



## Sand Hills Discovery Experience

The Sand Hills Discovery Foundation was chartered in 2001 for the purpose of providing comprehensive information about the Sand Hills area. Building on the legacy of the late, world famous paleontologist, Morris F. Skinner and his wife Marie, the Foundation hosts the annual Sandhills Discovery Experience. The event embraces a new theme each year, and includes two days of tours, sandwiched around a day of seminars. If they desire, attendees can sign up for college credit through Wayne State College.

A core group of about 10 volunteers work to put on the conference, which requires a year of planning. Of course, many more volunteers are involved during the 3 days of the conference.

Marcia Rastede, Allen NE teacher wrote: “As a first time attendee of the SHD experience and not a native to the Sand Hills region, I had no idea what to expect of this workshop. It met my expectations in the content, excellent organization of the tours and presentations, and congeniality of the people.”

In 2002 The Sand Hills Discovery Experience was awarded the Class IV Award for Best New Event by the Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP). In 2005 the program was awarded the Class IV Best Arts & Humanities Event by the NCIP.

### Partners

North Central RC&D, City of Ainsworth & Brown County Lodging Tax Committee, The Ainsworth Area Chamber of Commerce, Ainsworth School, North Central Development Center, UN-L Departments of Geology, Paleontology, Natural Sciences and Extension Service, Chadron State College, Wayne State College, Nebraska Game and Parks, Niobrara Council, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cobb Chevrolet, Nebraska State Historical Society, Brown County Historical Society, Barta Brothers UN-L Research Ranch, Junior Legion Auxiliary, Nature Conservancy Niobrara Valley Preserve, Nebraska Humanities Council

