

# “North Dakota’s Outdoor Learning Centers

are dedicated to promoting awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural environment through hands-on outdoor education that nurtures a sense of place, celebrates diversity and fosters stewardship.”

## **CROSS RANCH OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER**

Center, ND  
(701) 794-3731  
crolc@nd.gov

## **LAKE METIGOSHE OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER**

Bottineau, ND  
(701) 263-4514  
lmlc@nd.gov

## **TURTLE RIVER OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER**

Arvilla, ND  
(701) 594-4445  
trolc@nd.gov

[www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov)

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10/09



**ND Parks & Recreation Department**  
1600 E Century Avenue, Suite #3  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503-0649

**NORTH DAKOTA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

# OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTERS

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## Outdoor classrooms

The Outdoor Learning Centers available at Cross Ranch, Lake Metigoshe and Turtle River state parks offer ecology, conservation, cultural and recreational programs in an outdoor setting.

These state parks provide a natural classroom to study the outdoor environment. They offer a wide range of ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, prairies, rivers and lakes, allowing participants to experience such places with knowledgeable Interpretive Naturalists.

Programs offer interactive learning. Navigate a course by using a compass, grasp anatomy and physiology by dressing up like a bird or even taste some wild edibles! The Naturalists at each learning center will work with you to make your individual arrangements.

## Earn a Badge

Scouts can contact the closest learning center to fulfill badge work needs at all scout levels. Programs can be adapted to meet Girl Scout and Boy Scout standards.

## Rates

Rates are \$5 per participant, per program. There is a \$50 minimum for groups with 10 or less participants. Rates include state park entrance fees for up to one bus and two vehicles. Changes and/or cancellations require two weeks notice or fees may apply.

## Program offerings

**Birds of a Feather:** Fly through many activities while learning to recognize the various adaptations and anatomy that distinguish between multiple species of birds. Discover how the anatomy of the beaks and feet are clues as to what a bird eats, where it lives and their role in the environment.



**Bonkers for Botany:** Embark on a tour of the different species of botanicals found in North Dakota as well as characteristics that make them unique. We'll also learn to identify leaf shapes, arrangements and a few edibles.

**Orienteering:** Find your way here to learn what maps are, information maps provide and participate in activities requiring the use of map skills. Learn the parts of a compass, how to take a bearing and test your skills.



**Outdoor Living Skills:** Work with nature, not against it. Develop essential survival skills needed for spending time in the wilderness.

**Sensory Hike:** Get a sense of how animals rely on adaptations for survival. In this adventure, we'll see, hear, smell, touch and perhaps taste nature while discovering ecological principles along the way.

**Wild about Wildlife:** Wildlife plays a role in our environment so join us on an expedition to discover characteristics and behaviors needed for survival. Meet them in their habitats.



**Weather You Want It or Not:** Storm into weather fronts, clouds and other meteorological phenomena created by nature.

*Other programs can be developed on a variety of topics to meet your needs. However, proper notice is required for staffing and development of such programs. Topic ideas may include paleontology, human ecology, astronomy, habitat diversity, etc.*

## General guidelines

- Length of programs are 1-2 hours and depend upon size and age of the group. Group size may be limited to maximum participation due to availability of equipment.
- Reservations are required. Book early, especially for arrangements in the spring and summer seasons.
- Programs are open to all ages. Chaperones are required for grades k-12, but are not charged as participants. Suggested chaperone to student ratio is 1:12.
- Rental of housing and kitchen facilities may be available. Contact individual learning center for rental and reservation information. Camping is available at all locations.
- All participants should be dressed appropriately for changing weather conditions. Layers are suggested.
- Groups are to bring their own meals, snacks and beverages as needed. Contact individual learning center for local meal options.
- Indoor facilities may be used for portions of the program during poor weather conditions.
- Suggested items to bring to any of the learning centers include drinking water, bug spray, sunscreen, rain gear, lip balm and appropriate shoes for hiking.
- Other recreational opportunities that are available and may include volleyball, playgrounds, swimming, fishing, hiking trails, horseshoes, geocaching, biking and more!

