

# SPECIAL EVENTS

The Kearney Park and Recreation Department is known for putting on fabulous special events. Below is the description of special events we offer throughout the year. "LIKE" Kearney Park and Recreation or "FOLLOW" @KearneyParknRec on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

*\*Dates & details will be posted on social media, released in our Play Kearney and publicized through various forms of advertising.*

	<p><b><u>Daddy/Daughter Date Night</u></b>  Typically, the third or fourth Friday in January.  \$45 per couple/\$20 for each additional child  Semi-formal attire requested  A night to remember for dads and daughters (1st thru 5th grade). Event includes catered dinner and dancing. Generally, over 600 people attend this popular event!  Registration opens late-September.</p>
	<p><b><u>Mother/Son Day</u></b>  Typically, the third or fourth Sunday in January.  \$40 per couple/\$18 for each additional child  Moms and sons (1st thru 5th grades) get to spend some quality time together during the event. A variety of activities will be scheduled to enjoy including games and activities, food &amp; more!  Registration opens late-September.</p>
	<p><b><u>Hip Hop Letter Hunt</u></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>FREE EVENT!</b></span>  Saturday before Easter.  Hip Hop your way through Yanney Park AND when you find an "egg" write down the letter you see. Once you have all the letters, unscramble them to make a phrase. "Like" the Hip Hop Letter Hunt Facebook event for more details!</p>
	<p><b><u>Kearney's Amazing Race</u></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>FREE EVENT!</b></span>  Early April. Event day registration.  A geocaching race through Kearney. Participate as an individual or race as a team. All you need is a Smart Phone. Teams will race in a car and on foot to find the hidden caches. UNK Recreation students will provide activities at various cache locations. An instructional session will be conducted for those that need to learn how to read coordinates. Great prizes for the top 3 finishers. All ages welcome, but one licensed driver needed per team.</p>
	<p><b><u>Storybook Walk</u></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>FREE EVENT!</b></span>  Mid-Late April. All ages.  Come and enjoy a fun-filled walk around Harmon Park. Participants will stop at various locations to read sections from an over-sized children's book and engage in fun activities related to the book.</p>



**Bicycle Sunday**  
**EVENT!**

**FREE**

Mid-Late April. All ages.  
This is a great event to do as a family, with friends, a youth group, co-workers, or even by yourself. Ride your bike along the Kearney trail system, stopping at various activity checkpoints. Go to the [www.kearneyrec.org](http://www.kearneyrec.org) after April 1 for further instructions and a map. Turn in your checkpoint map at the conclusion of the race and be eligible for a Summer Family Pool Pass!



**Nebraska Youth Track & Field Meet** **FREE EVENT!**

Early May, 10:00am – approx. 2:00pm.  
\*Boys & Girls Age Divisions: 8-9, 10-11, 12-13 (\*age as of 12/31 of current year)

The event is free; however, participants must pre-register. A recreational track & field meet for boys and girls. The top four in each age group will advance to the Championship Meet which rotates from city to city each year amongst Hastings, Grand Island, York, North Platte & Kearney. Registration opens in March.



**Heritage Day**

**FREE EVENT!**

First Saturday in June.  
The family friendly event of the summer! Activities throughout the day including: Sue Bush Memorial 5K Run/Walk, Family Fishing Day, Giant Inflatables, Paddle boating/Kayaking & more. Musical entertainment beginning late in the afternoon and running through the evening at the Cope Amphitheater. Concessions available. The event ends with an amazing Fireworks Finale' that you won't want to miss! Free will donations accepted.



**Sue Bush Memorial 5K Run/Walk**

First Saturday in June. All ages.  
This kick-off event to Heritage Day has great tradition with generally over 100 participants. The 5-kilometer course is good for beginners as well as advanced runners. Medals awarded for first-third place finishers in each age/gender division. Special prizes will be randomly drawn during the awards ceremony. Entry forms will be available in April.



