

Outdoor Adventure Center

MAY- AUGUST 2019

SEE INSIDE!

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- Dog Days of Summer

Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center staff

Natalie Cypher
LaKisha Dansby
Jackie Hoskins
Missy Sharp
Frank Toarmina
Linda Walter

Hours of operation

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday: noon – 5 p.m.

Admission fees

Adults (age 13 - 61): \$5

Seniors (age 62 and older): \$3

Children (ages 2 - 12): \$3

Children under age 2: Free

Annual family membership: \$50

Closures

Thursday, July 4

We will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

September closure for upgrades and annual maintenance

We will be closed from Monday, September 3 through Friday, September 28 for annual maintenance and repair. We will be working hard to bring you a renewed and improved facility. We reopen on Saturday, September 29. We will not be holding a WOW, Wild Over Wednesday in September.

New registration software now available!

We have recently launched our new registration software! By going to <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/michigan-dnr/catalog>, you will find our catalog of classes and events that are scheduled through the end of August. In order to register, you will need to create an account using your email address and a password. This will allow you to securely check out once you register. You will also be able to view past registrations and activities. If you have any questions about this site, please email DNR-OAC@michigan.gov.

Annual family membership

An annual membership can be purchased for \$50 for up to five members of the same household. For an additional \$25, you can bring up to two guests any time you visit the OAC.

Benefits of membership include:

- Free admission for one year from the date of purchase.
- 30 percent discount on Lodge birthday parties.
- Exclusive, early admission to select special events.
- First glance (before the General Public) of all newsletters.
- Members-only adventure packs (for use during your visit).
- Special pricing or early registration for select events.
- Early seating for popular programs.

Members-only adventure packs

Adventure packs are available for loan to OAC Family Membership holders for a one-day use. Each pack will be filled with supplies to help guide you in your own outdoor experience, from birding to animal track identification and more... there is an adventure pack for all interests! Check in with our front desk staff to learn more or to check one out during your next visit.

Check out our new social story, a great way to prepare for a more sensory-friendly experience

We have a new option to enhance the experience for our guests who are looking for a more sensory friendly experience. Our website now has a [social story](#) so that guests, their families, teachers and leaders can review what a visit through the Outdoor Adventure Center will include. Guests can “walk through” our facility by following our social story before your visit.

Hunter safety class to be offered

All first-time hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1960 are required to take and pass a hunter safety course. You will not be able to purchase a base license (other than an apprentice license) unless you can prove successful completion of a hunter safety course. Hunter education courses teach new hunters responsibility, ethics, firearm safety, wildlife conservation and wildlife identification, game care, survival and first aid.

Check our [OAC Facebook page](#) for more information about a hunter safety course to be offered at the OAC in late summer.

New! Attention Scouts!

This coming school year we will be adjusting our scout offerings, as promised, to better accommodate small groups and individual scouts. Each Saturday afternoon from October through May, we will be running a prescheduled badge workshop for Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts. Preregistration will be required for these workshops. Keep an eye out for more information in our next newsletter!

WOW – Thrilling Thursdays

Our family-friendly free evening of fun has moved to Thursday nights! The last Thursday of each month, we will offer free admission from 6 to 8 p.m. for all our visitors. Each month will feature a specific topic with special programs, plus guests will enjoy all the regular exhibits at the Outdoor Adventure Center.

When you visit, you can also earn digital badges through Detroit Public TV's Digital Adventure Program.

SEE PAGE 37 FOR EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Be the first to join our new volunteer corps

At the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center, we “Inspire, Educate and Connect” our guests to the natural, cultural and historic resources of the state of Michigan. As a State of Michigan volunteer at the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center – you can assist with our mission. Join us in teaching our guests how to hold a fishing pole, to paddle a kayak, to buckle up before driving an ORV and more. Volunteering provides many opportunities to connect with folks of all ages and encourage a love of the outdoors.

In addition to the various everyday happenings at the OAC, many volunteer opportunities are available during special event weekends. For those who enjoy interacting with the public, we have opportunities greeting and directing guests, providing information, or assisting at stations. If you enjoy independent tasks, you can help with office activities, mailings, preparing crafts, and much more.

While a background and love of the outdoors is a plus – we can teach you everything you need to know in order to be an effective member of our team. We will acquaint you with our operational guidelines through the same training our paid staff receive.

