

Salina Parks & Recreation's Natural Resources program is committed to providing opportunities to discover and explore the natural world that is right in our "backyard." The Natural Resources staff strives to bring the public a variety of outdoor skills and environmental classes designed to create and nurture curiosity and interest in the outdoors. We hope that by providing these opportunities to learn about our world, we will promote a better understanding as well as an appreciation of our natural environment.

## LAKWOOD DISCOVERY CENTER & INDIAN ROCK NATURAL AREA

### *Lakewood Discovery Center*

**What's Inside?** Lakewood Discovery Center offers the public an up close and personal view of our native plants and wildlife. We have many animal ambassadors for you to meet, as well as various animal mounts displayed in natural settings. Lakewood's Library has many resources on natural subjects, and they are available to be checked out for public use. At the Discovery Center there is something to see and learn around every corner. Learn about insects, mammals, owls, earth sciences, birds, the senses, and much, much more. Come explore our interactive educational displays and discover something new about our natural world!

**What's Outside?** Lakewood Discovery Center is located in Lakewood Park and is surrounded by 99 acres of woods, prairie and lake. We are proud to be the guardians of Salina's Urban Wildlife Sanctuary, which offers a safe place for the wildlife within city limits. Within the Sanctuary you will find nature trails winding through various habitats, including wooded canopy, sandy shoreline, meandering river channel, and a restored native prairie area. Just outside the Center, you will find herb, wildflower and butterfly gardens. There are also bird and squirrel feeders, all which attract wildlife and give you an opportunity to see the wild animals up close. For a more in-depth experience, you may call and schedule nature walks and/or tours Monday through Friday. *To schedule a program, please call 826-7335.* We will also be happy to answer any questions you may have. When scheduling a program, please call at least two weeks in advance.

### *Indian Rock Natural Area*

Once the site of a Native American battle in 1857, this natural area located in Indian Rock Park now provides the public with an opportunity to explore a variety of habitats. Indian Rock Nature Trail is designed to introduce you to these diverse habitats as it meanders through scenic rock bluffs, woodland, lakeshore, and restored prairie. Follow the trail to the top of Indian Rock Hill for a spectacular view of Salina and the surrounding area, or to its base, the site of our two-acre fishing lake. The Indian Rock Natural Area is being maintained to recall the land as it may have been when the settlers first came to this spot in 1858. To learn more about its geology, plants, and animals, as well as its place in history, you may partake of a self-guided tour by using the trail brochures, located at the trailhead on the southwest end of the park, or by calling us at the Lakewood Discovery Center (826-7335).

### Park Regulations

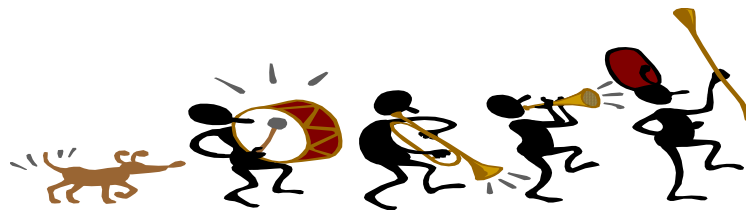
- ▶ Park Hours: 5:00am - 12midnight
- ▶ Pets **must be leashed** at all times.
- ▶ No swimming, camping, or open fires.
- ▶ No internal combustion engines on the lakes.
- ▶ Fishing license required. All state regulations apply. Length and creel limits are posted.
- ▶ Stay on maintained trails. Bikes, horses, and motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails.
- ▶ Respect the plants and animals of the Urban Wildlife Sanctuary and Natural Area by leaving them in place and not vandalizing or destroying them.



## ADVENTURE TRIPS & ACTIVITIES

Lakewood Discovery Center trips and activities are designed to bring out the natural side in you and are structured around natural/educational points of interest. Our destinations/programs range from minimal physical activity to strenuous activity. To better gauge the activities suited for you, we've assigned a star system to the event, ranging from 1-5 stars. ★1 star includes light walking, and minimal activity; ★★2 stars include light walking, and more than one activity; ★★★3 stars include moderate walking or physical effort, and extended hours of activity; ★★★★4 stars include moderate to considerable walking or physical effort; ★★★★★5 stars include considerable walking or physical effort with activities.

