



Programs & Events March 1 - May 30, 2026

P.J. Hoffmaster State Park

Gillette Visitor Center Hours of Operation:

January 1 - Memorial Day: Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Memorial Day- Labor Day 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. daily.

All programs are free of charge and begin at the Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. All children participating in programs must be accompanied by an adult.

Scavenger Hunts

Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Grab a scavenger hunt from the Visitor Center then hit the trails to see what you can discover!

Budding Naturalists Preschool Program

Thursdays, March 5 - May 7 10:30 a.m.

Nature programs designed for preschool aged children (2-6 years old) on a different nature topic each week. Programs will include story time, a hike or outdoor activity, nature free-play and a craft. Topic schedule below:

- March 12 - Leprechaun Hike
- March 19 - Spring Celebration!
- March 26 - Fox
- April 2 - Rabbits
- April 9 - Rocks
- April 16 - Squirrels
- April 23 - Earth Day
- April 30 - Mushrooms
- May 7 - Plants

Nature Ninjas

Saturday, March 14 & 28, April 18 & 25, May 2, 16, & 30. 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a nature program geared towards elementary school aged students on a different nature topic each week. The program will include a hike or outdoor activity and a craft. Topic schedule below:

- March 14 - Leprechaun Hike
- March 28 - Fox
- April 18 - Squirrels
- April 25 - Earth Day
- May 2 - Mushrooms
- May 16 - Animal Homes
- May 30 - Plants

Sustainable Crafts

Saturday, March 7 & 21, April 4 & 11, May 9 & 23. 10:30 a.m.

Create sustainable art with our creative naturalist! This program is fun for all ages (including adults). See craft schedule below:

[Michigan.gov/Hoffmaster State Park](https://Michigan.gov/HoffmasterStatePark) | 269-716-4685

All programs are free unless otherwise noted; however, a Recreation Passport is required for entry to the park.



- March 21 - Very Hungry Caterpillar (with story time for Reading Month)
- April 4 - Sustainable Stained Glass
- April 11 - Trash to Treasure
- May 9 - Woodland Watercolors
- May 23 - Bee Hotel

Women in Nature Walk

Saturday, March 28 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate women's history month with a stroll in the woods learning about women's contribution to conservation and nature research.

Explorathon Guided Hike with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan

Saturday, April 18 8:30 a.m.

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan celebrates 50 years this year and is leading a 7-mile guided hike along the lakeshore, beginning at the Gillette Visitor Center to celebrate! For more information and how to register please visit

<https://donate.naturenearby.org/event/explorathon-guided-hike/e776444>

Fabulous Fungi & Foraging

Saturday, May 23 10:00 a.m.- Noon.

Price: TBD

Pre-Registration Required: Please email Kaitlin Lindahl at LindahlK@Michigan.gov for details on how to register.

Calling all Women! Join a certified foraging expert to learn all about the basics of safe foraging practices. This program includes a lesson on uses of foraged finds as well as a walk through the woods to find what is in season! Learn about what it takes to become a foraging expert and sample some of the provided goods

Family Fungi & Foraging

Sunday, May 24 10:00 a.m.- Noon.

Price: TBD

Pre-Registration Required: Please email Kaitlin Lindahl at LindahlK@Michigan.gov for details on how to register.

For everyone 10 years of age and older! Join a certified foraging expert to learn all about the basics of safe foraging practices. This program includes a lesson on uses of foraged finds as well as a walk through the woods to find what is in season! Learn about what it takes to become a foraging expert and sample some of the provided goods