



# Discover, Learn, Play

Book your field trip today!



Schramm Education Center field trips bring science to life through the natural world!

Field trips meet Nebraska State Science Standards by developing core ideas and concepts while engaging students in outdoor skills and nature exploration in the center and at Schramm Park!

## FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS

*Two Hour Field Trip*

Students: \$4

Adults: \$5

*Self Guided Tours*

Students: \$2.50

Adults: \$3

*Naturalist Programs*

\$30 (up to 30 guests)

*All field trips require reservations.*

For more information, or to book a field trip contact our Outdoor Education Specialists at 402-332-5022

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**NEBRASKA**



**SCHRAMM  
EDUCATION CENTER**

# Schramm Education Center Programs

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission strives to provide varied opportunities for the public to engage with nature and enjoy outdoor recreation. The Schramm Education Center at Schramm Park State Recreation Area offers an immersive, state-of-the-art educational experience for visitors, as well as an introduction to the wonder and adventure that awaits beyond its walls. Features include:



## SCHRAMM EDUCATION CENTER

- Newly renovated and expanded aquariums featuring Nebraska's natural aquatic habitats – cool water streams, rivers, reservoirs and farm ponds.
- Six smaller tanks focusing on some of Nebraska's smaller, lesser-known fish species.
- A 2,200-gallon touch tank, inviting visitors to feel a Pallid Sturgeon.
- Seventeen live animal tanks featuring Nebraska's reptile and amphibian species including interactive digital signage focusing on each species.
- Educational nature center areas including a reading nook, maker's space, bird watching area and pre-school play area, and learning stations focusing on mammals, insects, birds and nature.
- Interactive digital features including wayfinding map, touch screens focusing on the species of the area, interactive digital games including color-a-fish, lake stocking game and build-a-fish game.
- Virtual reality mountain biking experience where visitors will have the opportunity to "ride" the trails of local state park areas on an actual bike.

In addition to the Education Center, Schramm Park has much to offer visitors. With over three miles of trails through pristine eastern deciduous forests, visitors will see abundant wildlife and bird species. For a casual stroll, head down Bluebird Service Road which leads from the Education Center past the Canyon Ponds and Historic Hatchery House to the Park's geologic display. A picnic area and playground are located just above the canyon ponds and up the hill from the historic Hatch House Museum.

## Pricing Information and Hours

### Schramm Education Center Hours:

9am-5pm Daily

### Admission:

\$10 Adults, \$7 youth (ages 4-12), \$7 seniors (age 60 and older), children 3 and under free.

### Group Admission with Reservations:

Self-Guided One Hour Tour: \$3 Adults, \$2.50 Youth

### Field Trip Programs:

Two Hour Field Trip Program: \$4.00 Student, \$5 Adults

### Naturalist Programs:

Thirty Minutes to One Hour: \$30 (up to 30 guests)

### Classroom Rental:

\$150 for educational groups; \$300 for non-educational groups.



**To register for a field trip or other educational program,  
please contact the Outdoor Education Specialists:**

Kelly Ekue [kelly.ekue@nebraska.gov](mailto:kelly.ekue@nebraska.gov), or Amber Schiltz [amber.schiltz@nebraska.gov](mailto:amber.schiltz@nebraska.gov)

Education Team: (402)-332-5022 Main Line: (402)-332-3901

# Two Hour Field Trip Programs



## Sensory Scientists

**Level:** ages 3-5 (meets Nebraska Birth to Five Learning and Development Standards S.01, S.02)

**Description:** Dirt, sand, pinecones and shells: dig into this sensory science session! Children will 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!

**Level:** Kindergarten (meets Nebraska Science kindergarten standards SC.K.7.2.A, SC.K.7.2.B, SC.K.7.2.C)

**Description:** What do plants and animals need to survive? We will explore the education center to determine the habitat needs of different Nebraska animals and how those needs are met in their nature center habitat. Then, we will head outside to look for what wildlife and trees need to survive. In the end, we will discuss habitat patterns that we found.

## Wildlife FUNctions

**Level:** First Grade (meets Nebraska Science 1<sup>st</sup> grade standard SC.1.6.2.A)

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

## Partners in Nature

**Level:** Second Grade (meets Nebraska Science 2<sup>nd</sup> grade standards SC.2.7.2.B, SC.2.7.2.C)

**Description:** How do plants and animals rely on each other? Learn about interdependence while collecting seeds, predicting how they disperse and then finding out how animals and insects help plants move their seeds? We will also learn about the important role of pollination in this partnership.

