

Calendar of Events

March 31, 2025
- April 2, 2025

Spring Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)

South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)

805 W Sioux Ave

Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

Our Little STEAMers Preschool is based on the Montessori principles that children learn best when they are given the freedom to move, to choose their own work, and follow their interests, operating within boundaries that include respect for themselves, others, and their environment. In Little STEAMers Preschool students learn through guided exploration and build skills with independent hands-on learning. Using Montessori methods, our teachers progress students' exploration skills and use a complete preschool curriculum to develop students' understanding of STEM concepts (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and communication (language arts & literacy).

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The cost is \$1,064.25 per semester for South Dakota Discovery Center Members—payments can be made monthly or all at once. Please email info@sd-discovery.org to learn about our scholarship and discount programs.

Parents or guardians are responsible for dressing their student/s in appropriate clothing. Our 3-Day Session students and their guardian/s are expected to attend the Little STEAMers Welcome on Thursday, January 2, 2025, from 5:30-6:30pm at the South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!), 805 West Sioux Avenue.

Class materials are provided by the South Dakota Discovery Center out of program fees and donations. Become a supporter today!

April 2, 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

April 3, 2025
- April 4, 2025

Spring Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

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April 7, 2025
- April 9, 2025

Spring Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)

South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)

805 W Sioux Ave

Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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April 8, 2025

Artsome Astronomy

South Dakota Discovery Center

805 West Sioux Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

09:30 AM - 02:30 PM CST

Anne Lewis, 6052229562

annelewis@sd-discovery.org

Calling out of school/after school staff. FREE professional development opportunity. Rocket through the solar system from the perspectives of a scientist, artist, and storyteller! Explore objects in space through science-based activities then deepen the understanding by using art and design. You will create multiple art pieces while experimenting with different mediums to demonstrate the art of astronomy. We conclude with a "galaxy walk" to share your artwork and tell the story of the science and art behind it. Bring your lunch because it's a full day!

April 9, 2025

MacroBlitz: Finding, Photographing and Adding Aquatic Macroinvertebrates to iNaturalist

Â <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/D6fy9MXbT3ejlla0NTxwhg#/registration>

06:00 PM - 07:00 PM CST

admin@macroblitz.org

MacroBlitz is a project to inspire and empower people to find and photograph aquatic macroinvertebrates and upload those photographs to iNaturalist for science and learning. This one hour, online session will provide an overview of MacroBlitz and orient you to the resources, skills and knowledge to get you started with MacroBlitz by yourself or with a group of learners.

Register for the training

at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/D6fy9MXbT3ejlla0NTxwhg#/registration>

The training will be recorded. Register for the training to receive a link.

April 10, 2025
- April 11, 2025

Spring Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

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April 12, 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

April 12, 2025

Gathering of Stars
Farm Island State Recreation Park
1301 Farm Island Rd
Pierre, SD 57501

09:00 PM - 10:00 PM CST

Kristine Heinen, 6052248295

kristineheinen@sd-discovery.org

Join the Discovery Center for a star party!

Do you enjoy looking at the night sky?

Join us at the 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!

All vehicles must have a valid Park Entrance License!

April 14, 2025
- April 16, 2025

Spring Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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April 17, 2025
- April 18, 2025

Spring Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
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Pierre, So 57501
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April 21, 2025
- April 23, 2025

Spring Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
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Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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April 24, 2025
- April 25, 2025

Spring Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

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April 28, 2025
- April 30, 2025

Spring Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)

South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)

805 W Sioux Ave

Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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May 1, 2025
- May 2, 2025

Spring Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

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May 7, 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

May 8, 2025
- May 9, 2025

Spring Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
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May 10, 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

June 1, 2025

Hybrid Milkweed Research Professional Development

Ongoing opportunity

Milkweed Research offers multiple opportunities for teachers to get involved in research about a unique, naturally hybridized milkweed that occurs in South Dakota.

The Olson-Manning lab is at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD and is focused on the ecological, evolutionary, molecular, and biochemical aspects of milkweeds in South Dakota. Specifically, they are focused on two species of milkweed (Showy milkweed and Common milkweed) that have native ranges spanning the continental United States, with a hybrid zone in central SD. In collaboration with educators, they aim to plant milkweed gardens at K12 schools that will be used in conjunction with a newly developed curriculum and will also provide their lab with valuable data.

