standard SC.3.9.3.C, SC.3.9.3.D, SC.3.7.2.D

A camouflaged caterpillar is more likely to survive. A Monarch Butterfly's bright wings send a message to its predators. Investigate how an insect's traits allow it to either survive well, less well or not survive at all. Then, explore how those traits are influenced by the environment.

TURTLE—TASTIC TRAITS (Fourth Grade)

NE Science Standard SC.4.6.3.B, SC.4.6.3.C

At Schramm, we love our turtles! Learn all about Nebraska's nine turtle species as we explore various outdoor habitats, including ponds and prairie. We'll also visit the aquarium and meet a turtle ambassador to examine adaptations and observe behaviors that help these amazing reptiles survive.

THE SUN IS THE SOURCE (Fifth Grade)

NE Science Standard SC.5.8.2.A, SC.5.8.2.C

The sun is where it all starts. Learn about food webs and the interconnectedness of our natural world. We will dissect owl pellets, seeking evidence of energy. While exploring the park, we will see the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers and the environment in action.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER (Sixth Grade)

NE Science Standard SC.6.9.3.B

What determines if a living thing survives and thrives in the wild? Through exploration of various Nebraska bird species, explore their behavior and adaptations as we look for evidence of environmental and genetic factors that affect their success rate. In the center and on the trail find environmental evidence to guide our thinking.



4-H Field Trips

4-H Clubs sign up together for these field trips and walk away with a project in progress. Each program in class D34000 includes gathering information and starting to complete a poster exhibit.

4-H Programs Include:

- 90 minute guided program
- 60 minutes of Self-Guided Exploration of Schramm Education Center

Cost: \$4/youth, \$5/adult



Select one of the focus areas below:

MAMMAL DISPLAY	BIRD DISPLAY	FISH DISPLAY	REPTILE OR AMPHIBIAN DISPLAY
<p>Class D340001</p> <p>What mammals call Nebraska home? Learn about our local mammals and more while exploring through the woodlands and pond areas of Schramm. We'll explore habitat, unique adaptations, animal coverings, conservation, and more.</p>	<p>Class D340002</p> <p>From songbirds to raptors and waterfowl to owls, birds are all around us. We'll learn basic birding skills, look for birds in the wild and explore their behaviors, habitat, adaptations, and ways we can support bird conservation.</p>	<p>Class D340003</p> <p>Visit many Nebraska species of fish in the region's largest freshwater aquarium, then hike to the ponds to feed our trout and carp. We'll observe fish behaviors and habitats. Fins and other fish-forms will be observed as we explore the aquarium.</p>	<p>Class D340004</p> <p>Reptiles and amphibians are some of our favorite friends at Schramm. With live animal ambassadors, we'll compare adaptations, behaviors, habitats, and more, and consider ways to conserve species in the wild.</p>

To make a reservation, or with questions, contact Kelly Ekue, Outdoor Education Specialist
 Kelly.ekue@nebraska.gov | 402-332-5022

Boy Scout Field Trips

Troops sign up together for these field trips and walk away with either a badge in progress or a completed badge, depending on the program.

Boy Scout Programs Include:

- 90 minute guided program
- 60 minutes of Self-Guided Exploration of Schramm Education Center

Cost: \$4/youth, \$5/adult



Boy Scout Program Options

PAWS ON THE PATH Wolf Scouts (3rd Grade) Put your “Paws on the Path” with a hike on one of Schramm’s many scenic trails. With a little preparation before your visit (requirements 1-3) and explorations at the center which include preparing for the hike, identifying various species on the trail, and drawing a map (requirements 4-7), you’ll have what you need to succeed in earning your badge.