## It's a Buggy World: Surviving and Thriving

**Level:** Third Grade (meets Nebraska Science 3<sup>rd</sup> grade standards SC.3.9.3.A, SC.3.9.3.C, SC.3.9.3.D)

**Description:** A camouflaged caterpillar is more likely to survive. A Monarch Butterfly's bright wings send a message to its predators. We will investigate how an insect's traits allow it to either survive well, less well or not survive at all. Then, we will consider how traits are influenced by the environment.

## Turtle-tastic Traits

**Level:** Fourth Grade (meets Nebraska Science 4<sup>th</sup> grade standards SC.4.6.3.B, SC.4.6.3.C)

**Description:** Through an in-depth examination of Nebraska's turtle species, we will explore how senses help provide them with the information needed for survival. In the 'lab' and in the aquarium, we will take a first-hand look at some of the traits and structures of turtles – including our ginormous snapping turtle – and construct an argument for how these traits and structures help them survive. We will test our arguments while meeting our turtle ambassadors from the center.

## The Sun is the Source

**Level:** Fifth Grade (meets Nebraska Science 5th grade standards; SC.5.8.2.A, SC.5.8.2.B, SC.5.8.2.C)

**Description:** The sun is where it all starts. Learn about food chains and the interconnectedness of our natural world. We will investigate the argument that plants get their energy from the sun and the materials they need to grow from air, water and soil. Then we will head outside to see the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers and the environment in action.

## Birds of a Feather: Environmental Evidence

**Level:** Sixth Grade (meets Nebraska Science 6<sup>th</sup> grade standard SC.6.9.3.B)

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

# Naturalist Programs

Each of the naturalist programs runs 30-60 minutes, depending on group size and schedule.



## Animal Program

**Level:** All Ages

**Description:** Children will learn about animals that call Nebraska home as our naturalists present a few select species from our exhibits. Guests may have the opportunity to connect with our resident animal ambassadors by asking questions, looking up close and even touching them.

## Hikes and Hunts

**Level:** All Ages

**Description:** With a variety of nature hikes and scavenger hunts to offer, we like to leave the decision-making up to the naturalist leading the hike. While many groups go on hikes that are self-guided, others like to have a naturalist lead them along the trails. We even have a rainy day option!

## Beginning Birding

**Level:** All Ages

**Description:** Discover why bird watching is one of the fastest growing hobbies in America and why research shows that just looking at birds in nature can reduce stress. This interactive bird watching session will introduce you to the tools of the trade and some common Nebraska birds that you may be able to find in your backyard or with a short trip to your favorite Nebraska State Park or Recreation Area.

## Math in Nature

**Level:** Kindergarten and Up (instruction will vary depending on student grade)

**Description:** Plants may not have square roots, but they do have Fibonacci numbers. For older students, we will find Fibonacci numbers in nature, draw a golden mean and use pi to calculate the circumference of a tree's trunk. For younger students, we will investigate shapes, patterns and symmetry in nature. This is where the love of math and the love of nature unite.

## Aquatic Insects

**Level:** Second Grade and Up (seasonally available)

**Description:** With our nets in tow, we will hike to the hatchery ponds to investigate underwater organisms – both big and small. Then, as scientists do, we will learn about the diversity of aquatic habitats through the data we collect.

## FINtastic Fishing (seasonally available)

**Level:** Second Grade and Up (instruction will vary depending on student grade)

**Description:** 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 try our hands at this FINtastic hobby of fishing.

\*Limited to group sizes of 15

## Nature Journaling

**Level:** Second Grade and Up

**Description:** Nature Journaling combines art, science and writing as a way to record the changes of seasons, wildlife encounters and other fascinating phenomena that one finds in the out-of-doors. We will learn about some well-known naturalists who made a mark in history through their nature observations and illustrations. Finally, we will assemble our own journals and practice ways to write, draw and record.

## Owls of Nebraska

**Level:** All Ages

**Description:** What makes owls so unique in the bird world? What kind of owls can we find in Nebraska? Do all owls sound the same? In this program we'll dive into the world of owls by exploring their unique adaptations, dissecting owl pellets, and learning how to identify Nebraska owls by sight and sound.