Expectation of educators: There are 3 collaboration options that educators can participate in, educators can participate in one or multiple options.

Participation in a workshop ("Exploring Life's Continuum: From Molecules to Organisms") with Sanford Promise lab where we will incorporate milkweed biology with molecular and biochemical techniques (DNA genotyping, colorimetric analysis, etc.). The workshop will be July 14th-17th, 2025 at Sanford Research in Sioux Falls, SD. This is an opportunity for 24 teachers with a stipend of \$125 per day for four days. To register go to: <https://research.sanfordhealth.org/academic-programs/community> and look under Professional Development.

Collaboration with South Dakota Discovery Center to develop a curriculum to implement the ecological, evolutionary, molecular, biochemical, or other aspects of milkweed gardens. Starting October 2026 with a curriculum due date of Jan 2026. This is an opportunity for 5 teachers with a stipend of \$1000 per teacher. Register to indicate interest.

Implementation of the newly developed curriculum into classrooms by coordinating with our lab to plant a milkweed garden (we will do the planting), perform a short pre- and post- assessment, and provide feedback on the curriculum. This is an opportunity for 10 teachers with a stipend of \$500 per teacher, necessary supplies will be provided. Spring 2026.

Please contact Carrie Olson-Manning at carrie.olsonmanning@augie.edu for information about the research project.

June 2, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1a (4-5 year olds)

Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Session 1a

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

Session 1b

Member Price: \$205

Nonmember Price: \$257

Session 2

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

Our Little Explorers Nature Preschool is South Dakota's first fully outdoor education program based on Montessori principles that children learn best when they are given the freedom to move, to choose their own work, and follow their interests, operating within boundaries that include respect for themselves, others, and the environment.

Little Explorers Nature Preschool students learn from their environment through guided adventure and build skills with independent hands-on learning. Using Montessori methods, our teachers, with the help of local community guides, develop students' exploration skills and their understanding of STEM concepts.

Session 1A is for students ages 4-5 and runs June 2-26, every Monday-Thursday from 8:00am to 12:00pm. Dropoff occurs within 15 minutes prior class and pickup within 15 minutes after the end of class.

Parents or guardians are responsible for dressing their student in appropriate clothing for being outside, including close-toed shoes, and applying their student's first round of sunscreen. Session 1a students and their caretaker/s are expected to attend the Little Explorers Welcome on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, from 5:30-6:30pm.

Payment plans available, please send inquiries to info@sd-discovery.org.

Class materials are provided by the South Dakota Discovery Center out of program fees and donations. Shelter from inclement weather is made possible through a partnership with the Izaak Walton League and use of the Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area is made possible through a partnership with the City of Pierre. Become a supporter today!

June 2, 2025
- August 8, 2025

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@sdsu.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@sdsu.edu ?. Include your name and teaching position. OR complete this registration form and your information will be sent to Dr. Basu.

June 2, 2025

Chameleon Tongue Curriculum Development

Summer 2025

Learn about chameleon tongue research being done at USD and write curriculum for middle school life science and high school physics classes.

The Middle School Life Science lesson(s) will focus on MS-LS1 From Molecules to Organisms while the High School Physics lesson(s) will focus on HS-PS1 Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions and HS-PS3 Energy.

These lessons will form the basis of a professional development in 2026.

Want to know more about Dr. Christopher Anderson? Go to <http://www.chamaeleonidae.com/research.html>

\$1000 stipend and credit provided. Sign up today to start a conversation with Dr. Anderson and learn more.

June 2, 2025

Space Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Monday June 2-23

Session Two: every Monday July 7-28

We are excited to offer flexible camp days for the 2025 season! If you have visiting grandchildren or friends, need to watch your expenses, or if you're worried about a vacation taking away from your child's ability to participate in camp, you can pick your days!

Each camp runs once per week for four weeks in June before repeating in July and you can register day-by-day! Each camp day is \$25 for members and \$31.25 for nonmembers. Space is limited and on a first-come-first-serve basis, so register quickly!