Join now and be a special part of the history of the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center. Our inaugural volunteer corps will be a vital part of our customer service team. Be one of the first to join!

Flexible schedule and great benefits:

- Unique, innovative work environment.
- Free training.
- Convenient hours.
- Free admission to the Outdoor Adventure Center for you and three guests several times each year.
- Discounts on classes and experiences.
- Free parking.
- Free uniform shirt, name tag and lanyard.
- Annual recognition.

Download the volunteer application below, fill out the form on your computer and email it to DNR-OAC@michigan.gov or print and fill it out and mail or fax it to:

Attn. Volunteer Coordinator
DNR Outdoor Adventure Center
1801 Atwater
Detroit, MI 48207
Fax: 313-567-0160

Questions? Please call 313-396-6886.

[Download volunteer job descriptions \(PDF\)](#)

[Download a volunteer application \(PDF\)](#)

Look back, give forward

Almost 100 years ago, the Michigan State Park Commission set the course for visitors to enjoy and explore four seasons of fun. May 12, 2019, officially marks the anniversary of state parks, and the DNR is in the midst of a yearlong centennial celebration. Join in and celebrate our rich history and take an energizing look forward as we mark this milestone year with special events, podcasts, historical stories, videos, geocaching and more.

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/StateParks100.

Employee spotlight

Meet Catie Olszewski

Ms. Olszewski grew up in St. Clair Shores and attended Albion College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in geological sciences.

Catie and her husband Dan have one dog named Fibonacci. She has been with the DNR here at the Outdoor Adventure Center for about 18 months. A great outdoor enthusiast, you can find Catie kayaking and backpacking whenever possible. She has through-hiked the Appalachian Trail and is working on completing the Michigan Shore to Shore Trail.

Her favorite exhibit at the OAC is the duck blind, where she enjoys interacting with guests and having them listen carefully for the many different bird calls that can be heard there. She also has a great appreciation for her co-workers and loves that they all come from different backgrounds and have many different interests to share with each other.

In her brief time with the OAC, Catie has contributed greatly to our programs and services. From creating the first lumberjack medals to teaching outstanding school programs – Catie does it all. She is committed to creative programming, a clean and safe building, and being the best team player possible.

We appreciate Catie's passion for the outdoors and her drive and determination to offer the very best to our guests. Way to go Catie – we can't wait to see what you do next.

Meet Rujenaia Vance

Ru is a lifelong Detroit resident who has been with the DNR for the past 18 months. She graduated from Wayne State University with a B.S. degree in recreation administration. She retired from the Detroit Recreation Department with over 35 years of experience in our community. Over the years, Ru has given generously of her time to volunteer with many community initiatives and people of all ages and walks of life. She has been spending a significant amount of time with the OAC, Healthy Kidz and After School Kidz Zone.

Ru has a large extended family and is a proud godmother and grandparent and a loving owner to Cinco, her devoted dog. Cinco has visited the OAC for Ru's Dog Days program and dressed in flannel for Lumberjack Days.

Ms. Vance has been able to enhance her own personal vision of nature awareness through her position here at the OAC. Her favorite outdoor activities are talking daily walks with Cinco, nature photography and her newest hobby – birding.

Ru's favorite exhibit is the waterfall. As she says, "Water has always been my sanctuary, I find myself walking by this area at the beginning and end of my work day and feeling refreshed."

"I also keep a close eye on our littlest guests, in this area, watching their smiles as they walk the stepping stones and keeping them safe."

When asked what she likes about her position with the OAC, Ru says, "The atmosphere here is something that everyone should experience. The team is great – from day-one the smiles, kind words and sincere willingness to help each other – this team is true goodness. This team makes me excited to report to work each day. The best part of the OAC is seeing people take part in our wonderful adventure:"

We are grateful for Ru's gift of time and talents and for sharing her experience with our guests and our staff. Look for Ru on your next visit – you will see someone who is always in motion and always connecting with our guests. Rujeania Vance lives our mission to "inspire, educate and connect" every day.

Attention teachers! Prepare your students to be the Great Lakes stewards of tomorrow!

The Outdoor Adventure Center has been awarded a Great Lakes Fisheries education program for middle and high school students in the Metro Detroit area. Our education program proposal, in partnership with the Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition (SEMIS), was recently selected for funding by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust. We can't wait to get started!

