



Niobrara Valley Outdoor Education Partnerships

Outdoor Education Help for the Classroom

Dear Educator,

The Niobrara Valley Outdoor Education Partnership is a group of enthusiastic, knowledgeable and dedicated outdoor education professionals who work together to bring learning opportunities to the communities in the Niobrara National Scenic River area.



Who are members of NVOEP?

National Park Service
Natural Resource Districts
The Nature Conservancy
Nebraska Game & Parks
Outfitters
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension (4-H)

Nebraska Forest Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nature Enthusiasts/Interested Citizens
Niobrara Council
Scout Leaders
U.S. Fish & Wildlife

We currently coordinate a variety of projects you may be familiar with:

Spring Family Fun Day
Nature Fest for 5th graders
School Resource Days & Field Trips
4-H Environmental Skill Day

Niobrara Council Summer Camps
Niobrara After School Nature Club
Preschool Nature Programs
Brown Bag Luncheons for adults (NEW in 2013)



Much of our work takes place outside of school hours but we are also available to enrich your daily teaching experience. We feel that nature is one of the greatest classrooms for any curriculum area and we have several lessons that are ready to be integrated into a variety of learning units. Not up to taking the students outdoors that day? No worries! We can “bring the outdoors in” as well.

This packet contains a list of lessons we could share with your students (along with contact information), and resources that can be checked out free of charge. Don't see a topic you are interested in? Let us know—we are always excited to develop new material based on local interests!

We hope to see you and your students in 2013!

Michelle Garwood, Niobrara Council Programs Assistant & NVOEP Chair

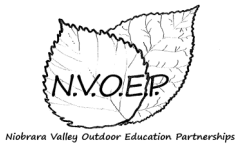
Our **FREE** lessons are...

Interdisciplinary—combining more than one core subject area into a single lesson

Aligned—with Nebraska State Educational Standards

Hands-on and interactive—encouraging students to use critical thinking skills

Local place-based education—using Nebraska and the Niobrara National Scenic River; its wildlife and natural resources



Outdoor Education Help for the Classroom

“Ready to go” presentations for 2013 by topic:

Fire

“Firewise®” - Training that empowers youth and adults to protect people and property from wildfires.

Grades K-12

Contact: Sandy Benson, Nebraska Forest Service, 402-684-2290, sbenson4@unl.edu

General Nature

“Backyard Explorer” - Demo of naturalist activities that can be done in your own neighborhood (sensory hikes, scavenger hunts, etc.).

Grades K-5

Contact: Nancy Klammer, 402-722-4329, nklammer@girlscoutsnebraska.org

“Leave No Trace” - Understand how to care for the environment through the world-renowned 7 principles of Leave No Trace.

Can be taught in outdoor problem-solving scenarios or indoors.

Grades K-12

Contact: Michelle Garwood, Niobrara Council, 402-376-2793, garwood@niobraracouncil.org or Wendy Murphy, MidPlains Community College, 402-376-8033, murphyw@mpcc.edu

“Nature Journals” - Connect with nature through a personal journal. Hone observation skills and learn about the impact of journals on the scientific body of knowledge.

Grades K-12

Contact: Michelle Garwood, Niobrara Council, 402-376-2793, garwood@niobraracouncil.org or Wendy Murphy, MidPlains Community College, 402-376-8033, murphyw@mpcc.edu

“Nature Walk Bracelets” - Who says nature isn’t fashionable? A fun twist on the traditional nature walk that encourages youth to discover interesting colors, shapes and textiles.

Grades K-12

Contact: Michelle Garwood, Niobrara Council, 402-376-2793, garwood@niobraracouncil.org or Wendy Murphy, MidPlains Community College, 402-376-8033, murphyw@mpcc.edu

Plants

“Herbs for Kids” - Hands-on presentation to share common garden herbs with kids using sense of smell, taste and touch.

Grades K-5

Contact: Nancy Klammer, 402-722-4329, nklammer@girlscoutsnebraska.org

“Kitchen Garbage Garden”—How to grow plants from kitchen scraps (sprouting potatoes, avocado pits, etc).

