

Calendar of Events

October 17, 2025

Lunar Life: Guided Play
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

03:00 PM - 05:00 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!

October 18, 2025

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

07:30 PM - 08:30 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.

October 22, 2025

Fossil Day *FREE ADMISSION*

South Dakota Discovery Center

805 W Sioux Ave

Pierre, So 57501

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Brenden Jannusch, 6052248295

Brendenjannusch@sd-discovery.org

October 25, 2025

Community Science - Twilight Walk

Farm Island Hiking Trailhead

06:30 PM - 07:30 PM CST

A special "spooky" season community science experience! Join us for a walk that starts just before sunset and concludes mid nautical twilight. (Don't worry, you can bring a headlamp or flashlight). We will see what's out and about in the evening as the day fades and night comes on.

Meet at the Farm Island trail head across the causeway. A park entrance pass is required for this event.

All ages are welcome but we regret we cannot provide supervision for those under the age of 16.

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

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.

November 7, 2025

Lunar Life: Guided Play

South Dakota Discovery Center

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Pierre, SD 57501

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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 15, 2025

Community Science Saturday - iNat and Journey North
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 West Sioux Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM CST
Anne Lewis, 6052229562
annelewis@sd-discovery.org

Up your nature game! Join us on Community Science Saturday to learn about iNaturalist and Journey North, two popular community science platforms where you can report data about what you see in nature. We will cover the basics and review how your observations matter to science. Bring a laptop for an immersive experience.

November 20, 2025

Best for Last 2025

South Dakota Discovery Center

805 W Sioux Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

05:30 PM - 08:00 PM CST

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(function(w,d,s,l,i){w[l]=w[l]||[];w[l].push({'gtm.start':
new Date().getTime(),event:'gtm.js'});var f=d.getElementsByTagName(s)[0],
j=d.createElement(s),dl=!l?'dataLayer':'&l='+l+'";j.async=true;j.src=
'https://www.googletagmanager.com/gtm.js?id='+i+dl;f.parentNode.insertBefore(j,f);
})(window,document,'script','dataLayer','GTM-NDTLFWXR');
window.dataLayer = window.dataLayer || [];
function gtag(){dataLayer.push(arguments);}
gtag('js', new Date());
gtag('config', 'AW-17579413811');
gtag('config', 'G-1CRB22TT0F');
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Best For Last: November 20, 2025

Grow Here, Play Here

Get your ticket to our biggest celebration of hands-on science education!

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!

GET YOUR TICKET!

November 21, 2025

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Pierre, So 57501

11:00 AM - 01:00 PM CST

Kris Heinen, 6052248295

kristineheinen@sd-discovery.org

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Pierre, SD 57501

03:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

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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 March 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!

January 1, 2500

General Volunteering Opportunities

805 W Sioux Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

12:00 AM - 01:00 AM CST

Kendra Baucom, 6052248295

kendrabaucum@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.