

January 2023 Park Programs

Venture Parks Education Team



Visit us at OutdoorNebraska.org

The Venture Park Naturalist Team is stationed throughout the parks to provide learning opportunities for our guests. Naturalists are people who love the outdoors & are passionate about discovering, exploring & sharing the joys of nature with you. It is our goal to inspire appreciation & knowledge of natural & cultural resources while promoting greater understanding, support for & participation in conservation & outdoor recreation. When you see an orange "Nature Program" flag in the park, stop on over to learn something new!

**** Programs are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather, staffing shortages or other unforeseen circumstances. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Please dress appropriately for the activity & the weather. Programs are free unless a fee is noted.*



E.T. Mahoney State Park

Cold Days Warm Hearts Saturday, January 14th, 1 pm—4:00 pm

Celebrate the frosty season by making memories with the whole family to warm you through the cold days of winter. If conditions allow, we'll do some ice fishing and provide both instruction and gear for this favorite winter activity. Winter crafts will be available for purchase and our park Naturalists will provide some free nature programs. Food specials include a Hotdog, Chips and a Drink combo for \$4, S'mores Kit for \$2.50 each, Hot Chocolate and Popcorn for \$1 each. Location: Owen Marina

Platte River State Park

Nature Center Saturdays, 9 am to 4:00 pm

The Nature Center is located below Mallet Lodge near the Wooden Tower & features a classic nature-nook feel with live reptiles & amphibians. There are hands-on activities to explore and naturalists who are excited to share their knowledge of the outdoors with guests.

Reminder: America's State Parks plan First Day Hikes across the country every New Years Day. These free guided hikes are a great way to kick-off the year! See our December flier for more details about the event and location specific information.

- Platte River State Park 9:00 am at Walter Scott Lodge
- Schramm Education Center at 10:30 am
- E. T. Mahoney State Park 2:30-5:00 at Kountze Memorial Theater (Hikes begin at 2:45 and 3:45)
- Louisville SRA at 3:00 pm at the picnic shelter across from concessions

Schramm Education Center

Open 10:00-5:00pm Daily *Call ahead for modified holiday hours.
Admission: \$10 Adults, \$7 Seniors & Ages 4-12, 3 & Under are free

Naturalist Programs Daily in January at 10:30 am

Animal Feeding Observe an animal feeding and learn about how our animals are cared for and about some of their unique adaptations. This program is free with paid admission and will meet in the lobby at 10:30 am daily in the month of December.

Winter Break Days! January 2nd & 3rd, 10 am-2 pm

Join us for Winter Break Days at Schramm! We will have special activities throughout the day! 10:00 Winter Storytime, 10:30 Animal Feeding, 11:00 Phenology and Nature Journaling, 12:00 Meet a Reptile, 1:00 Animal Tracks with a Winter Hike. Free admission.

Winter: What's Out There? Sundays in January at 1:00 pm

What's in the woods on a wintery day? Join us for a discovery hike to see what can be found along the trails. Bring a cell phone to get some close-up wintery photos using our macro lenses. Free with admission. Meet in the Lobby.

Fly-Tying Workshop Saturday, January 21st, 10 am to noon

Join the Cornhusker Fly Fishers for a "Tie-in" and observe them as they demonstrate their craft and then try your hand at making a fly to take home. Materials provided by the club.

Wise & Wild This program is designed for seniors who love the outdoors and want to enjoy time in the parks. We will share a variety of nature-related topics with activities indoors and out. This free program rotates between Venture Park locations and is held on Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

- January 12th, Meet at Schramm Education Center Classroom to create a walking stick and go on a short hike.
- January 19th, Meet at Mahoney State Park Kountze Memorial Theater to learn how to identify trees in the winter.
- January 26th, Meet at Schramm Education Center Classroom to discover the Science of Snowflakes.