Participating students will learn the importance of a thriving Great Lakes ecosystem and how it may impact our health, the economy and our native wildlife. Problem solving, hands-on learning and place-based education will be emphasized through lessons focusing on either invasive species and sea lamprey control or lake sturgeon restoration efforts in the Great Lakes.

The year-long program would include one visit to the participating school by an OAC educator, one visit to the OAC by the participating school and finally an in-the-field fishing experience and opportunity to interact with local biologists and fisheries specialists.

Students will come away with an appreciation for the Great Lakes and its native wildlife, an understanding of the work of a fisheries/aquatic scientist and a newfound interest in Great Lakes stewardship.

If you are a middle or high school teacher in the Metro Detroit area and you think this program would be a great fit for your school and students in the 2019/2020 school year, please email DNR-OAC@michigan.gov for more information or to fill out an application.

Meeting/event space spotlight

Looking for a unique venue to hold your corporate meeting, retreat or team-building event? Check out the Outdoor Adventure Center. The OAC, on Detroit's waterfront, is surrounded by the Dequindre Cut, Riverwalk and Milliken State Park!

The OAC has six rooms for meetings and events. One of our most requested spaces is the Riverview Loft. This room has a total capacity of 182. It's a beautiful industrial loft and comes equipped with its own LCD projector, screen, podium and mic, all complimentary.

Our meeting and event spaces can be set to your specifications using the following with our compliments:

- All audio and visual equipment in our inventory
- 60" round tables (8 chairs each)
- 5'x2' rectangular

- 6'x2' rectangular tables
- Comfortable chairs
- Free parking

Some of our clients include the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Ford Motor Company, Wayne State University and Quicken Loans, Inc., just to name a few.

We are booking events and weddings for 2019! Call our promotional agent, Jackie Hoskins, at 1-844-622-6367 or email her at DNR-OAC@michigan.gov for more information about renting space at the Outdoor Adventure Center.

You ought to visit ... Tawas State Park

Tawas Point is located off U.S.-23, 2.5 miles southeast of East Tawas on Tawas Beach Road. It is just over an hour drive from the Tri-Cities and only three hours from the Detroit area. The park contains 183 acres situated on the end of a sand spit that forms Tawas Bay. It has been referred to as the "Cape Cod of the Midwest." The campground is located on Tawas Bay, where the water is shallow and warm for swimming. Located within the park is the Tawas Point Lighthouse. Although it has been remodeled several times, the station serves as the sole representative of a true Victorian-era style station built on the Great Lakes. Historical interpretation is provided by the Michigan History Center.

Have you seen the yurt here at the Outdoor Adventure Center? It is just like the ones that can be found in our state parks. The yurt is in the Tawas Point campground, which overlooks a pond that is home to turtles and a stopping point for many species of waterfowl. It is located within 100 feet of the campground restroom and shower building. The yurt accommodates six people and has two full beds, two twin beds, a refrigerator, microwave and coffee pot. In addition, there are a table and chairs, as well as heaters. A grill, firepit and picnic table are available outside. The yurt is open from April to November and can be reserved up to year in advance at MiDNRReservations.com or 800-44-PARKS (800-447-2757).

Tawas Bay itself has long been considered one of the finest sailing areas in the country due to the winds and protected waters. If you would prefer to fish, several nearby launches are available. Boats can be moored in the bay off the campground. A DNR-owned ramp is located on U.S.-23 behind the state police post. Many charter boats in the area are available as well. Ice fishing is also a very popular sport on Tawas Bay. In 1987 a limestone reef was constructed in Tawas Bay, and it has helped to make the bay one of the best fishing areas around. The reef is 800 feet long and 25 feet wide. It is located along the northern side of the bay and provides a natural habitat for smaller bait fish, which in turn attracts larger predator fish. Since the construction of the reef, fishermen have found greater success in walleye, pike, perch and smallmouth bass fishing.

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy events

Kids Fishing Fest – Milliken State Park and Harbor

June 9, noon – 4 p.m.

Learn how to fish as a family during this FREE Fishing Weekend event! Staff from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Outdoor Adventure Center and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be on hand to teach kids how to fish. Snacks, giveaways, bait and rental poles are provided for free courtesy of the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy.

[More information about Kids Fishing Fest.](#)

Ford Fireworks – Hart Plaza

June 24, 7 – 11 p.m.

The Detroit RiverWalk is closed between Joe Louis Arena and Milliken State Park and Harbor during the Ford Fireworks.

