

Nature Notes

Snow Scamper 2019

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Its hard to believe but it's almost that time of year again! We are in the middle of planning our 6th annual Snow Scamper 5k Trail run/walk, Each year it gets better and we have already had several wonderful business's step up and offer to be sponsors thus enabling us to keep this a budget friendly event. **If you know of a business or individual who would be interested in being a sponsor, please let us know! You can find all the details in the sponsor letter and form attached to this newsletter.**

Hosting this event is our way of encouraging our community to get outdoors, be active and enjoy nature even when the weather may not be ideal. We have great prizes, each participant gets a long-sleeve t-shirt with registration, and we have plenty of food and drink! Early registration is \$25 per person and, as mentioned earlier, includes a 50/50 long-sleeve t-shirt. If you would like a performance shirt, registration is \$35. **To be guaranteed a t-shirt you must register before January 21st!** Snowshoes will be available on a first served basis.

For your convenience we have attached a Snow Scamper Flyer and registration form to this newsletter. If you need more information please contact Diana at 712-947-4270 or ddowhower@co.plymouth.ia.us



That's a BIG Rock!

Thanks to Plymouth County Secondary Roads and Stockton Towing, we have a 37,000 lb. Sioux Quartzite boulder gracing our new playground! The large metamorphic rock was found by the Plymouth County Secondary Roads Department while working on a road project north of LeMars.



Sioux Quartzite is only found near the intersection of South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota. Formed 2280-110 million years ago during the Proterozoic Eon.


This metamorphic rock is the same rock found at Falls Park in Sioux Falls.




Now an extremely erosion resistant rock, Sioux Quartzite was formed from highly erodible sandstone. Sandstone, which is a sedimentary rock, formed in shallow rivers that ran southeast throughout the region.

Today there are buildings in this region, still standing, that are made from this stone, a good choice due to its stable nature.

Love is in the Air



Do you want to do something different for Valentines? Do you enjoy nature? Then grab your sweetheart and come spend the evening snowshoeing, or hiking the trails at Hillview Park! Listen to the love stories the natural world has to tell. After the hike, enjoy some refreshments by the fire. This program is for couples over the age of 18. Space is limited so please pre-register!
 Cost is \$10 per couple.
 February 14th
 6pm



Upcoming Events

December 28...Winter Day Camp I
January 19...Becoming an Outdoors Family
February 2...Snow Scamper 5k
February 14...Love is in the Air
February 18...Winter Day Camp II

These are just a few of the fun activities we have coming up for this winter. For all the details you need, check out the **Adventure Guide** attached to this newsletter!

For more information please contact Diana at ddowhower@co.plymouth.ia.us or call 712-947-4270



Tubing Hill



The tubing hill at Hillview Park will be open December through February. Public hours are 1-5pm Saturday, Sunday and New Years Day. The cost is \$5 per person. Reservations can be made for private groups during the week for a 2 hour time frame. The cost is \$100 for up to 20 people and \$5/ person after the first 20.

No reservations will be taken for December 24, 25 and 31.

For more information or to make a reservation call 712-947-4270

What a Great Tagging Year

At the beginning of September every year, we get to witness a grand migration. For the past 12 years, Plymouth County students have had a chance to collect scientific data and submit it to a nationwide database on these amazing migrators. With nets in hand and eyes wide, students rove through the prairies searching for the magical monarch butterfly.

Once caught the butterflies are tagged with a small (paper punch sized) sticker on their hind wing. The sticker contains contact information and an identification number. The tag information and sex of the insect as well as date and location are recorded and submitted to the Monarch Watch database. This year 203 butterflies were tagged on field trips and for in-class lessons.



Now we wait. These monarchs have started to arrive at their overwintering grounds in Mexico. If one is found and reported to Monarch Watch, their tag information will be entered into the database, where taggers can search for their butterflies. In past years we have had 8 recovered but we have never sent in so many records. We should find out this spring if any of our butterflies were recovered.



Friends of Plymouth County Conservation



Plymouth County Conservation Foundation is a non-profit organization that finds great value in the conservation of natural areas and the nurturing of minds for the betterment of our world as a whole. When you become a Friend of Plymouth County Conservation through monetary donation or the gift of volunteering, you are not only helping to expand and improve conservation opportunities in Plymouth County, you are helping to preserve and protect the natural world for the generations to come.

