

Neal Smith

National Wildlife Refuge



Special Events



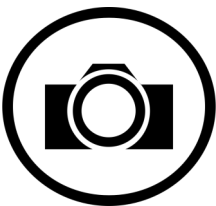
Photo: Scott Fairbairn

Bison Day

Saturday, August 5 from 9:00 am– 2:00 pm

Join us for a **FREE** and family-friendly celebration of bison and the prairie. Music, weaving, rope-making, archery, games and crafts will be available for all ages! See live bison and elk and compete in a bison chip throwing contest! Bison burger lunch available for purchase. **Call 515-994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov** for more information.

Summer Photo Hikes



Photographers of all skill levels are invited to join a ranger-led walk. Discover the prairie flowers and wildlife using your lens. Meet at the Prairie Learning Center. Check Facebook for any cancellations. If you have registered, you will get an email. **Please pre-register by calling 515-994-3400 or email Doreen_Vanryswyk@fws.gov.**

Date	Time
Saturday, June 17	6:00 am —8:00 am
Sunday, July 16	7:00 pm—9:00 pm
Saturday, August 19	6:00 am—8:00 am

Date	Time	Age
June 10	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All
July 8	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All
August 12	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All

Second Saturday Stewardship

Interested in giving back to the environment and learning about the prairie? Stewardship volunteer programs occur on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Refuge. **To register, contact Nancy_Corona@fws.gov or (515) 994-3400.**



All programs are free and open to the public!





Nature Tots



Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult and join us as we read stories, go outside, make nature crafts, and much more! **Pre-registration is required. Call 515-994-3400 or Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.**



Date	Time	Ages	Topic
Saturday, June 3	10:30 am—11:30 am	3 – 5	Froggy's Best Friend
Saturday, July 1	10:30 am—11:30 am	3 – 5	All About Dirt
Saturday, August 5	10:00 am—11:30 am	3 - 5	Lucky Little Bison - Bison

Sunday Scientists

Children ages 6-10 and their favorite adult are invited to become a scientist for a day! Join a ranger to study science in nature, conduct experiments, and search for wildlife up close. Pre-registration required. Please email Doreen_Vanryswyk@fws.gov to register or call 515/994-3400.

Date	Time	Ages	Topic
June 18	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	6-10	Furs and Feathers
July 16	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	6-10	Seeds in the Wind
August 20	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	6-10	Birds, Butterflies and Blooms

Prairie Wildflower Walks

Join volunteer naturalists for a guided nature walk along the 1/2 mile paved Overlook Trail loop and learn about wildlife, wildflowers, and management of the refuge. See the prairie in bloom, watch for birds and butterflies and find out about the bison and elks herds. Recommended for adults and children ages 12 and older accompanied by their favorite adult. Pre-registration required. **To pre-register call 515-994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.**

Date	Time
Saturday, June 17	10:00 am
Saturday, July 8	10:00 am
Saturday, August 19	10:00 am



All programs are FREE & open to the public!



Naturalist Programs

Bison and Elk Walk and Talk Sunday, June 4 at 1:30 p.m.

Take a guided hike along the half-mile Overlook Trail to learn about our national mammal, the American Bison, as well as the majestic elk. Learn about their histories, uses, management, and recovery while having the opportunity to observe the herds. To register or for more information call 515/994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.



Photo: Tom Endres

Pollinator Party for Kids Saturday, June 24 at 1:30 pm

Celebrate National Pollinator Week by joining us for a pollinator program for children ages 6-10 and accompanied by their favorite adult! Listen to a story about pollinators, take a walk in search of pollinators, and make a craft. To pre-register, please call 515-994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.

Butterfly Encounters Saturday, July 1 at 10:00 am

Join a naturalist on a guided nature walk in search of butterflies on the prairie. Learn techniques for identifying butterflies while enjoying the prairie in summer bloom. Recommended for adults and children ages 10 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To pre-register call 515/994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.



Photo: Thomas Dunkerton





Naturalist Programs



What Lies Beneath

Sunday, July 2 at 1:30 pm

Experience the tallgrass prairie first hand by taking a guided walk along the half-mile paved Overlook Trail. Learn about the geology behind Iowa's fertile soil and the network of plant and animal life it supports. To register or for more information please call 515/994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.



Prairie Discovery Walk

Saturday, July 22 at 1:00 pm

Join a naturalist for a guided nature walk along the half-mile Overlook Trail and learn about wildlife, wildflowers and management of the refuge. See the prairie in bloom, watch for birds and butterflies, and learn about the bison and elk herds. To register, please call 515/994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.

First Settlers of Iowa

Sunday, August 6 at 1:30 pm

Walk the Oak Savanna Trail with a ranger to learn about this endangered habitat and the first settlers that made it their home. For more information or to register, please call 515/994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.



Hiking Trails

Take a hike through the beautiful tallgrass prairie or oak savanna. Try to find blooming flowers, birds, or butterflies! Brochures and maps available at the Visitor Center.

Trail	Length	Surface	Habitat
Overlook Trail	1/2 mile	Paved-Accessible	Tallgrass Prairie
Tallgrass Trail	2 miles	Paved	Tallgrass Prairie
Oak Savanna Trail	1/2 mile	Gravel	Oak Savanna
Basswood Trail	1/2 mile	Grass	Woodland
AVA Trail	10 Kilometers	Grass, Paved, Gravel	Prairie, Oak Savanna



For more information: (515) 994-3400 or http://www.fws.gov/refuge/neal_smith/