Sturgeon Day – Milliken State Park

May 11, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Celebrate the amazing lake sturgeon during Sturgeon Day! Staff from Michigan DNR, U.S. Geological Survey, Michigan Sea Grant and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will lead family-friendly activities and learning stations related to the lake sturgeon.

Reading and Rhythm on the Riverfront - Rivard Plaza

Thursdays and Fridays, July 11- Aug. 16, 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m.

Swing by Rivard Plaza for this free children's literacy program that features live children's entertainment and a book read by a local community leader or storyteller. The program is free, and each child will receive a book for participating. Families and groups fewer than 10 do not need to preregister for the program. Groups with more than 10 children, please [register your group](#).

[More information about Reading and Rhythm on the Riverfront.](#)

Atwater Beach Opening – Atwater Beach

Late July

The RiverWalk is getting a brand-new park this summer, Atwater Beach. Opening in late July, this park, nestled between Chene Park and Jos Campau Street, will feature a sand play and lifeguard station play feature as well as grills for those summer barbeques. Also at the park, expect great food and beverage and a chance to feel the water move below you on the Whiskeytown Barge.

River Days – West RiverFront Park

June 21 – 23, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

River Days is back for its 13th year on the Detroit RiverWalk. This great festival features free kids' activities, live music, food trucks and much more!

Find more information about River Days at RiverDays.com.

Archery at the OAC

Welcome to the Outdoor Adventure Center's archery range!

We have different archery experiences you can choose from, ranging in price from free to \$12 an hour. To enhance your target practice, we offer standard National Archery in the Schools Program targets, 3D animal targets, paper targets and much more! Archers will have the opportunity to practice shooting distances of both 10 meters and 15 meters, in the advanced classes.

For all archery classes:

- Participants must be 8 years of age or older.
- All equipment is provided. Participants cannot use outside equipment on our range.
- A signed waiver for all participants must be on file before accessing the range.
- Children under the age of 18 must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian.

Try It!

This is your opportunity to give archery a try. This 30-minute session will cover the basics steps of shooting, allowing participants to learn how to stand, handle a bow and shoot several arrows. Children, adults and families are welcome.

All equipment is provided.

Limited to 12 guests each half-hour.

Preregistration is not available for this class. Participants must sign up on-site at the Outdoor Adventure Center on the day the class is offered. Sign-up will begin at noon and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

- Sunday, May 26: 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. and 12:45 – 1:15 p.m.
- Sunday, July 14: 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. and 12:45 – 1:15 p.m.
- Sunday, July 28: 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. and 12:45 – 1:15 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 11: 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. and 12:45 – 1:15 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 25: 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. and 12:45 – 1:15 p.m.

[Explore It!](#)

This one-hour class will give participants the opportunity to learn about the sport of archery. This class covers range safety, rules, equipment, the 11 steps to shooting, arrow retrieval and target scoring. Children age 8 and older, adults and families are welcome.

All equipment is provided.

Class maximum is 18 participants.

FEE: \$12 per participant. PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED.

[Register for Archery Explore It!](#)

- Sunday, July 7: 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

[Mother's Day Archery](#)

Sunday, May 12, 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Bring your mother or someone dear to you and bring out your inner Merida! Let your arrows fly in the OAC's Green Range while joining in some cool archery activities.

Participants must be age 8 or older.

FEE: \$12 per participant. Preregistration required.

[Register for Mother's Day Archery.](#)

[Father's Day Archery](#)

Sunday, June 16, 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Make your Father's Day special by discovering the sport of archery with the father figure in your life! We're offering a one-hour Father's Day themed archery program. Guests will get to leave with their own photo to take home to remember their experience.

Participants must be age 8 or older.

FEE: \$12 per participant. Preregistration required.

[Register for Father's Day Archery.](#)

Zombie Survival Archery

Whether you're a Walking Dead fan, wonder if you can survive the zombie apocalypse or are just looking for a different style of archery class, then this is the archery class for you! Join us as we learn the steps of shooting with shot practice shooting paper zombie targets. Students will leave with a zombie apocalypse survival certificate they can hang with pride at home.

All equipment is provided.

Class maximum is 18 participants.

FEE: \$12 per participant. PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED.

[Register for Zombie Survival Archery.](#)

- Sunday, Aug. 4, 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

New! Attention summer camp leaders!

