



# Ponca State Park

## 2012 Special Events

402-755-2284

Varies

### **Outdoor Education Programs**

Daily interactive programs on outdoor skills, environmental education and arts & crafts are offered Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend. Weekend programs offered rest of year; group events may be customized to your needs. Call park office to schedule.

March 9-11,  
16-18 & 23-25

### **Marsh Madness-NEW EVENT!**

Designed as a weekend getaway for bird lovers, Marsh Madness will highlight the Park's richly abundant and inherently beautiful natural areas, the centerpiece of which will be the spring migration of waterfowl along the Missouri River. Interpretive programs, kid's programs, reservable guided observation waterfowl blinds and unguided Bald Eagle blinds are just a few of the weekend highlights. Lodging rates 30% off & conference free to lodging guests. Call for details.

May 5 & 6

### **Outdoor Cooking Camp- NEW EVENT!**

This is a completely hands-on weekend cooking camp for all levels of outdoor cooks—newbies to experienced. Select your interactive classes and learn all aspects of outdoor cooking—from grilling, smoking, dehydration, fish cleaning, jerky & sausage making, campfire cooking, Dutch Oven cooking and wild edibles. Participants will create Saturday evening meal using new techniques and compete in a Sunday morning friendly breakfast challenge. Discounted lodging packages available. Camp is \$50 per adult & \$35 for kids 12 and under.

May 13

### **Mother's Day Buffet**

Treat mom to a relaxing delectable buffet in a gorgeous lodge setting from 11:30 am- 1 pm. Reservations requested.

May 19

### **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Free Fishing & Park Entry Day**

Held each year the Saturday before Memorial Day to introduce or reintroduce fishing in Nebraska's waters. This day will also commemorate the dedication of Eric Wiebe Shooting Complex.

June 2 & 3

### **Scheels 3-D Archery Tournament**

The public is invited to compete in the Ponca State Park 3D Shoot hosted by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and sponsored by Scheels. Lots of prizes & giveaways. Each round of shooting includes 25 targets. For more information, contact the Scheels Archery Shop at (712) 252-1551.

June 16 & 17

### **Bugs & Bones Weekend- NEW EVENT!**

If the first thing that comes to mind is "ewwww", then we have just the program for you! By the end of the weekend, we hope that you will come to like Nebraska's creepy crawlies and bone discoveries a little bit more. During this weekend's programs, we will highlight all the great aspects about these misunderstood creatures and archeology of the region. We will offer games, crafts, and hikes.

June 17

### **Father's Day Fried Chicken & Fish Fry**

What dad wouldn't love a homemade fried chicken dinner & fish fry with all the fixins? Join us from 11:30 am-1pm for our buffet featuring side dishes such as coleslaw, cornbread, fries, grits and Dutch Oven Cobbler for dessert. Reservations requested.

June 23

### **Summer Solstice Wine and Cheese Tasting- NEW EVENT!**

Join us during the twilight hours at the Towers in Time sculpture for a wine and cheese tasting celebrating the arrival of summer. Sample regional wines, cheeses, breads and other artisanal offerings while listening to local musical talent under the lighted waterfall of the Towers in Time sculpture.

July 4

### **Independence Day Dutch-Oven Cobbler & Ice Cream Social**

Treat your family to homemade Dutch oven cobbler and hand-cranked ice-cream at our beautiful Tri-State Overlook. Enjoy old fashioned family games as well.

- August 11      **Shooting Sports Skills Day Camp**  
This event is for those who wish to hone their shooting techniques. We will head out to practice shooting various firearms and bows in different settings. Perfect outing for scout, 4-H and youth groups.
- September 8 & 9      **Archery Sight-in Days**  
The park's archery range will have 3-D target setups that include big game, small game, the deer herd, and a just-for-fun range. Range open 10AM to 4PM both days. Free.
- September 15 & 16      **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri River Outdoor Expo**  
The Expo is an annual event to give the public a chance to learn about wildlife-related & outdoor recreation activities, including wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, archery, shooting sports, camping, off-highway vehicle recreation & boating recreation. Over 80 hands-on exhibits, demonstrations and vendors make for a fun and educational weekend. Free.
- October 6      **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Homemade Living Day**  
Formerly known as Heritage Farm Weekend, this event focuses on "passing-on" many of the traditional skills and techniques of living from the land. Demonstrations include canning & preserving, bee keeping, organic & heirloom gardening, fiber arts, quilting, home-style foods, flour milling and more. Think homemade and homegrown—from earth to table—we're celebrating sustainable living. Horse drawn wagon rides and pioneer games too. Free.
- October 13 & 20      **Hallowfest**  
The Park's 14<sup>th</sup> annual Halloween and autumn event that features haunted evening hayrack rides, pumpkin rolling and carving contest, campsite decorating contest, and much more. Haunted hayrack ride reservations begin October 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 am by calling or visiting park office. Pumpkin Roll \$3+, Haunted Hayrack rides \$7 adults/\$3 kids, crafts \$2-\$10, Carving \$3.50. \*Prices subject to change.
- December 14      **Annual Christmas Bird Count**  
This event coincides with the Audubon's Society's national Christmas Bird Count. Amateur and expert birdwatchers are invited to attend this event that closes with a free chili feed to compare notes and sighting reports.

*Call Ponca State Park for details on schedules, programming, reserving group activities or programs and pricing information. Daily and weekend programming typically listed on Ponca State Park's Facebook page one to two weeks prior to each weekend. We love sharing our Park and nature programs; if we can customize an event or program for your group, give us a call!*

**Ponca State Park**

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