

Calendar of Events

January 16, 2026

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!

January 28, 2026

Robotics 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

February 4, 2026

Rocky Wednesday
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

02:00 PM - 04:00 PM CST

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, (605) 224-8295
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.

February 6, 2026

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

01:00 PM - 03:00 PM CST

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February 14, 2026

Starry Saturday
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

11:00 AM - 01:00 PM CST

Kristine Heinen, (605) 224-8295

kristineheinen@sd-discovery.org

INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION!

Journey Beyond the Known of constellations, moons, deep space objects, or even aliens!

February 20, 2026

Lunar Life: Guided Play
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February 28, 2026

Engineers Day *Free Admission!*

South Dakota Discovery Center

805 W Sioux Ave

Pierre, So 57501

10:00 AM - 05:00 PM CST

Kathleen Grigg, (605) 224-8295

SDES.Central@gmail.com

The SD Engineering Society Central Chapter is hosting "Engineers Day" at the South Dakota Discovery Center to celebrate National Engineers Week! Admission is free to kids and their families, and chapter members volunteer in shifts to set up and teach at various activity stations. Activities will be a combination of on-site activities taught by volunteer engineers who work in the profession, and take-home activities to send home with the kids. Engineering topics/skills will be taught/presented, with the goal to inspire a lifelong pursuit of STEAM education.

March 4, 2026

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May 9, 2026

Starry Saturday

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May 15, 2026

Lunar Life: Guided Play

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World Bee Day *Free Admission!*

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June 5, 2026

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June 13, 2026

Starry Saturday

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June 15, 2026
- June 18, 2026

Teachers in the Field

Badlands National Park, Sage Creek Campground

June 15 4pm MT - June 18 12pm MT

Anne Lewis,

annelewis@sd-discovery.org

Teachers in the Field is an immersive, 4 day/3 night, field based professional development in Badlands National Park. This professional development offers hands-on field studies in water quality, aquatic macroinvertebrates and opportunities to study the rich geologic history of the area.

During the PD we camp at Sage Creek primitive camp ground that has a vault toilet but no running water or electricity. The event is partially outfitted which means meals are provided by an experienced back country cook and we bring in the water while participants provide their own gear. A limited amount of camping gear is available for a small rental fee. No camping experience required but a sense of adventure is!

This PD is geared towards teachers and informal educators that serve upper elementary, middle/high school and undergraduate learners. K-2 educators may attend after consulting with the instructor. The experience is open to educators from all content areas with the expectation that you will participate in all activities. Teams of teachers from the same school are encouraged to attend.

Dates and Times: Jun 15 4pm MT - Jun 18 12pm MT

Location: Sage Creek Campground, Badlands National Park

Audience: Grade 3-16 educators

Credit: 2 credits, pending. \$250 stipend for South Dakota classroom teachers upon submission of reflection

Cost: South Dakota educators - \$50; Pierre School District educators - \$25; Out of state educators - \$75

June 19, 2026

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August 7, 2026

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Starry Saturday

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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!

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

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.