Grades K-5

Contact: Nancy Klammer, 402-722-4329, nklammer@girlscoutsnebraska.org

“Project Learning Tree” - Popular national curriculum adapted to Nebraska that uses the forest as a “window to the world” to increase understanding of the complex environment.

Grades K-8

Contact: Sandy Benson, Nebraska Forest Service, 402-684-2290, sbenson4@unl.edu or Tracey Nelson, The Nature Conservancy, 402-722-4440, tnelson@tnc.org or Wendy Murphy, MidPlains Community College, 402-376-8033, murphyw@mpcc.edu

Continued...



Outdoor Education Help for the Classroom

“Ready to go” presentations for 2013 by topic:

Recreation/Physical Activity

“Campfire Safety” - Demonstration of basics on using fire safely in and out of doors.

Grades K-5

Contact: Nancy Klammer, 402-722-4329, nklammer@girlscoutsnebraska.org or Wendy Murphy, MidPlains Community College, 402-376-8033, murphyw@mpcc.edu

“Canoeing/Kayaking 101” - Basics of canoe/kayak trip preparation, paddling techniques, knot-tying, and hands-on experience on the water (optional).

Grades K-12

Contact: Michelle Garwood, Niobrara Council, 402-376-2793, garwood@niobraracouncil.org or Wendy Murphy, MidPlains Community College, 402-376-8033, murphyw@mpcc.edu

“Hiking Basics” - Basics of what to wear/bring to go on a hike using a relay game.

Grades K-5

Contact: Nancy Klammer, 402-722-4329, nklammer@girlscoutsnebraska.org or Wendy Murphy, MidPlains Community College, 402-376-8033, murphyw@mpcc.edu

Water

“Groundwater” - Discover where water comes from, how it is used, how to conserve it and keep it clean.

Grades K-12

Contact: Michelle Garwood, Niobrara Council, 402-376-2793, garwood@niobraracouncil.org or Wendy Murphy, MidPlains Community College, 402-376-8033, murphyw@mpcc.edu

Wildlife

“Bird Beak Buffet” - Learn about the special functions of bird beaks and how they can be used to identify birds.

Grades K-5

Contact: Michelle Garwood, Niobrara Council, 402-376-2793, garwood@niobraracouncil.org or Wendy Murphy, MidPlains Community College, 402-376-8033, murphyw@mpcc.edu

“Bridges to Birding” - Introduction to bird watching and identification. Learn details on checking out the NEW Bridges to Birding kit for your classroom, family, or organization.

Grades K-12

Contact: Michelle Garwood, Niobrara Council, 402-376-2793, garwood@niobraracouncil.org

“Backyard/Schoolyard Habitat” - Discover how to attract birds and other wildlife to your backyard or school grounds with out spending much money.

Grades K-12

Contact: Michelle Garwood, Niobrara Council, 402-376-2793, garwood@niobraracouncil.org and/or Nancy Klammer, 402-722-4329, nklammer@girlscoutsnebraska.org or Wendy Murphy, MidPlains Community College, 402-376-8033, murphyw@mpcc.edu

“Fish of Nebraska” - Test your fish identification skills, discuss habitat, conservation and basic fishing technique. Create a fish print art project.

Grades K-12

Contact: Michelle Garwood, Niobrara Council, 402-376-2793, garwood@niobraracouncil.org

“Wild About Turkeys” - Utilizing curriculum from the National Wildlife Turkey Federation, students will take an in-depth look at one of American’s most well-known birds! Hunting and conservation topics included.

Grades K-12

Contact: Michelle Garwood, Niobrara Council, 402-376-2793, garwood@niobraracouncil.org



Niobrara Valley Outdoor Education Partnerships

Outdoor Education Topics for the Classroom

Niobrara National Scenic River (National Park Service) Resources

CURRICULUM MATERIALS

Curriculum-based lesson plans developed for teachers, by teachers. Incorporate Niobrara National Scenic River (NSR) resources into almost any subject. Several items are available for check-out to for these programs; contact Niobrara National Scenic River at 402-376-1901 for more information.