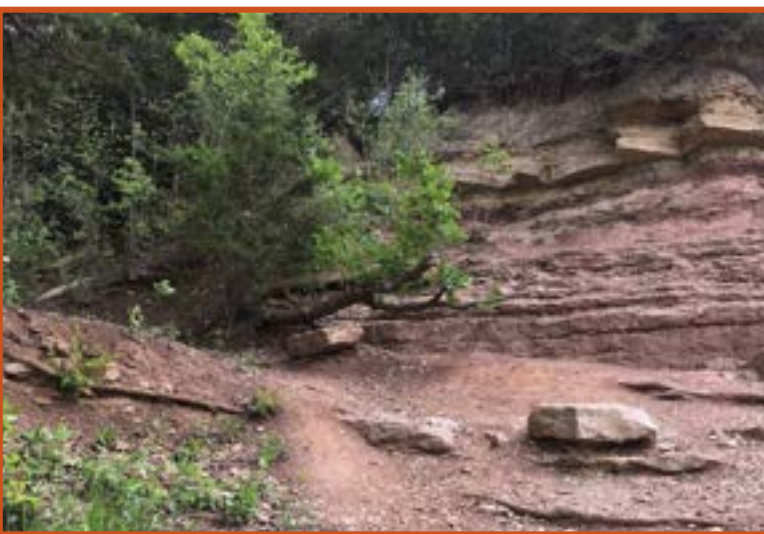
BEAR GOES FISHING Bear Scouts (4th Grade) While exploring the region’s largest freshwater aquarium, you will complete two of the three requirements for your “Bear Goes Fishing” badge. Learn about fish in our aquariums, fishing regulations, equipment and more, then try casting at a target. On your own, make a simple fishing pole or go on a fishing adventure to complete your final requirement.

EARTH ROCKS Webelos Scouts (5th Grade) Complete your “Earth Rocks” Webelos Badge while exploring geology at Schramm Park. This visit includes a hike to our geology dig outcrop, testing rocks on a mohs scale and exploring ways that people use rocks and minerals in their homes and communities.

BIRD STUDY Scouts BSA Troops (6th-12th Grade)

Create a field notebook, learn some birding basics, listen to bird calls and observe birds found at Schramm Education Center. We will focus on three Bird Study Merit Badge Series requirements (5, 7, 8) as we hike, birdwatch and discuss/record our findings.

To make a reservation, or with questions, contact
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Kelly.ekue@nebraska.gov | 402-332-5022



Girl Scout Field Trips

Troops sign up together for these field trips and walk away with either a badge in progress or a completed badge, depending on the program.

Girl Scout Programs Include:

- 90 minute guided program
- 60 minutes of Self-Guided Exploration of Schramm Education Center

Cost: \$4/youth, \$5/adult



Girl Scout Program Options

ECO-LEARNER (K-1st Grade) Daisy

HIKER (2nd-3rd Grade) Brownie

ANIMAL HABITATS (4th-5th Grade) Junior

TREES (6th-8th Grade) Cadette

VOICE FOR ANIMALS (9th-10th Grade) Senior

ULTIMATE RECREATION CHALLENGE (11th-12th Grade) Ambassador

*The Ambassador Program requires a planning meeting.



Annual Girl Scout Events

Girl Scouts, Spirit of Nebraska Council and Schramm Education Center partner to provide two annual program events. Girl Scouts participating in these events register through the council.

Fall (September): Girl Scouts Love State Parks

Location: Statewide Nebraska Game & Parks Locations

Spring (March): Girl Scouts Love Schramm Park

Location: Schramm Education Center

To make a reservation, or with questions, contact Kelly Ekue, Outdoor Education Specialist
Kelly.ekue@nebraska.gov | 402-332-5022

Classroom Rentals

**Looking for a place to host an event,
birthday party, or group meeting?**

The Schramm Education Center classroom is available for rental! Enjoy your event surrounded by the sounds and sights of nature at Schramm Park!



Classroom Features

- Moveable tables and chairs allow for maximum flexibility in seating for up to 50 people.
- An audio visual system, including four large screen TVs, is available for use.
- Windowed garage doors open to an outdoor patio with picnic tables, a large charcoal grill, and shade umbrellas.
- A countertop area includes sinks, microwave, and coffeemaker.
- Restrooms are nearby in the classroom wing which include a family restroom.



For more information or to make a reservation,
contact Jen Ruyle,
Outdoor Education Specialist:
Jennifer.ruyle@nebraska.gov | (402)-332-5022.

Classroom Rental Pricing

	Half Day (4 hours)	Whole Day (8 hours)
Educational Rental	\$75	\$150
Standard Rental	\$150	\$300
Schramm Facility Rental	Available from 5:00— 10:00 pm for up to 150 guests; \$1,500	

Classroom Rental Add-Ons

- Admission to the Education Center: \$2.50 per child; \$3.00 per adult
- Naturalist Program: \$30



Birthday Parties

Celebrate your next birthday at the Schramm Education Center! Schramm birthday parties include a rental of our private classroom space and admission to the Schramm Education Center for up to 45 guests.

