Free Outdoor Programs at the Historic Pond House

After being closed for five months, we’re now offering outdoor programs at the historic Pond House! These free drop-in programs will occur Sundays, 1-4 pm, weather permitting and with proper physical distancing and other safety measures in place. In the event of weather cancellation, notice will be provided on the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Facebook page. For more information visit www.BloomingtonMN.gov and search for Pond House, or click on Calendar at the top of the City of Bloomington’s home page.

This fall enjoy beautiful Pond Dakota Mission Park, ablaze with fall colors, every day from dawn until 10 pm. Admire the beautiful flower garden - carefully tended by the Bloomington Garden Club, stroll through the restored native prairie, and hike along the nature trails, including the Minnesota River Valley Trails. We hope to see you soon at the historic Pond House!
Events at Pond Dakota Mission Park

These FREE outdoor drop-in programs will occur weather permitting and with proper physical distancing and other safety measures in place. In the event of weather cancellation, notice will be provided on the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Facebook Page. The Pond House is located in Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th St, Bloomington. For more information visit www.BloomingtonMN.gov.

OCTOBER

Writing with a Quill Pen
Sunday, October 4, 1–4 pm
Try your hand at writing with a quill pen dipped in ink and take home your hand-written missive!
For 1500 years people wrote with a quill pen, as did Gideon Pond. See copies of Rev. Pond’s letters from 1862-1864 and compare your handwriting to his.

Candle Dipping
Sunday, October 11, 1–4 pm
Learn to dip candles and make one to take home. Agnes Pond made their family’s candles - the only source of light for the Pond family before the 1860s. Learn first-hand why the Pond family was so pleased when kerosene lamplight became available!

Outside-In Historic House Tours
Sunday, October 18, 1–4 pm
Take a tour of the historic Pond House from the outside-in! Hear stories of the courageous Pond family and peep inside the windows to see how their home was furnished in 1878.

Prairie Bird Feeders
Sunday, October 25, 1–4 pm
Learn about our native prairie birds and make a pine cone bird feeder to take home. Our fine-feathered friends will thank you for it!

NOVEMBER

Whirlygigs and Thaumatropes
Sunday, November 1, 1–4 pm
See examples of frontier toys, and make two different spinning toys to take home. We’ll use common household items just as pioneer children did - to amuse themselves and impress their family and friends.

Frontier Rope Making
Sunday, November 8, 1–4 pm
Use a rope-making machine to make a piece of rope to keep. Learn about rope – an important tool on the frontier – and how Minnesota pioneers made it themselves from plants growing in their area.

Outside-In Historic House Tours
Sunday, November 15, 1–4 pm
Take a tour of the historic Pond House from the outside-in! Hear stories of the courageous Pond family and peep inside the windows to see how their home was furnished in 1878.

Frontier Game Day
Sunday, November 22, 1–4 pm
Try your hand at a variety of outdoor frontier games such as Walking on stilts, Graces, Stick and Hoop, Marbles, and Checkers. See how simple household items were fashioned into toys that entertained children for hours.

King of the Prairie
Sunday, November 29, 1–4 pm
Acquaint yourself with the American bison! Examine a full bison hide and other bison parts. Discover how each was used by Native people to create over 50 different articles and food items. Play Bison Bingo for bison-themed prizes.
DECEMBER

Animal Furs & Tracks
Sunday, December 6, 1–4 pm
Examine several different furs – can you identify which animals they came from? Play Animal Track Bingo to learn each animal’s tracks and win a wild animal! (stuffed) If there’s snow on the ground, be a nature detective and go animal track sleuthing along the Minnesota River Valley Trails you can access from the park.

Outside-In Historic House Tours
Sunday, December 13, 1–4 pm
Take a tour of the historic Pond House from the outside-in! Hear stories of the courageous Pond family and peep inside the windows to see how their home was furnished in 1878, and decorated for Christmas.

Carols and Cranberries
Sunday, December 20, 1–4 pm
Sing your favorite Christmas carols and winter melodies around a campfire. Then make a garland of popcorn and cranberries to string on your Christmas tree, or to feed the birds.

No Program on Sunday, December 27

The Pond Dakota Heritage Society hosts speakers at the Pond House. The Society’s mission is to preserve the rich history of the Dakota and their relationship with early Minnesota settlers and Christian Missionaries, and to explore contrasting cultural and religious viewpoints. Lifetime Individual Membership is $20. Join today! Go to www.ponddakota.org or learn more at facebook.com/PondDakota. Email ponddakota@gmail.com or send mail to PDHS, P.O. Box 20511, Bloomington, MN 55420.
Fun at the Pond House!