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**State Agency Partnership Encourages Fourth Graders to Enjoy State Parks**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – For the second consecutive year, the South Dakota Departments of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and Health (DOH) want fourth graders across the state to take advantage of the “Go Fourth” program which encourages kids and their families to get active, get outdoors and get healthy.

“The program provides every fourth grader in South Dakota a free daily entrance license to a South Dakota state park or recreation area of their choice,” stated Kelly Hepler, GFP secretary. “We want your student to treat his or her family to a day in the park where you can all try a new activity, attend an event or just explore the beauty of the outdoors.”

Upon entrance to the state park or recreation area, the student exchanges the coupon provided for a daily state park entrance license; good for all vehicle members. The student must be present for it to be valid. At the end of the day, if families choose to purchase an annual license to the state parks, they can submit the coupon for a \$6 discount. The discount is only offered on the day the daily license is issued.

These coupons also have a portion that is good for \$6 off any rental within the parks; including the resort company at Custer State Park. The rental coupon can be used the same day as the entrance license or used at a later date.

"The program aims to give every student exposure to local natural resources and a chance to start a lifetime of healthy habits," stated Hepler. "The program showcases activities and opportunities available at state parks as well as events and educational programs."

The passes will be distributed at all public and private schools by the end of April and are valid until Dec. 31, 2016.

If families are unable to make it to a state park using the free daily license, GFP will offer a free, one-year subscription to the South Dakota Conservation Digest magazine in exchange. Complete the form and send to GFP, Attn: Lynn Spomer, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501.

GFP encourages families to share memories on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to connect with other fourth graders and their families using the hashtags #SDintheField and #FindYourPark.

Other "Go Fourth" partners include the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program in South Dakota, the American Heart Association in South Dakota and the South Dakota Parks and Recreation Association.

For more information, call 605.773.3391 or email [lynn.spomer@state.sd.us](mailto:lynn.spomer@state.sd.us).

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