?SDDC Members can enter in the discount code "MEMBER" to receive a 20% discount off of their total registration. Enter your code at the bottom of the Contact Information page.

Employees and members of SDDC partner organizations can enter their specific organization as a discount code (AVERA, YMCA, BGC, GOLD) to receive a 10% discount off of their total registration. Enter your code at the bottom of the Contact Information page.

Campers who receive economic assistance can enter the specific discount code (TANF, WIC, SNAP, DSS) to receive a 50% discount off of their total registration. Enter your code at the bottom of the Contact Information page.

June 2, 2025

Space Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

8:00am-12:00pm

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Session Two: every Monday July 7-28

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Each camp runs once per week for four weeks in June before repeating in July and you can register day-by-day! Each camp day is \$25 for members and \$31.25 for nonmembers. Space is limited and on a first-come-first-serve basis, so register quickly!

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Campers who receive economic assistance can enter the specific discount code (TANF, WIC, SNAP, DSS) to receive a 50% discount off of their total registration. Enter your code at the bottom of the Contact Information page.

June 3, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1b (3-4 year olds)

Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

03:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Session 1a

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

Session 1b

Member Price: \$205

Nonmember Price: \$257

Session 2

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

Our Little Explorers Nature Preschool is South Dakota's first fully outdoor education program based on Montessori principles that children learn best when they are given the freedom to move, to choose their own work, and follow their interests, operating within boundaries that include respect for themselves, others, and the environment.

Little Explorers Nature Preschool students learn from their environment through guided adventure and build skills with independent hands-on learning. Using Montessori methods, our teachers, with the help of local community guides, develop students' exploration skills and their understanding of STEM concepts.

Session 1b is for students ages 3-4 and runs June 3-26, every Monday-Thursday from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Dropoff occurs within 15 minutes prior class and pickup within 15 minutes after the end of class.

Parents or guardians are responsible for dressing their student in appropriate clothing for being outside, including close-toed shoes, and applying their student's first round of sunscreen. Session 1a students and their caretaker/s are expected to attend the Little Explorers Welcome on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, from 5:30-6:30pm.

Payment plans available, please send inquiries to info@sd-discovery.org.

Class materials are provided by the South Dakota Discovery Center out of program fees and donations. Shelter from inclement weather is made possible through a partnership with the Izaak Walton League and use of the Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area is made possible through a partnership with the City of Pierre. Become a supporter today!

June 3, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Artificial Intelligence is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Tuesday June 3-24

Session Two: every Tuesday July 8-29

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June 3, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

AI is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

8:00am-12:00pm

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June 4, 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

June 5, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1a (4-5 year olds)

Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Session 1a

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

Session 1b

Member Price: \$205

Nonmember Price: \$257

Session 2

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

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June 5, 2025

Science + Art Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Movies, photography, painting, do you know the science of color, chemicals, and special effects? Campers get their hands dirty as they walk the line where art and science meet. In the process they find out how artists impact the way scientists communicate with everyday people.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Thursday June 5-26

Session Two: every Thursday July 10-31

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June 5, 2025

Science + Art Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Movies, photography, painting, do you know the science of color, chemicals, and special effects? Campers get their hands dirty as they walk the line where art and science meet. In the process they find out how artists impact the way scientists communicate with everyday people.

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June 7, 2025

Sea Monsters Dome Movie

TBD

Join us in an immersive, prehistoric adventure!

On Saturday, June 7, ahead of World Oceans Day, we invite you to join us at the public opening of Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure. FREE Exhibit Hall admission sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Pierre-Fort Pierre.

Sea Monsters is from National Geographic and an amazing opportunity for young people to dive deep into the mysteries of our oceans. Transporting audiences back to the Late Cretaceous, when a great inland sea divided North America, we follow a curious dolichorhynchops as it travels through the most dangerous oceans in history. Along the way we encounter long-necked plesiosaurs, giant turtles, enormous fish, fierce sharks, and the most dangerous sea monster of all, the mosasaur. The film connects paleontology digs and a compelling story about scientists working as detectives to answer questions about this ancient and mysterious ocean world.