We've recently updated our program offerings to include options that groups visiting during the summer may add to their Outdoor Adventure Center field trip experience. Please indicate your program selection on the field trip application form.

The following programs are offered June through August only, and will take place outdoors along the Dequindre Cut alongside the Outdoor Adventure Center and/or at Milliken State Park across the street. Each includes hands-on exploration and/or activities related to nearby resources and recreation opportunities. These programs would be ideal for groups such as visiting summer day camps.

Program options are:

- Nature's Colors and Shapes, ages 3-6
- Animal Essentials, ages 3-6
- Michigan Predator-Prey, age 6+
- Insect Investigations, age 6+
- Camping 101, age 6+
- Fantastic Fish!, age 6+
- Let's Go Fishing!, age 8+
- Wetland Wonders, age 8+
- Compass Skills, age 8+
- Birding the Riverfront, age 8+
- Nature Journaling, age 10+

State park madness

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of state parks by planning a trip to one of the parks! To learn about the parks included in the competition, visit the OAC to join the fun or place your vote on Facebook. State Park Madness is much like March Madness, but with 32 state parks. Vote each week to determine the OAC's favorite state park of 2019. Brackets are located in the Outdoor Adventure Center. Cheers to summer vacation spots!

PREVIEW – SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, Oct. 19 – Sasquatch Bounty Hunters

The hunt for Bigfoot began in 1958, when a newspaper in northern California published the discovery of a massive footprint in northern Colorado followed by a \$1,000 bounty for any evidence of existence readers could provide. Today

the legend of Bigfoot still exists in outdoor culture, and we're bringing the hunt for Bigfoot to Milliken State Park. Stop in for a Bigfoot hunt wristband and fact sheet for hints on where to find him.

BACKYARD NATURE

April Showers Bring May Flowers (and Pollinators!) – Sunday, May 12

12:30 p.m.

Visit the OAC today to start your very own pollinator-friendly flower garden. Choose your favorite native plant seeds from our selection and plant them in a starter container to take home, with some simple care instructions to help them grow! Supplies available on a first come first serve basis.

FEE: Included with the price of admission. One container per family while supplies last.

Beekeeping Basics – Saturday, Aug. 10 OR Saturday, Aug. 24

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Join Brian Peterson from Bees in the D as he shares his passion about the education and conservation of the all-important pollinator, the honey bee. He will share his journey into the world of beekeeping, explaining common misconceptions, and the fascinating life of the honey bee. Workshop participants will learn the basics of beekeeping and tools needed, and will have the opportunity to visit active hives to collect and taste the honey. Join us to find out what all the buzz is about with beekeeping!

FEE: \$80. INCLUDES LUNCH.

Limited to 15 participants. PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED.

[Register for Beekeeping Basics.](#)

Live Honey Harvest – Sunday, Aug. 25

1:30 p.m.

This presentation will share the basics of how bees make honey and the process beekeepers use to harvest that honey. It will also include harvesting the honey and tasting it directly from the hive. You will have the option to jar and purchase honey to take home.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

FEATURED INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT

These exhibits will be located either in our classrooms (Discovery Lab 204 or 205) or at one or more tables in the general exhibit area. Each will have a specific focus topic and may include educational hands-on activities and exploration, a game and/or a craft led by one or more of our education staff. These are intended as “drop-in” activities that will be available throughout the duration of the program while materials last. No registration is required to participate, just drop in!

Endangered Species Day – Saturday, May 18

1:30 – 3 p.m.

While several wildlife species have made great comebacks, many are still vulnerable and currently listed as endangered. Stop by the OAC today to learn the stories of some of these species in Michigan, what makes them unique, and what you can do to help.

FEE: Included with the price of admission

Petoskey Stone: Then and Now – Sunday, May 19

2 – 3:30 p.m.

How did the Petoskey stone get its name? Is it a rock or a fossil, or both? What makes up the distinct pattern of the Petoskey stone? All these questions and more can be answered when you join us to learn about and celebrate Michigan's state stone!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

National Trails Day – Saturday, June 1

1:30 – 3 p.m.

In Michigan you have access to many different trail activities, from hiking and biking to horseback riding and water trails. Join us to learn more about our trail systems and how you can responsibly enjoy them.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Michigan's Keystone Species – Saturday, June 15

1:30 – 3 p.m.

