South Dakota Discovery Center 805 W Sioux Ave Pierre, SD 57501 (605) 224-8295 info@sd-discovery.org

Calendar of Events

December 3, 2025 Rocky Wednesday

South Dakota Discovery Center

805 W Sioux Ave Pierre, So 57501

02:00 PM - 04:00 PM CST

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 6052248295 allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION!

Did you know rocks can GLOW? Meet the Discovery Pod's Rock Star volunteer Robin

to get close up with rocks, fossils, and more! Enjoy free take home goodies.

December 5, 2025 Lunar Life: Guided Play

South Dakota Discovery Center

805 W Sioux Ave Pierre, SD 57501

01:00 PM - 03:00 PM CST

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, (605) 224-8295 allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

Don a spacesuit and take a volunteer guided moon walk through our newest exhibition,

Lunar Life: Destination Mars!

Super Star volunteers are waiting on standby, ready for launch, every first and third Friday of the month from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Join them to discover all that Lunar Life has to offer, ranging from activities you may have missed on the first visit to deeper explanations into the science behind them!

We cannot always guarantee a volunteer can be there. Call in advance to double check or to learn more about donating your time to guide community youth through a lunar space station!

December 11, 2025

Central South Dakota Christmas Bird Count - Organizational Meeting **South Dakota Discovery Center**

805 West Sioux Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

07:00 PM - 08:30 PM CST

Anne Lewis, 6052248295 annelewis@sd-discovery.org

The Christmas Bird Count is the oldest, on-going citizen science project in the US. Every year during the final weeks of December/beginning of January, thousands of people go out to identify and count the number of birds they observe and report their findings to Audubon. This data provides scientists with important information to understand the health of bird populations, watersheds, and more.

Whether you are a pro birder or are just starting out, please join us at the South Dakota Discovery Center for this organizational meeting to participate in our local Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 14.

Note: you can participate in this meeting via Zoom but you must register to receive the Zoom link.

December 13, 2025

Starry Saturdays South Dakota Discovery Center 805 W Sioux Ave **Pierre, So 57501** 11:00 AM - 01:00 PM CST Kris Heinen, 6052248295 kristineheinen@sd-discovery.org

December 19, 2025

Lunar Life: Guided Play South Dakota Discovery Center 805 W Sioux Ave **Pierre, SD 57501** 01:00 PM - 03:00 PM CST

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, (605) 224-8295 allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

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December 20, 2025

Gathering of Stars
Farm Island State Recreation Park
1301 Farm Island Rd
Pierre, So 57501
06:00 PM - 07:00 PM CST
Kristine Heinen, 6052248295
kristineheinen@sd-discovery.org
Gathering of Stars

Join the Discovery Center at Farm Island Recreation area for a star party.

Sky watchers of all levels are welcome. Bring your own telescope or use one brought by the Discovery Center.

Explore different ways to enjoy the night sky, from how to find a viewing target, to astrophotography with your

phone. Meet with other local sky watchers and explore the sky.

Astronomy is for everyone. Let's go explore the sky!

September 20th 8:30-9:30 October 18th 7:30-8:30 November 22nd 6:00-7:00 December 20th 6:00-7:00

All vehicles must have a valid park entrance license

All events are weather depending. Check SD-Discovery.org for latest updates.

March 7, 2026

GLOBE Hybrid Professional Development

South Dakota Discovery Center

805 W Sioux Ave.

Pierre, SD 57501

09:30 AM - 04:00 PM CST Anne Lewis, 6052248295

admin@sd-discovery.org

Educators! Join us for a hybrid GLOBE training. GLOBE is an international science and education project sponsored by NASA that engages your learners in collecting, analyzing and reporting data about Earth's systems: the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and pedosphere (soil).

You will earn your GLOBE certification in this hands-on, place-based hybrid PD. We will meet one day via Zoom during the week of March 2 for orientation and onboarding. You will complete the GLOBE e-training on your own. And on Saturday Marych 7 we will convene for a day of GLOBE activities.

Participants will receive classroom supplies for one protocol (TBD). A stipend will be provided upon submission of a reflection. Sign up today! Better yet, recruit a teaching partner and sign up together! Free!

May 20, 2026 World Bee Day *Free Admission!*

South Dakota Discovery Center

805 W Sioux Ave Pierre, So 57501

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 6052248295 allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

January 1, 2500 General Volunteering Opportunities

805 W Sioux Ave Pierre, SD 57501

12:00 AM - 01:00 AM CST Kendra Baucom, 6052248295 kendrabaucom@sd-discovery.org

Coming Soon

Bioinspired Fluid Dynamics Research Experience for Teachers and Students TBD

Dates to be arranged with Dr Basu.

The Biomedical and Bioinspired Fluid Dynamics Lab (Basu Lab), directed by Dr. Saikat Basu at the Department of Mechanical Engineering at South Dakota State University, is inviting high school teachers and students to participate in their NSF CAREER-funded project. The topic is on respiratory fluid mechanics and how art could be incorporated in biophysics modeling studies. Participants will spend 3 days on SDSU's campus. Teachers will create a learning module based on the experience.

Recruitment asks:

- We are looking for Science teachers (with interest in integrating art with cutting-edge biophysics research) at the high schools in the region, with preference for institutions in the Tribal reservations.?
- Time commitment: 3-4 days in Summer (specific schedule is flexible, we will pick the mutually best possible week during June/July/Early August)?
- Please contact Dr. Saikat Basu by March 31, 2025, at: Saikat.Basu@sdstate.edu?

What we expect to achieve:?

- The teacher will bring around approximately 3 students to Brookings and work on projects described.?
- The learning module developed from the camp activities could be shared with the students at the home institution.?
- We will also develop a poster outlining the experience of the workshop days?
- The students can present the poster at regional/local science fairs?

Benefits: ?

- \$1000 stipend for each teacher
- Reimbursement for other expenses and covered accommodation and meals?
- Small stipends on the scale of \$100 for each student participant?
- SDSU certificates for each student participant?
- Long-term mentorship for the student participants

To indicate your interest, please email Saikat.Basu@sdstate.edu?. Include your name and teaching position. OR complete this registration form and your information will be sent to Dr. Basu.