Programs are held at the Lakewood Discovery Center, unless otherwise noted. Age requirements for all activities are indicated. If a grade requirement is indicated, it will be the grade in which the student is currently enrolled or has just completed. When participating in a program, be sure to dress for the weather and wear closed-toed, sturdy, comfortable shoes. Please call the Natural Resources staff at 826-7335 concerning questions about the following programs:



### Quilts on Parade(\*\*)

6101.102

Lakewood invites you to join us as we go on a quilting road trip that will encompass a unique opportunity to enjoy rural America and its hand-made products. We will visit the quaint village of Yoder to experience their Amish heritage and hospitality. Yoder is hosting their annual "Quilts on Parade" exhibit which highlights quilting products of their well-accomplished artisans. Many stores and boutiques will be open to display local products that are produced right in their area, including quilts, crafts, home décor, and hand-made furniture. We will also enjoy a fine meal at the unique Carriage Crossing that highlights handmade-from-scratch cooking and old-world ambiance. Their famous pies are worth the trip alone.

After shopping and dining, we will depart for Hutchinson to experience the Underground Salt Museum. This newly opened museum takes us 650 feet below the surface of Kansas. Our tour will highlight one of Kansas' vast natural resources that humans have relied upon for decades. Salt deposits left behind millions of years ago provide modern societies unique uses. We will get to see how this mine is used today. On our way home we will stop off in McPherson at the Button Hole to browse over their endless quilting/sewing supplies to start that newly inspired project!

When: Saturday, March 28

Time: 8:00 am (depart from Lakewood Discovery Center)

Limit: 20 participants

Fee: \$55.00 non member \$49.50 for members

Includes transportation, lunch at the Carriage Crossing, and entry to the Salt Museum

### Spring Break Nature Escape: S.C.A.T. (\*)

6101.101

Chase that spring break boredom away with an afternoon of Snacks, Crafts, Animals, and Trails at Lakewood Discovery Center. Come with us on a journey of discovery as we take a look at some of our native Kansas critters, learning how they live, what they eat, and how they protect themselves. We'll hike the trails in search of wildlife, and then enjoy some easy-to-make homemade snacks. Finally, use your creative spirit to make something that is naturally nifty to take home. (\*)

When: Tuesday, March 17

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Limit: 20

Ages: all ages welcome

Fee: \$5.50/non-member \$4.95/member

**Elk River Weekend Hike (\*\*\*\*)****6601.101**

Are you looking to become more active, getting outdoors and finding adventure. Join us on our weekend hike on the Elk River Trail, one of Outsider Magazine's top 50 trails in the country. This unique trail winds along the Elk City Lake and will take us to many panoramic views of the flint hills, beautiful limestone outcroppings, through narrow ravines, across small streams, and under some impressive rock overhangs. The trail is a true hikers hidden gem right here in Kansas. We will hike the first half of the trail on Saturday, stopping along the way for lunch, and then into camp for a fireside supper and relaxation. In the morning we will cook breakfast and then complete the trail, a full 15 miles in all, before returning to Salina.

When: Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

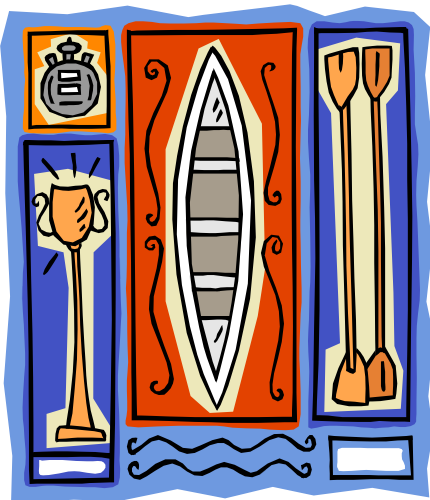
Time: Leave from Lakewood at 7:00 a.m. return approx. 6:00 p.m. Sun.

Limit: 16 participants, under 16 needs to be accompanied by an adult

Fee: \$50.00 non-members \$45.00 friends group members

Includes: transportation, camping fees, camping equipment, and all meals

Items needed: tents provided but you are welcome to bring your own sleeping bag, backpacks(optional), water container, trail snacks, bug spray, personal items

**Ozark Mountain Camp-out (\*\*\*\*)****6101.301**

A weekend in the beautiful Ozark Mountains camping, canoeing, fishing, and riding a duck. Sound like fun to you? Then come along on our annual spring camp-out. We will be camping on the shores of Table Rock Lake near Branson, in the Ozark Mountains. Enjoy a day on the beautiful Flat Creek canoeing and fishing as we slide by native Missouri countryside. We will be able to fish for many species of sport fish from our canoes, including: catfish, large & smallmouth bass, crappie, and white bass (fishing is optional, Missouri fishing license required). After our day on the water we will return to camp for a campfire supper and relaxation lakeside. On our next day of exploration we will tour the Table Rock Lake fish hatchery and see how fish are cared for and their importance to the area waters. After lunch we will ride a duck on land and in water. This duck seats 30 people at one time and will take us on a historical tour of the area including plunging into the lake for a short swim around the lake. We will have a chance to experience the new Branson landing; this new feature includes bass pro shops, unique shopping, and dining opportunities. The next morning we will have a lumberjack breakfast before we set out for home.

