



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Brenda Stienbach, of St. Edwards, watches as a schoolmate dares to pet a Madagascar hissing cockroach during a tour of the Encounter Center on Thursday.

Morrill Hall offers nature encounters

How would you like to pick up a four-inch hissing cockroach? Watch a legless lizard slither around his tank? Dig for fossils in air-conditioned comfort?

It's all possible at the Encounter Center, a special section of the Nebraska State Museum in Morrill Hall on the UNL campus.

The Encounter Center offers everyone from pre-schoolers to adults a hands-on encounter with natural history.

Teachers are welcome to use the Encounter Center as a resource for classroom instruction or class field trips. Specimens, slide and tape presentations, science kits and other teaching aids may be checked out for classroom use.

The Encounter Center also helps teachers design special science projects for their classes, a favorite with grade-schoolers.

A "Smell Box" lets students practice identifying substances by smell and a "Bone Basket" lets them compare different types of animal bones. The adventurous can dig for fossils in a "Fossil Box," and earn a "Junior Paleontologist" certificate if they find any.

Hairy tarantulas from Mexico, hissing cockroaches from Madagascar and legless lizards from Europe are just a few of the live exhibits available for touching and handling.

The Encounter Center is open to the public from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 2 to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. It is closed on holidays. New summer hours will take effect June 1.

Classroom tours and special projects may be arranged during off hours. For more information contact Kathy Bohling, Encounter Center coordinator, at 472-6302 or 472-6365.



"I'm afraid I am flunking math. How can I get help?"

"I read my assignments, but I can't remember what I've read. How will I ever pass this course?"

"When is the last day to withdraw from a course?"

The Student Opportunities and Services Program can help you find answers to your questions. SOS is one of over 400 Special Services Projects serving 150,000 students on college campuses throughout the United States. SOS provides a variety of services and resources for undergraduate students who may need or desire assistance in fulfilling their potential as college students. In addition to providing academic support, the program supports and encourages student involvement in a wide range of social and cultural activities.

TUTORING

"I'm so lost in this class, I don't even know how to begin my homework."

SOS employs trained tutors for all classes. The tutors meet with students on a regular basis and assist them by clarifying classroom lectures and textbook information. The tutors also help students develop test preparation and test taking strategies.

MATH

"I hate math! I'll never graduate if I have to pass this math course."

SOS offers a unique opportunity to students who lack a strong math background or who are returning to school after several years' absence: a slower paced, small group Math 100 course which offers potential for maximum success. Opportunities are also available for students with math deficiencies.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

"I've never been to a college play. I wonder what it's like?"

To broaden student educational experiences, SOS provides financial and administrative support for numerous cultural events, such as concerts, theatrical productions and field trips.

ADJUSTMENT TO COLLEGE LIFE

"I feel so lost on this big campus. Who can answer my questions?"

SOS can help you locate information about dropping and adding classes, obtaining financial aid, or getting involved in campus activities. A semester long orientation course for freshmen focuses on personal, cultural and academic development to enhance success in college.

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Within Nebraska

CLASSROOM AND STUDY SKILLS

"How do I know what to take notes on in a lecture?"

In addition to specific study skill workshops in time management, note taking, textbook reading, and test preparation, SOS provides skilled leaders for supplemental sessions in high risk freshmen courses. These leaders actually attend high risk classes and meet with SOS students enrolled in those classes to clarify lecture notes, and develop test reading and test preparation skills.

CAREER AND ACADEMIC ADVISING

"What kind of career do I want?"

SOS offers a Career Development Seminar designed to help you clarify your career goals and explore academic programs. SOS also works with faculty and staff to assist you in planning your academic program and class schedule while you are a student.

GENERAL COUNSELING

"How will I ever get through this semester?"

Sometimes things go wrong and you need someone to talk to. SOS has counselors who are always available to listen and offer support during difficult times and assist you in exploring your options in overcoming difficulties.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

"How can I get involved in meaningful activities that prepare me to be a leader?"

SOS can refer you to those experiences, events, organizations and activities that build your communication and work skills. SOS helps you answer that question: "So what else did you do while in college?"

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

"How can I become a part of SOS?"

If you are a University of Nebraska student or have been accepted for admission, you may be eligible for the program. All students interested in being considered for SOS are encouraged to apply. (You must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.)



SOS

A SPECIAL SERVICES PROJECT
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