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Please indicate your desired level of donation:

- ◇ Student Membership
\$15 or 2 volunteer hours
- ◇ Individual Membership
\$25 or 5 volunteer hours
- ◇ Family Membership
\$50-99 or 10 volunteer hours
- ◇ Goldfinch Membership
\$100-249 or 20-49 volunteer hours
- ◇ Red Fox Membership
\$250-499 or 50-99 volunteer hours
- ◇ Bald Eagle Membership
\$500-999 or 100-199 volunteer hours
- ◇ Wapiti (elk) Membership
\$1, 000+ or 200+ volunteer hours

Please accept these gifts as our way of saying "Thank You":

All levels receive the *Nature Notes* quarterly newsletter, Friend of Plymouth County Conservation car decal, and early bird sign-up*.

Goldfinch membership and higher receive recognition in the Center for Outdoor Learning for one year.

Red Fox membership and higher receive a voucher for one night of free camping at Hillview Recreation Area, good for one year.

Bald Eagle membership and higher receive a voucher for one free night stay in a cabin at Hillview Recreation area, good for one year.

Wapiti membership receive the above listed gifts as well as a voucher for one free rental of the Center for Outdoor Learning, good for one year.

*Sign-up one business day before the general public for summer camps

For **monetary donations**, please indicate the area where you prefer your donation be used:

- ◇ No preference - use where most needed
- ◇ The Center for Outdoor Learning enhancement and support
- ◇ Educational programming
- ◇ Plymouth County Parks and habitat enhancement

If you would like to **volunteer**, please indicate below and the Plymouth County Conservation Community Outreach Coordinator will be in contact with you shortly. Volunteer hours must be completed within one calendar year.

- ◇ I would like to volunteer with Plymouth County Conservation at the level indicated above

Amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to:

Plymouth County Conservation Foundation

C/o Diana Dowhower, P.O. Box 1033, Hinton, IA 51024

**CODE OF CONDUCT
PLYMOUTH COUNTY CONSERVATION
PROGRAM DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL POLICY**

Plymouth County is interested in the welfare of all adults and children. Participants in Plymouth County Conservation programs are expected to follow the rules of the program and obey the direction of staff, whether paid or volunteer, and other adults in supervisory positions. A participant's failure and inability to follow rules and obey directions may cause a serious discipline problem. A serious discipline problem may also occur when a child hampers the smooth flow of the program by requiring constant one-on-one attention, inflicts physical or emotional harm on other children, abuses staff and adults, or is otherwise unable to conform to the rules and guidelines of the program. Kicking, biting, abusive behavior towards others, name-calling, unwanted displays of affection, and inappropriate language are examples of such unacceptable behavior.

An adult causing problems or disruptions will be reminded of the rules, then asked to leave if the problem continues.

All summer program registrants are expected to follow the rules of the program and obey the direction of the summer program leaders and other adults in supervisory positions. When a child's behavior creates a discipline problem as described in the above Discipline and Dismissal Policy, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. The child shall be separated from the problem activity or situation. Staff shall help the child rejoin the group when they are ready.
2. Staff shall listen to the child and discuss the consequences of further misbehavior.
3. Repeated misbehavior shall be handled through conversations with a parent.
4. The parent, child, and staff shall agree to a plan that improves behavior.
5. If improvement does not occur or a solution cannot be determined, staff may recommend that the child be dismissed from the program.

Emergency Release

NOTE: Acceptance into a program is conditioned on the above policy and the right to dismiss a participant from the program as outlined above. Your cooperation in making your child's experience the best possible, is needed. Please inform the leader of the existence of or changes in any physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral conditions and maintenance medications that may affect the youth. Please note all such conditions (example: allergies, cerebral palsy, visual impairment, attention deficit syndrome, etc.) and medications on the registration and Health/emergency forms. **THANK YOU!**

In the event of an emergency, I give permission for the Plymouth County Conservation staff or volunteers to administer first aid and/or obtain emergency medical treatment for me/my child. I understand that every effort will be made to contact me and/or my emergency listing. I understand that if necessary, I/ this participant will be transported by ambulance to the nearest hospital. I agree that any cost incurred for any transportation and/or treatment will be my responsibility.

_____ Signature _____ Date _____

I have read the Code of Conduct and agree to its terms.