Lesson plans can be downloaded at <http://www.nps.gov/niob/forteachers/lessonplansandteacherguides.htm>

Elementary

Language Arts

Cows in the Campground

Science

Butterflies of the Niobrara: An Introduction to Hybrids

Piece of Cake: An Introduction to the Geology of the Niobrara

Middle School

Art

Early Birding

Deerlicious Knowledge

Language Arts

Create A Brochure

Science

Food Webs of the Niobrara

High School

Art

Deerlicious Knowledge

Language Arts

The Sound of the River

Science

Ecology Unit



RANGER PROGRAMS

Create Your Own (Grades Pre-K -12th)

Most programs are created especially for the audience requesting them. This allows us to tailor the experience to the exact needs of the audience, as well as build on the number of programs we have available. A list of currently available program topics is listed below.

Water (Grades Pre-K -6th)

Water is essential to all life and especially to the life of the Niobrara National Scenic River (NSR). Programs focus on a range of water topics from the water cycle and how water gets in the river to water use, stewardship, and water quality.

Paleontology/ Fossils (Grades Pre-K -6th)

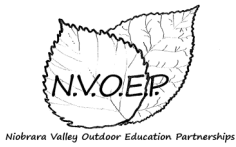
Students learn about the Paleontological resources of the Niobrara NSR Valley. Programs are tailored the skills and abilities of each grade level. Programs introduce the concepts of fossils, how they are made and what the Niobrara NSR Valley has contributed to this field of study.

Ecosystems (Grades 5th -6th)

This program was developed specifically for 5th and 6th graders from visiting schools. The program is an immersive field-trip experience at Smith Falls State Park. Students explore the six types of ecosystems that are represented in the Niobrara NSR River Valley.

GPS- Geocaching and Earthcaching (Grades 5th -9th)

Developed by request this immersive field experience teaches students how to use Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) Units. Students explore the geology, hydrology, and ecosystems of the Niobrara NSR Valley while gaining hands-on experience in operating this technology. Students also explore how this technology is used in Resource Management and as a recreational activity.



Outdoor Education Topics for the Classroom

Items Available for Check-Out

- A wide variety of books, field guides and DVDs (see complete library list on Education page at niobraracouncil.org).
- Project WILD curricula
- Project Learning Tree Curricula
- Leave No Trace 7 Principles Cards and training kit
- Various maps of the Niobrara National Scenic River and surrounding area
- Mammal tracks stencil and molding kit
- Plant and insect card games
- Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Bridges to Birding Kit (20 binoculars, 15 I.D. books, curriculum) - in Valentine
- Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Bird Trunk
- Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Mammal Trunk
- Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Niobrara Trunk
- Set of 10 Compasses and guide book
- Three Garmin GPS units
- Water quality testing kits and collection nets
- Two Aqua Viewers (underwater observation tools)
- Digital microscope
- Fleet of 8 canoes and 4 kayaks, trailer and accessories (NVOEP member must be present to provide instruction)
- Six-person tents, sleeping bags, and various camping accessories
- Dutch oven cooking equipment



Coming NEW in 2013!

Environmental Enrichment Kits will be created based around various topics and will use the books and materials listed above. They will be rotated around local schools and can be checked out by families and organizations as well. Be watching for updates coming very soon! Or to request your own customized kit, contact Michelle Garwood at (402) 376-2793 or niobraracouncil.org

And don't forget to contact us for custom-designed field trips!

Additional Program Options

Several of our partners are certified to teach from curriculum that is too large to fully outline in this flyer. Please contact them if you want a more in-depth educational experience or specially-designed presentation. *Contact information for each person can be found on previous pages.*

Growing Up Wild (Pre-K through Grade 2)—Wendy Murphy, Michelle Garwood

Project Wild/Aquatic Wild—Wendy Murphy

Project Food, Land & People—Wendy Murphy

National Archery in the School Program—Wendy Murphy

Leopold Project—Wendy Murphy, Adrienne Johnson (National Park Service)

Project Wet—Wendy Murphy, Michelle Garwood

Youth Fishing Program—Michelle Garwood

Nebraska Master Naturalist—Tracey Nelson