This 360 degree full dome movie experience opens to all for booking on June 8, 2025, but is now available to every K-12 school in South Dakota for early showings in our Journey Beyond the Known traveling planetarium dome. Our STEM Educators come to you, or you can book an onsite STEMventure in our exhibit hall!

Sea Monsters is one of the STEMventure Programs offered by the South Dakota Discovery Center. These programs, and our STEMventure Exploration Kits, enhance the classroom or community experience. STEMventures are an important tool for institutions and organizations that need science instruction support and you can find out more about our sponsored discounts (thank you BankWest!) by contacting us at info@sd-discovery.org today.

Thank you Craig DeTample for helping us bring this amazing adventure to South Dakota!

REQUEST THE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

June 9, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1a (4-5 year olds)

Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Session 1a

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

Session 1b

Member Price: \$205

Nonmember Price: \$257

Session 2

Member Price: \$494

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Session 1A is for students ages 4-5 and runs June 2-26, every Monday-Thursday from 8:00am to 12:00pm. Dropoff occurs within 15 minutes prior class and pickup within 15 minutes after the end of class.

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June 9, 2025

Space Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Monday June 2-23

Session Two: every Monday July 7-28

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June 9, 2025

Space Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

8:00am-12:00pm

Session One: every Monday June 2-23

Session Two: every Monday July 7-28

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June 10, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1b (3-4 year olds)

Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

03:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Session 1a

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

Session 1b

Member Price: \$205

Nonmember Price: \$257

Session 2

Member Price: \$494

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Session 1b is for students ages 3-4 and runs June 3-26, every Monday-Thursday from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Dropoff occurs within 15 minutes prior class and pickup within 15 minutes after the end of class.

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June 10, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Artificial Intelligence is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

1:00pm-5:00pm

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June 10, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

AI is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

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June 12, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1a (4-5 year olds)

Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Session 1a

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Nonmember Price: \$257

Session 2

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Nonmember Price: \$618

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Session 1A is for students ages 4-5 and runs June 2-26, every Monday-Thursday from 8:00am to 12:00pm. Dropoff occurs within 15 minutes prior class and pickup within 15 minutes after the end of class.

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Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

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Pierre, SD 57501

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June 14, 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

June 16, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1a (4-5 year olds)

Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

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Nonmember Price: \$618

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June 16, 2025
- June 19, 2025

Exploring Grasslands
Sage Creek Wilderness Campground

Start 6/19 @ 4:00PM MT, End 6/21 at 10:00AM MT.

Join us for this immersive, field based professional development in Badlands National Park to learn about South Dakota's dominant biome. Explore the grasslands through field work, guest lectures and hands-on activities that you can bring back to your classroom.

We will spend four days and three nights camping at Sage Creek, a primitive campsite in Badlands National Park. No running water or electricity (there are vault toilets). And buffalo wander through the campground. This opportunity is outfitted by an experienced back country cook. Food is part of the experience! No experience necessary but a sense of adventure is! A limited amount of basic camping gear is available for low cost rent.

Highlights:

*Indigenous perspectives
GLOBE certification
Water quality & aquatic invertebrate monitoring
Grasslands animals and plants
Fossil hike with a ranger*

Info

*Audience: Grade 4-12 teachers
Dates: June 16-19, 2025
Location: Sage Creek Campground, Badlands National Park
Credit: 2 (additional fee pd directly to accrediting university)
\$200 Stipend paid on submission of coursework*

Cost:

*\$55 South Dakota educators (must have a current contract with a South Dakota school for the 25-26 school year)
\$75 out-of-state educators
\$20 Pierre School District educators (must have a contract with the Pierre school district for the 25-26 school year)*

June 16, 2025

Space Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Monday June 2-23

Session Two: every Monday July 7-28

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Campers who receive economic assistance can enter the specific discount code (TANF, WIC, SNAP, DSS) to receive a 50% discount off of their total registration. Enter your code at the bottom of the Contact Information page.

