Schramm Education Center
PROGRAM GUIDE

Discover, Learn, Play
Book your visit today!

Gretna, Nebraska
402-332-5022
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.

Outdoor Education Specialists (402)-332-5022

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Trip</th>
<th>Cost per Youth</th>
<th>Cost per Adult</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-Guided Visit</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip—Option 1</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes a one-hour program and self-guided time in the Education Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip—Option 2</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes a two-hour program and self-guided time in the Education Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip—Option 3</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes three-hours of programming (choose a combination of programs) and self-guided time in the Education Center.</td>
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One Hour Programs
- 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
- Aquatic Insects (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: Environmental Evidence (6th)

In addition to phone or email, you can request a field trip through our Google Form. Scan the QR code here or find the link to the form on our website.
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
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

![Schramm Park Map](image)
ONE HOUR PROGRAMS

ANIMAL TRACKS & SIGNS
Animals are all around us, although we might not see them every day. Learn how to identify different Nebraska animals by their tracks and signs.

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.

FIN TASTIC FISHING
(Ages 8 and up)
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 try our hands at this FINtastic hobby of fishing.

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

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,
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)
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.
Our 45 minute virtual programs are designed to engage students through inquiry and discovery. A Schramm educator will connect with your classroom live using Zoom or another application.

**HOW TO DRAW BIRDS**

Drawing birds can be both relaxing and educational. Many people combine art and science when they create a nature journal or draw the things they see in the wild: plants, animals and more. During this program, we will explore famous bird art and learn the basics of how to draw a bird from sketch to final product.

**OWLS OF NEBRASKA**

Whooo wants to learn all there is to know about owls? First, we'll explore their adaptations and try to identify Nebraska owls by sight and sound. Then, we'll collect and analyze data as we dissect owl pellets. We'll use the data we gather to develop ideas about an owl’s diet and how owls fit into a food web.

*The Owls of Nebraska program includes an owl pellet activity kit that will be mailed to your school prior to the program. This kit requires an additional fee of $2.50 per student in addition to the program fee.*

**SNAKES OF NEBRASKA**

How many kinds of snakes live in Nebraska? Which ones are venomous? What habitats do they call home? Learn answers to these questions and ask your own as we meet some spectacular snakes of Schramm.

**TURTLES OF NEBRASKA**

Learn all about Nebraska’s nine turtle species and meet a live turtle as you examine adaptations that make these reptiles so amazing: shells, scutes, and more! We’ll also observe turtle behavior by watching them in our tanks and aquarium.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mammal Display</th>
<th>Bird Display</th>
<th>Fish Display</th>
<th>Reptile or Amphibian Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class D340001</td>
<td>Class D340002</td>
<td>Class D340003</td>
<td>Class D340004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Boy Scout Programs Include:

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

Cost: $4/youth, $5/adult

To make a reservation, or with questions, contact Kelly Ekue, Outdoor Education Specialist
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
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.

Classroom Rental Pricing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Half Day (4 hours)</th>
<th>Whole Day (8 hours)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational Rental</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Rental</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entire Facility Rental</td>
<td>Available from 5:00—10:00 pm for up to 150 guests; $1,500</td>
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</table>

Classroom Rental Add-Ons

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

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

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

Daily Programs: 3:00 pm
Weekend Programs: 11:00, 1:00 and 3:00 pm
Outdoor programs are weather-permitting.

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!
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

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:

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

Facebook:
@schrammeducationcenter

Instagram:
@schrammparknebraska

Pinterest:
@ngpc

Going Virtual in the Venture Parks
With a digital device and a day to explore, visit four area parks.