# SCHRAMM EDUCATION CENTER

21502 West Hwy 31, Gretna, NE 68028 | 402-332-3901



SCHRAMM  
EDUCATION CENTER

The expanded and fully renovated Schramm Education Center, formerly known as the Ak-sar-ben Aquarium, is nestled within the hills of Schramm Park, a 331-acre, a unique geologic and botanical area. The state of the art center includes aquariums and exhibits that feature over 60 of freshwater fish species, turtle, frog, and snake species found in Nebraska's natural aquatic habitats. New educational exhibits encourage students of all ages to explore and learn, and include a makerspace, Wonder Woodland play area, bird watching area, virtual reality mountain biking experience, a sturgeon touch tank, nature reading nook, and interactive touch screens.

Along with visiting the center, students can enjoy other outdoor attractions at Schramm Park such as hiking, bird watching, fishing, and more. Visitors can view even more fish, several species of ducks, and geese in the Canyon Ponds, and enjoy spectacular views of the Platte River Valley while eating a picnic lunch. Students can also explore the nature trails through rugged woodlands, or discover the unique geology display located within the park.

**Chaperone Expectations:** Teachers/chaperones are responsible for the behavior and safety of their students. We ask that you have an **adult to student ratio of at least 1 to 10**, and that you are engaging with the program by being off your cellphones. There are many unique and interactive exhibits in the center. As chaperones **you are responsible for the behavior of your students** while engaging with our exhibits. **\*\*Please pay particular attention to the Maker Space by restoring this area after use, also model with students how to pick up after lunch.**

**Upon Arrival:** School buses can park in the center parking lot. We will meet you in the front of the center. **Group admission needs to be paid upon arrival.**

**Lunch:** If you are planning on having a sack lunch during your field trip, **please note that food and drink are not allowed in the center.** There are several outdoor locations for your group's picnic lunch, including four picnic shelters and many picnic tables placed around the park. Picnic shelters are first come, first serve, and cannot be reserved ahead of time.

**Waste:** **All lunch waste needs to be picked up and put into a park trash container or packed out.** If you need a garbage bag please ask for one at the center.

**Water:** We encourage the use of reusable water bottles. Schramm Education Center has two water bottle filling stations, one by each restroom location.

### Photography Consent

Please notify us in advance of any particular students or their parents (or guardian) *not* consenting to the students being photographed.

### What should my students wear/bring?

Comfortable students are happy ones! Think about the weather and outdoor conditions. **It is recommended that students dress in season appropriate layers and wear closed toed shoes.** They are also encouraged to bring hats, water bottles, sunscreen, and bug spray.

### Group admission with booking:

Description	Self Guide	Field Trip Program
Students:	\$2.50	\$4.00
Adults:	\$3.00	\$5.00
Children 3 & Under:	Free	
Naturalist Program:	\$30.00	

### Directions to Schramm Education Center & Park:

Take I-80 to exit 432 (Gretna/Ashland). Turn left (south) onto Highway 31 and drive approximately 5 miles. Schramm Education Center is just past Fishery Road to the left on Highway 31.

For questions contact Amber Schiltz or Kelly Ekue, Outdoor Education Specialists  
402-332-5022 | [amber.schiltz@nebraska.gov](mailto:amber.schiltz@nebraska.gov) | [Kelly.ekue@nebraska.gov](mailto:Kelly.ekue@nebraska.gov)

# SCHRAMM PARK STATE RECREATION AREA AND EDUCATION CENTER

- 1 Schramm Education Center
- 2 Fish Hatchery Museum & Ponds
- 3 Canyon Ponds
- 4 Eastern NE 4-H Center
- 5 Scenic Platte River Outlook
- 6 Meditation Shelter
- 7 Geological Display
- 8 Canoe and Kayak Access
- 9 Trail Bulletin Board
- 10 Edward Owen Picnic Area
- 11 Suspension Bridge
- 12 Larry Elston Archery Range
-  Adirondack Shelter
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Playground
-  Restroom
-  Bridges
-  Sidewalks
-  Trails
-  Buildings



Pick up a copy of the Visitor's Guide at the park office for highlights of park activities and special events.