Classroom Rental (\$150)

- Four-hour private classroom rental

Add on Self-guided Admission to the Education Center

(\$2.50 per child; \$3.00 per adult)

- Your guests can spend as much time as they like exploring the Education Center exhibits and play area. We recommend about an hour.
- You can pay your guests admission or they can pay individually as they arrive.
- Free weekend naturalist programs take place at 11am, 1pm, and 3 pm on nature topics that change monthly. Your group is welcome to participate along with the public, but please let us know when scheduling if you plan to do so.

Add on a Naturalist Program (\$30)

- A Schramm naturalist will lead the group in a 30-45 minute program
- Choose your naturalist program:
 - Reptiles (live animal & art activity)
 - Fish (games & art activity)
 - Birds (outdoor birding hike)
 - Insects (outdoor insect hike; seasonal)

Other Things to know

TIMES AVAILABLE

Saturdays or Sundays. We can start as early as 9:00 am . The Education Center closes at 5:00 pm.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE

Our Classroom can comfortably seat 45 people.

RESTRICTIONS

Food and drink must stay in the classroom. No candles or open flames.

PAYMENT

Payment must be received in advance or on the day of your party. Payment can be made with cash, credit card, or checks payable to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Call 402-332-3901 to pay over the phone with a credit card in advance.

WE PROVIDE

- Set up of tables and chairs
- Coloring sheets and crayons



To make a reservation, or with questions, contact Jen Ruyle, Outdoor Education Specialist
Jennifer.ruyle@nebraska.gov | 402-332-5022

Schramm Family Pass

WANT UNLIMITED ACCESS TO SCHRAMM EDUCATION CENTER?

BUY A SCHRAMM FAMILY MEMBERSHIP PASS!

The Schramm Education Center offers a membership option for families that wish to visit the Schramm Education Center many times in a year in a cost-effective way. Three to four visits pays for your membership!



SCHRAMM FAMILY MEMBERSHIP PASS COST: \$100.00

- Provides unlimited admission to the Schramm Education Center for one year from date of purchase for the adult bearer, one additional adult, and up to three children (ages 4—12) during regular operating hours.
- At least one adult cardholder listed must be present to use the membership pass during a visit. We ask that the cardholder show ID when visiting.
- Additional visitors that exceed the two adults and three children (ages 4-12) will need to pay full admission.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS—FREE WITH A FAMILY PASS!

- Family pass holders get free admission to monthly series programs. Check our Facebook Page or call for upcoming events. Regular monthly events include:
 - Little Saplings: First Wednesday of every month, September—May, from 9—10 am. For children ages 2-5 and an adult caregiver
 - Homeschool Hikes: Third Wednesday of every month, September—May, from 9-10:30 am. Nature exploration program for families
- We hold many other events throughout the year. See our Facebook page for upcoming events.



NATURALIST PROGRAMS AT SCHRAMM

Our team of naturalists offer daily, educational programs for center and park guests. Program topics change seasonally, but past topics have included live animal programs, backyard birding, slingshots, mud kitchen, fishing, and nature hikes. These programs are included with admission, and as a family pass member you participate free!

Look for the current flier at the Schramm Education Center front desk!



CONTACT US AND FIND US ONLINE!

Website: <http://outdoornebraska.gov/schrammeducationcenter/>

Front Desk Phone: 402-332-3901

Education Team and Reservations: (402) 332-5022

To find out about upcoming events, visit our Facebook page and look at the events tab or the Outdoor Nebraska Calendar: <https://calendar.outdoornebraska.gov/>.

Outdoor Education Specialists:

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Facebook:

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Instagram:

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Pinterest:

@ngpc

Going Virtual in the Venture Parks

With a digital device and a day to explore, visit four area parks.

The Venture Park Adventure is a great day trip that will lead you on a digital geocaching mission through the region! Simply download the Adventure Lab app, then use your phone's native QR code scanner to open the adventure. Once in the app, look for the NGPC Venture Adventure and start exploring park