June 16, 2025

Space Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

8:00am-12:00pm

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June 17, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1b (3-4 year olds)

Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

03:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Session 1a

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

Session 1b

Member Price: \$205

Nonmember Price: \$257

Session 2

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

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Session Two: every Tuesday July 8-29

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June 19, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1a (4-5 year olds)

Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Session 1a

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

Session 1b

Member Price: \$205

Nonmember Price: \$257

Session 2

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

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June 19, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1b (3-4 year olds)

Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

03:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Session 1a

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Nonmember Price: \$257

Session 2

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Science + Art Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

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1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Thursday June 5-26

Session Two: every Thursday July 10-31

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June 23, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1a (4-5 year olds)

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1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Session 1a

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Nonmember Price: \$257

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June 24, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1b (3-4 year olds)

Pierre Native Plant Arboretum and Nature Area

1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

03:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Session 1a

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

Session 1b

Member Price: \$205

Nonmember Price: \$257

Session 2

Member Price: \$494

Nonmember Price: \$618

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1:00pm-5:00pm

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June 26, 2025

2025 Little Explorers Nature Preschool Session 1a (4-5 year olds)

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1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

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1200 Block Izaak Walton Road

Pierre, SD 57501

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Campers who receive economic assistance can enter the specific discount code (TANF, WIC, SNAP, DSS) to receive a 50% discount off of their total registration. Enter your code at the bottom of the Contact Information page.

June 26, 2025

Science + Art Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Movies, photography, painting, do you know the science of color, chemicals, and special effects? Campers get their hands dirty as they walk the line where art and science meet. In the process they find out how artists impact the way scientists communicate with everyday people.

8:00am-12:00pm

Session One: every Thursday June 5-26

Session Two: every Thursday July 10-31

We are excited to offer flexible camp days for the 2025 season! If you have visiting grandchildren or friends, need to watch your expenses, or if you're worried about a vacation taking away from your child's ability to participate in camp, you can pick your days!

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July 2, 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

July 7, 2025

Space Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Monday June 2-23

Session Two: every Monday July 7-28

We are excited to offer flexible camp days for the 2025 season! If you have visiting grandchildren or friends, need to watch your expenses, or if you're worried about a vacation taking away from your child's ability to participate in camp, you can pick your days!

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July 7, 2025

Space Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

8:00am-12:00pm

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Session Two: every Monday July 7-28

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July 8, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Artificial Intelligence is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Tuesday June 3-24

Session Two: every Tuesday July 8-29

We are excited to offer flexible camp days for the 2025 season! If you have visiting grandchildren or friends, need to watch your expenses, or if you're worried about a vacation taking away from your child's ability to participate in camp, you can pick your days!

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July 8, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

AI is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

8:00am-12:00pm

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July 10, 2025

Science + Art Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Movies, photography, painting, do you know the science of color, chemicals, and special effects? Campers get their hands dirty as they walk the line where art and science meet. In the process they find out how artists impact the way scientists communicate with everyday people.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Thursday June 5-26

Session Two: every Thursday July 10-31

We are excited to offer flexible camp days for the 2025 season! If you have visiting grandchildren or friends, need to watch your expenses, or if you're worried about a vacation taking away from your child's ability to participate in camp, you can pick your days!

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July 10, 2025

Science + Art Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Movies, photography, painting, do you know the science of color, chemicals, and special effects? Campers get their hands dirty as they walk the line where art and science meet. In the process they find out how artists impact the way scientists communicate with everyday people.

8:00am-12:00pm

Session One: every Thursday June 5-26

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July 12, 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

July 14, 2025

Space Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Monday June 2-23

Session Two: every Monday July 7-28

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July 14, 2025

Space Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

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July 15, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Artificial Intelligence is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Tuesday June 3-24

Session Two: every Tuesday July 8-29

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July 15, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

AI is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

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July 17, 2025

Science + Art Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Movies, photography, painting, do you know the science of color, chemicals, and special effects? Campers get their hands dirty as they walk the line where art and science meet. In the process they find out how artists impact the way scientists communicate with everyday people.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Thursday June 5-26

Session Two: every Thursday July 10-31

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July 17, 2025

Science + Art Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Movies, photography, painting, do you know the science of color, chemicals, and special effects? Campers get their hands dirty as they walk the line where art and science meet. In the process they find out how artists impact the way scientists communicate with everyday people.