I give permission for my/my child's photo to be taken and used for future Plymouth County Conservation advertisements, brochures, or reports.

_____ initial _____

_____ initial _____



**Fall and Winter
2018-19
Adventure Guide**
www.plymouthcountyparks.com 712-947-4270

Fall Programs and Events

September 13 Sunset on the Bluff 6-8pm

Explore the western side of the scenic Loess Hills in Plymouth County. Hikers will hike up a steep, fossil covered trail on their way to the Five Ridge State Preserve, learning about the geology of the area, as well as about the flora and fauna along the way. At the end of the hike we will watch the sunset from our Five Ridge Cabin.

Participants will need to pre-register by noon on September 12th. A minimum of 6 people and maximum of 30 is set for this program. Long pants and a water bottle would be good choices for participants to have on this hike.

October 13 Halloween at Hillview 6-8pm

Campers will hand out candy to trick-or-treaters. **We will take reservations for campsites on September 4th starting at 8am by phone.** Trick-or-treaters can park on either the north or south side of the park. Campgrounds on both sides of the park will be open for trick 'r treating. Spooky hikes start at 8pm, meet at the picnic shelter.

Be sure to check out the Festival Market at the Center for Outdoor Learning before trick-or-treating!!!



Knee High Naturalists

Knee High Naturalists is a program for 2-5 year old children and their caretakers. Each program is held at Hillview Park in the Center for Outdoor Learning at 10am. The cost is \$3.00 per child. Please register by the day prior to the program. Outdoor activities will be modified if weather conditions are not favorable. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

- September 22nd**
- October 20th**
- November 17th**
- December 15th**
- January 19th**
- February 16th**
- March 16th**

- In the Tall, Tall Grass**
- Itsy Bitsy Spiders**
- Fall Mixed Up**
- Tree-rific Trees!**
- Who Goes There?**
- Give a Hoot!**
- Animal Adaptations**



Winter Programs and Events

December 28 Winter Day Camp I 9am-4pm

Looking for something for the kids to do on winter break? Send them to camp! We will spend the day playing and learning outside. There is a limited number of spaces available for this camp, so sign up early. We will be providing lunch and snacks.



January 19 - Becoming and Outdoors Family -Tracks and Trails 2-4pm

Join the naturalist on a snow shoeing hike on the trails at Hillview. See what critters remain active in the Iowa winters. There is very limited space in this program so please call ahead to reserve your snow shoes. \$5/ person

February 2 - Snow Scamper - 5K trail run/walk 10am-noon

Dust off your running shoes and dig out those snowshoes. We want to see what you are made of. Plymouth County Conservation will be hosting a trail run/ walk at Hillview Park, in Hinton. Participants will receive a long sleeved 50/50 t-shirt, and snacks after the run. Early registration is \$25/ person*. Registrations received after January 21st will not be guaranteed a shirt. Snowshoes are available on a first come first served basis.

* **Long sleeved Performance Shirt is an additional \$10.**

February 14 - Love is in the Air 6-8pm



Grab your sweetheart and spend the evening hiking/snowshoeing the trails at Hillview. Listen to love stories from the natural world. After the hike enjoy some refreshments by the fire. This program is for couples over the age of 18. Space is limited, pre-registration is required. \$10/ couple

February 18 Winter Day Camp II 9am-4pm

If you missed the first winter day camp, here is your second chance. We will spend the day playing and learning outside. There is a limited number of spaces available for this camp, so sign up early. We will be providing lunch and snacks. This camp is for kids in 3rd - 6th grade.



Tubing Hill

The tubing hill at Hillview will be open December - February. Public hours are from 1-5pm Saturdays, Sundays, & New Years Day. Reservations can be made for private groups beginning November 1st. Private groups can rent the hill during the week for a two hour time frame, throughout the tubing season.

Program Registration Form

Participant's Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency and Health Information

Signature required on back

Contact _____ Phone _____

Doctor's Name _____ Phone _____

Food allergies/ restrictions _____

Other info. we should know about the participant _____

Circle what you are signing up for

Make checks payable to Plymouth County Conservation

Knee High Naturalists **\$3/month**

September /October /November/ December /January /February /March

Sunset on the Bluff (call to register) **FREE**

Winter Day Camp I **\$20**

Tracks and Trails **\$5**

Love is in the Air **\$10/couple**

Winter Day Camp II **\$20**



Plymouth County Conservation Foundation's

Snow Scamper - 5K

Pick a shirt

\$25 long sleeved 50/50

\$35 long sleeved performance shirt

Pick a size

YS YM YL S M L XL XXL

\$10 late fee after January 24th

After January 21st
call to register.