**27th Annual Community Olympic Games**

Last full weekend in June. Ages 18 and older.  
Join CHI Health Good Samaritan and KPR for three days of exercise, community spirit and lots of fun! Form a team of 10-30 people and participate in a variety of events such as: obstacle course, volleyball, softball, pickleball, and more! Earn points for your team by placing and by participating. The team champion will be crowned at the awards barbeque on Sunday night. Entry packets will be available by April. "Like" Kearney Community Olympics on Facebook!



**Splash Bash Pool Parties**

Various dates in June, July and August at Harmon and Centennial Swimming Pools. All ages.  
An extra fun day at the pool with games, sno-cones, music, and prizes! Inflatables that can fit through the front door can be taken in the pool on Splash Bash days. Dates will be announced in the April-September "Play Kearney".



**Celebrate Swimming Week**

Mid-July at Harmon and Centennial Swimming Pools. Normal Pool Admission. All ages. A fun week is scheduled to celebrate Kearney's great pools, guests, and staff. A different event will be scheduled each day of the week. Look for more information at the pools and in the April-September "Play Kearney".



**Jr. Recreational Tennis Tournament**

Singles & Doubles Tournament in Mid- July at Harmon Park Tennis Courts. Ages 7-18. This tournament is designed for players who rarely or never play in USTA sanctioned tournaments. Players should know how to keep score. The USTA "10 & Under Tennis" format will be used for ages 7-10. Medals to first-third place finishers.



**All-Star Softball Festival**

Mid July. Harvey Park. Come out to watch the Men's D/E, E1/F, and Women's Slow-pitch Softball League All-Star Games! You can join the action by participating in the Home Run Contest or Softball Contests for Kids. Concessions will be available.



**Nebraska Senior Games**

First full weekend in August at various venues in Kearney. Ages 50+ (as of 12/31 of the current year). Kearney is the host city for the Nebraska Senior Games. Events include: bowling, badminton, cycling, tennis, swimming, road racing, free throw shooting, horseshoes, track and field, golf, disc golf, pitch (cards), table tennis, wellness walk, and pickleball. Entry forms will be available by May 15. Go to [www.nebraskaseniorgames.com](http://www.nebraskaseniorgames.com) for more information. Event partners: National Senior Games Association and the Kearney Visitor's Bureau.



**Puppy Plunge**

Early August at Centennial Pool. \$10 per dog. Pre-registration is required at the KPR Office. Current vaccination records required the day of the event. Proceeds to benefit the Kearney Humane Society and the Kearney Dog Park. Come and watch your doggie paddle at the fun event for "man's best friend".



**Grandparent's Day**

National Grandparent's Day in Early September. \$5 per participant. Grandchildren and their Grandparent(s). Spend the day with Grandma and Grandpa! Play games, participate in fun activities to learn more about each other, enjoy refreshments and more! Kearney Park and Recreation partners with The Archway and the Peterson Senior Activity Center to coordinate this special day.





**Net Fest - Pickleball Tournament**

Early October. Singles, Men's & Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

Tournament will be round robin pool play with advancement to a single elimination tournament. Participants can sign up for various divisions and leagues. Awards to top teams.



**Halloween Fest**

Late October at The Archway.

Join The Archway and Kearney Park & Recreation for some family, friendly Halloween fun! Paint a funny face on a pumpkin, conquer the haunted Trail Blaze Maze, race through the spooky obstacle course, try your hand at the Halloween games & more! Costumes are encouraged!



**Fall Blitz Adult Volleyball Tournament**

Weekend before Thanksgiving. Coed on Saturday, Women's on Sunday. Ages 16 and older.

A popular tournament for coed and women's teams with proceeds benefitting the Kearney Middle School Volleyball Programs. Entry forms will be available in early October.



**Holiday Light Festival**

**FREE**

**EVENT!**

Early-Mid December. Section of Yanney Park will be lit up each night. Hot chocolate, entertainment, trackless train, and more will occur on special nights. FREE Fun for the entire family!