

Two Outdoor Adventures Lead to Fun, Healthier Lifestyles!

Lincoln Safari — Find 30 Sites in Lincoln

Lincoln Safari will get families and other groups of people off the couch and into unstructured corners and hidden places within Lincoln thus encouraging a sense of exploration and discovery. The goal is to have fun!

For 2009, there are 30 safari sites in parks and outside spaces all around Lincoln. The challenge is to visit all 30 sites throughout the year and collect rubbings from all of them!

There is no cost to participate — the Safari is free! When a family or group registers, they will receive a FREE safari satchel which contains a map and a guidebook. The official Safari Map has all the safari locations marked and, in addition, the Safari Guidebook lists the sites and has clues to help you find the rubbing post at each site.

Many sites are accessible by city bus with a minimum of walking. Some are accessible from the hiker biker trails; some are right on our city streets. Groups are encouraged to walk, skip, bike, roller skate and skateboard to these locations.

Some sites will offer a surprise souvenir. The directions for collecting the souvenir, if there is one, are on the post. One souvenir will be given per family.

University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension, UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and ten other community partners sponsor Lincoln Safari.

To Register

Anybody can register — families, one person, grandparents and grandchildren, scout troops, maybe a group from your school or office.

Registration for the 2009 Lincoln Safari has begun. You may register until Nov. 1; but, if you wait, you'll miss lots of fun events during the year. Lincoln Safari officially ends Dec. 1.

You may register online at <http://lincolnsafari.org> or at any Lincoln City Library or Pioneers Park Nature Center. Just fill out the information and answer survey questions. You will then receive an official number for your "group" and a Safari satchel. If you register online, pick up your satchel at one of the following locations:

- Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14 St.
- Victor E. Anderson Branch, 3635 Touzalin Ave.
- Arnold Heights Branch, 3815 NW 54 St.
- Bethany Branch, 1810 N Cotner Blvd.
- Loren Corey Eiseley Branch, 1530 Superior
- Charles H. Gere Branch, 2400 S 56 St.
- South Branch, 2675 South St
- Bess Dodson Walt Branch, 6701 S 14 St.
- Bookmobile
- Pioneers Park Nature Center, located at the west end of Pioneers Park
- Lincoln Children's Zoo, 1222 S 27 St.

Groups which participated in the 2008 safari only need to take their book to the library to get their new kit — they will use their same number.

For more information, go to <http://lincolnsafari.org>, call 475-6741 or email info@lincolnsafari.org



The Great Park Pursuit — Find 15 Sites Throughout Nebraska

After a successful inaugural year in 2008, the Great Park Pursuit will return with more sites and outdoor adventures in May 2009. The Nebraska Recreation and Park Association along with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission partnered to develop the program with the goal of encouraging a healthier lifestyle for participants while increasing awareness of Nebraska's nature rich outdoor recreation opportunities. This year's program will be sponsored in part by the Department of Health and Human Services.

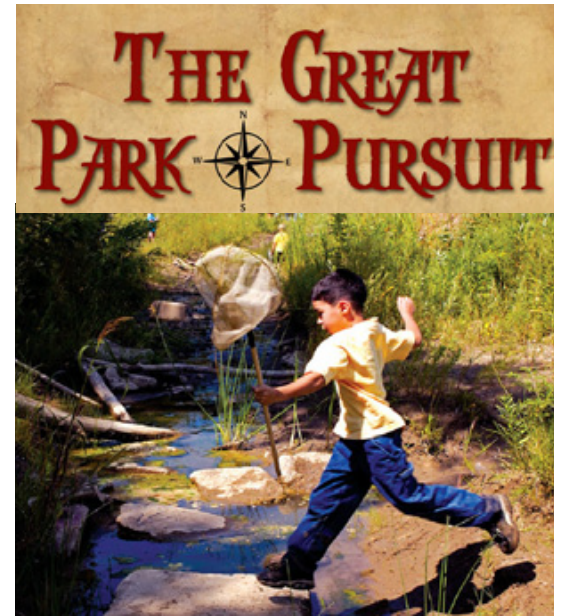
The program is adopted from a similar outdoor initiative started by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

Nature impressions are located on 15 Great Park Pursuit posts in parks throughout Nebraska. The challenge is to visit as many of the selected park sites as you can between May 1 and Sept. 8, 2009. Follow clues to find the posts and collect rubbings from the nature impressions.

Prizes and entry into drawings are based on the number of tracings collected. While participants become registered for a free two-night cabin stay at a Nebraska State Park of their choice with just one visit, the more sites participants visit the more opportunities they have to win.

In 2008, the Tesarek family of Plattsmouth was one of 34 teams to visit all 10 selected parks. Participation in the Great Park Pursuit was a highlight of the family's vacation. Karen Tesarek explained, "When we got back to the van, our 13-year-old, Andrea, said 'Finding the places was the most fun part of the whole vacation.' I thought that was really something because, in addition to doing the Great Park Pursuit, we had also taken them to the Black Hills, Wind Cave and Mount Rushmore, but she liked the Pursuit the best."

Engaging youth in the natural world outside their door is an important component of the program. Of the 1,854 participants from last summer, 900 were children with an average age of eight. Since today's recreation time is too often spent in front of a screen, The



Great Park Pursuit provides an opportunity which allows participants to feel comfortable in natural environments.

To build on the success of the 464 teams registered last year, which represented 122 Nebraska communities and eight states, the 2009 Great Park Pursuit will offer more opportunities to participate. Expanding to 15 park sites across Nebraska for this year's program provides more close-to-home opportunities. In addition, this year's sites include a mix of local, state and federal parkland. The variety of sites selected highlights the great natural resources of Nebraska while raising awareness of locations that offer educational, historical and entertainment opportunities.

To Register

Anyone can participate. Groups can be made up of individuals, families, friends, coworkers, youth organizations or any other group you belong to. There are four ways to register:

- on the Web at www.negpp.org
- at a kickoff/special event — a special event will be held at Pioneers Park in Lincoln on June 20
- call 471-5424 and request a packet and registration form
- request in writing to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, ATTN: Tim Montgomery, 2200 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503

"Start your Journey today — Explore Nebraska Parks!" For more information, go to www.negpp.org or call 471-5424.



The Great Park Pursuit 2009 locations:

1. Platte River State Park
2. Walnut Creek Lake and Recreation Area - Papillion
3. Lewis and Clark Landing - Omaha
4. Scenic Park in South Sioux City
5. Cowboy Trail (near Norfolk)
6. Calamus State Recreation Area
7. Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey
8. Fort Robinson State Park
9. Central Park in Alliance
10. Ash Hollow State Historic Park
11. Kelley Park in McCook
12. Stolley Park - Grand Island
13. Pawnee Park - Columbus
14. Pioneers Park - Lincoln
15. Indian Cave State Park