A very limited number
of shirts are available
after the 21st

Call 712-947-4270
to reserve snowshoes.

Please make **SCAMPER** checks payable to
Plymouth County Conservation Foundation



Snow Scamper 5K

Hillview Park - Hinton, Iowa

Feb. 2, 2019
race starts @ 10am

Run - Walk - Snowshoe

This is a "trail run" it may be icy, snowy, or muddy!!!

\$25

Registration until
January 21st with a
50/50 long sleeved shirt

After January 21st
limited shirts available

9am - Check-in opens

9:45am - Check-in closes

10am - Race starts

\$35

Registration until
January 21st with
a performance shirt



Register to race, volunteer or be an event

sponsor by calling **712-947-4270**

or visit

www.plymouthcountyparks.com



Snow Scamper Registration Form

Participant's Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency and Health Information

Contact _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

Doctor's Name _____ Phone _____

Food allergies/ restrictions _____

Other info. we should know about the participant _____

Circle one in each category

Event Running /Walking or Snowshoeing (**call to reserve snowshoes**)

Shirt \$25 - 50/50 long sleeved shirt (by Jan. 21st)

\$35 - Long sleeved performance shirt (by Jan. 21st)

Registration after January 21st (shirt not guaranteed)

Shirt Size Youth S M L

Adult S M L XL XXL



www.plymouthcountyparks.com

Mail to

PCCF—Programs
PO Box 1033
Hinton, IA 51024

Make checks payable to
Plymouth County Conservation Foundation

*****we are unable to give refunds*****



Nick Beeck; Director
712-947-4270
712-947-4371 (fax)
nbeeck@co.plymouth.ia.us
www.plymouthcountypark.com

25601 C60
P.O. Box 1033
Hinton, Iowa
51024-1033

November 1, 2018

Hello!

The Plymouth County Conservation Foundation is beginning preparation for their 6th annual “Snow Scamper 5k Run/Walk,” February 2, 2019 at Hillview Park. Thanks to the wonderful businesses and individuals who provided sponsorship in 2018, we had another great turn out and were able to keep the costs low and the fun high! This event is one of many hosted by the foundation to raise funds for special projects that support the Plymouth County Conservation Board. As always, our mission is to enhance and develop our wildlife and recreation areas.

We are asking that you consider being a sponsor to support our event. If you make a donation of \$25 or more, your name/logo will be printed on the back of the event t-shirts. If you make a donation of \$50 or more, you will have your name/logo printed on the shirt AND receive a free t-shirt!! You may also donate the equivalent amount in the form of gift cards or door prizes! If you would be interested in sponsoring the food and drink we would include your name in our advertising. This would be in addition to having your name on the event t-shirt and receiving a t-shirt.** Please consider our different levels of sponsorship and let us know how you would like to help no later than **December 31st**. This date gives us plenty of time to order our t-shirts.

**** (If you choose to be a sponsor and have employees' who would like to participate, they will get a \$5 discount! They must state on registration form they are employed by a sponsor and the sponsor name).**

Thank you for helping us provide a family friendly, low cost event for our community. Our previous project, a new handicap accessible playground at Hillview Park, was completed June of 2018 thanks to the generosity of our community. We would greatly appreciate your support in our effort to continue improving our conservation areas. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact us at 712-947-4270 or send us an email.

Diana Dowhower-Community Outreach Coordinator

ddowhower@co.plymouth.ia.us

Victoria DeVos-Naturalist

vdevos@co.plymouth.ia.us

By Anna Julia (c 2001)
Founded in 1853

Snow Scamper 2019 Sponsorship Form

Name of Sponsor (this will appear on the back of our t-shirt)

If you are donating \$50 or more, and would like a t-shirt, please indicate what size shirt you would like.

YOUTH S M L ADULT XS S M L XL XXL XXXL

Please send my shirt to

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check here if

- You will be dropping off a donation prior to **December 31st**.
- You would like us to pick up a donation prior to **December 31st**.

Please make checks payable to

**Plymouth County Conservation Foundation
PO BOX 1033
Hinton, Iowa 51024**