When: Thursday May 21 to Sunday May 24

Time: 7:00 a.m. leave from Lakewood

Limit: 16 participants, 18 and under need to be accompanied by an adult

Fee: \$220 non members \$198 friends group members

Includes: transportation, camping fees, canoeing, duck fee, and most meals

Items needed: sleeping bag, personal items, bug spray, fishing equipment, fishing license (\$7 one day permit), and select meal Money. You can bring your own tent if desired .



## Kansas Cowboys (\*\*\*\*)

6102.103



Come on along the dusty trail partner, and experience western lore that still lives. We will take our way to the historic Cowtown of Wichita, in its boom days as a major cattle destination as the rail heads of Kansas brought cowboys in from the wilds. In addition to our Cowtown experience, we will also get to enjoy western livin' as we attend a chuck wagon dinner and show at the Prairie Rose Ranch. We can also participate in the hayrack rides, old west style train rides, and much more. As typical tough hombres we will be camping out at El Dorado State Park and sleep under the stars and howl at the moon. After our breakfast vittles on Sunday, we will break camp and head out in search of bison, America's buffalo. We will search Maxwell State Preserve high and low for these elusive critters on a tram out through the prairie. What do ya say, Tex? Up for the adventure, or are you a lily-livered tenderfoot?



When: Saturday June 13 – Sunday June 14

Where: Leave from Lakewood 8:00 a.m.

Limit: 18 participants, 18 yrs and under need to be accompanied by an adult

Fee: \$ 100.00 non members \$ 90.00 friends group members

Includes: transportation, all entrance fees, camping equipment, select meals

Items needed: personal tent (optional), sleeping bag, bug spray, binoculars, and personal items

## Yellowstone (\*\*\*\*)

6103.102

The American west is dotted with spectacular National Parks and historical locations that have defined the American spirit of grandeur and adventure. The crown jewel of these national treasures is Yellowstone/Teton National Parks. This unique region is the foremost destination when seeking breathtaking Rocky Mountain backdrops and iconic wildlife. The Yellowstone basin is world renowned for its natural features including one half of the world's active geysers and mud pots. Thermal pools abound and intertwine the landscape and wildlife in the nations #1 national park.

Our tour will allow us to get up close and personal with these features as we explore on our own and with expert guides that will show us the natural world of Yellowstone/Teton National Parks. We will spend four full days touring and exploring the region, with opportunities to see all the major attractions in the park. We will have time to leisurely hike some of the most famous trails in the park, picnic outdoors and have time to relax along the way. We will also get some time to shop in Jackson Hole and West Yellowstone. A detailed itinerary will be available upon request. (\*\*\*\*)

When: Wed. September 9<sup>th</sup> – Wed. September 16<sup>th</sup>

Time: Leave from the south parking lot of Bi-Center at 6:00 a.m. on 9<sup>th</sup>, return early evening on 16<sup>th</sup>

Limit: 20 participants. 18 yrs and under need to be with an adult

Fee: \$1,000 non member \$900 friends group member



Explorers ♦ Travels ♦ Recreation ♦ Encounters ♦ Knowledge ♦ Sites

## Green Kansas

We know the environment is important, but yet we are bombarded daily with news of impending doom. Is there any good news in all of this, and how can the little things we do make a difference? Join Lakewood Discovery Center and the Smoky Hill Museum as we look at positive, simple, money-saving things you can do to go green. Get ready for a hands-on morning as we learn how landfills work, meet our district's NRCS team as they demonstrate their stream trailer and enviroscape, discover eco-indicators with a mock stream study, and find out the importance of protecting the food web. After lunch, we head out to see one of Kansas's new alternative energy sites, the **Smoky Hill Wind Farm** near Lincoln. Our guided tour (hard hats and safety glasses provided) will take us through the system and up-close to these monstrous wind-powered turbines. Next, we head to **The Land Institute** to see how they are creating new farming techniques that mimic native prairie, including *perennial* wheat. These new technologies will not only benefit the land, but the farmer's pocketbook as well. Finally, we will head back to Lakewood to learn what simple money and earth saving techniques/technologies we can use in our own homes.

When: Saturday, April 18, 9 am – 5 pm

Ages: 18 years and up

Fee: \$35 (non-members) \$31.50 (members)

Limit: 16

Wear: Dress for the weather