8:00am-12:00pm

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July 21, 2025

Space Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Monday June 2-23

Session Two: every Monday July 7-28

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July 21, 2025

Space Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

8:00am-12:00pm

Session One: every Monday June 2-23

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July 22, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Artificial Intelligence is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Tuesday June 3-24

Session Two: every Tuesday July 8-29

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July 22, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

AI is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

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July 24, 2025

Science + Art Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Movies, photography, painting, do you know the science of color, chemicals, and special effects? Campers get their hands dirty as they walk the line where art and science meet. In the process they find out how artists impact the way scientists communicate with everyday people.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Thursday June 5-26

Session Two: every Thursday July 10-31

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July 28, 2025

Space Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

1:00pm-5:00pm

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Session Two: every Monday July 7-28

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Campers who receive economic assistance can enter the specific discount code (TANF, WIC, SNAP, DSS) to receive a 50% discount off of their total registration. Enter your code at the bottom of the Contact Information page.

July 28, 2025

Space Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Suit up for adventure, and rocket away as we explore the sun, moon, planets and many more wonders above our atmosphere! Campers travel to the stars in our Journey Beyond the Known Planetarium and study the behavior of matter through time and space with interactive, hands-on experiments.

8:00am-12:00pm

Session One: every Monday June 2-23

Session Two: every Monday July 7-28

We are excited to offer flexible camp days for the 2025 season! If you have visiting grandchildren or friends, need to watch your expenses, or if you're worried about a vacation taking away from your child's ability to participate in camp, you can pick your days!

Each camp runs once per week for four weeks in June before repeating in July and you can register day-by-day! Each camp day is \$25 for members and \$31.25 for nonmembers. Space is limited and on a first-come-first-serve basis, so register quickly!

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July 29, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Artificial Intelligence is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Tuesday June 3-24

Session Two: every Tuesday July 8-29

We are excited to offer flexible camp days for the 2025 season! If you have visiting grandchildren or friends, need to watch your expenses, or if you're worried about a vacation taking away from your child's ability to participate in camp, you can pick your days!

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July 29, 2025

Robotics Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

AI is all the rage, but it begins with simple code instructions to a robot. Campers learn the basics of coding and robotics and ignite their curiosity, building with LEGOs and thinking creatively about how their machines can perform tasks to solve a set of sticky problems.

8:00am-12:00pm

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July 31, 2025

Science + Art Camp (Grades 3-5)

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Movies, photography, painting, do you know the science of color, chemicals, and special effects? Campers get their hands dirty as they walk the line where art and science meet. In the process they find out how artists impact the way scientists communicate with everyday people.

1:00pm-5:00pm

Session One: every Thursday June 5-26

Session Two: every Thursday July 10-31

We are excited to offer flexible camp days for the 2025 season! If you have visiting grandchildren or friends, need to watch your expenses, or if you're worried about a vacation taking away from your child's ability to participate in camp, you can pick your days!

Each camp runs once per week for four weeks in June before repeating in July and you can register day-by-day! Each camp day is \$25 for members and \$31.25 for nonmembers. Space is limited and on a first-come-first-serve basis, so register quickly!

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Campers who receive economic assistance can enter the specific discount code (TANF, WIC, SNAP, DSS) to receive a 50% discount off of their total registration. Enter your code at the bottom of the Contact Information page.

July 31, 2025

Science + Art Camp (Grades K-2)

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Movies, photography, painting, do you know the science of color, chemicals, and special effects? Campers get their hands dirty as they walk the line where art and science meet. In the process they find out how artists impact the way scientists communicate with everyday people.

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August 6, 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

August 9, 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

September 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

September 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

October 1, 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

October 11, 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

November 5, 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

November 8, 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

November 21, 2025

Best for Last 2025
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, SD 57501
05:30 PM - 08:00 PM CST
Best For Last: November 21, 2025
Grow Here, Play Here

You can now reserve your ticket for the biggest celebration of hands-on science learning of the year!

Every dollar raised supports staff and activities in the SDDC Exhibit Hall, a science playground for ALL to enjoy! Join the generations of children, and adults, who have grown up with greater access to hands-on learning and fun!

The Best for Last reverse raffle takes place on November 20, 2025. You get to enjoy delicious local vittles and chances to win fabulous prizes, including a 1 in 252 chance at \$10,000. Fabulous odds!

Reserve Your Ticket!

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

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

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