From bees and beavers to wolves and crayfish, some species play key roles in their habitats. Join us at the OAC to learn why different animals get the designation of a keystone species and why they are so important to our different ecosystems.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

DNR Mammals Week – Wednesday, July 10 to Saturday, July 13

10:30 a.m. – noon

Join us at the Outdoor Adventure Center during Mammals Week, while we highlight a few of the mammals that call Michigan home and learn what makes them special. The OAC will feature interactive exhibits each day this week with information and activities about a few of these magnificent animals!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Mammals Week Track Casting – Saturday, July 13

2 p.m.

One of the many ways we can learn about mammals is to track them. Come on over to the Outdoor Adventure Center to learn more about mammal tracks and why we might study them. Take home your very own mammal track.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Michigan's Prehistoric Creatures – Sunday, Aug. 4

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Mastodons, Dunkleosteus, corals? Oh my! Come out and learn about Michigan's prehistoric creatures, land and aquatic species, and make a mold of a fossil to take home with you!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Backpacking 101 – Sunday, Aug. 11

Noon

How much do you know about backpacking? Are you interested in learning more? Join us for a short interactive presentation to learn about some backpacking essentials and where you can try it for yourself. Bring your questions for our staff with many miles of backpacking experience. This program will conclude with a fun activity!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

GET OUTSIDE

Silver Bass Run Fishing with the OAC – Mid-May weekend

This event is time sensitive; check our [OAC Facebook page](#) for more details as the date approaches.

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Did you know the silver bass run brings anglers from all over the world to the Detroit River for some world class fishing? Join the Outdoor Adventure Center as we head over to the Milliken State Park lighthouse for some silver bass-catching action! This program is open to beginners and experienced anglers alike. No experience is required as casting and baiting lessons will be taught on site. A fishing license is required for adults age 17+ to be able to fish. All children under the age of 17 can fish for free with adult assistance.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Path Paws: Dequindre Cut Graffiti Hike – Saturday, May 4

10 a.m.

Grab your four-legged friends and join us as we hike and discover the various artists whose murals call the Dequindre Cut home. Murals from artists such as FEL3000ft, Shades, Hygienic Dress League, and Malt will be featured. The total distance this hike will cover will be two miles. This hike will be wheelchair-friendly!

Friendly dogs with current vaccinations and valid licenses are welcome. Please remember to BYOPB (Bring Your Own Poop Bag)!

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity.

FEE: This is a free outdoor event. Regular admission fees apply for building access.

Wonderful Wetlands Hike – Sunday, May 5

2 p.m.

Join us for a hike through the Milliken State Park wetland to learn about the rich wildlife habitat, park history, and breathtaking views the park has to offer! Discover the ecological significance of wetlands through a fun, hands on learning experience. This hike will be 1 mile long and will be wheelchair friendly.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[International Migratory Bird Day: Birding on the Riverfront – Saturday, May 11](#)

11 a.m.

Do you think birds aren't in the city? Think again! First, we'll learn the basics of birding, then practice some bird ID along the Detroit Riverfront and surrounding area. Mid-May is a great time to see migrant birds as well as those setting up nesting territories in our area. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be available for loan. Dress for the weather.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Birding 101 – Saturday, June 1](#)

11 a.m.

Join us to learn more about one of the fastest-growing hobbies in the United States! We'll begin the program with a short, indoor introduction to the art and science of bird ID, and we'll meet some common local species. Then we'll practice our skills outside in the surrounding area, including Milliken State Park and the restored wetland habitat along the beautiful Detroit Riverfront. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be available for loan.

Dress for the weather.

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee will be charged at registration. Preregistration required.

[Register for Birding 101.](#)

[Free Fishing Weekend and National Get Outdoors Day – Saturday, June 8](#)

2 p.m.

Join us for a fun day in the sun at our OAC Fishing Derby! Take advantage of the DNR's Free Fishing Weekend, allowing everyone to fish without a license, and put your fishing skills to the test at our derby! Prizes will be awarded for the largest and smallest fish, so you don't have to be a great angler to win! Fishing will take place in the Milliken State Park harbor, where we catch yellow perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed and rock bass.

Equipment, bait and instruction will be provided, so beginners are welcome!

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee is charged at registration. Preregistration required.

[Register for Free Fishing Weekend and National Get Outdoors Day.](#)

[Path Paws: Urban Wildlife Hike – Saturday, June 29](#)

10 a.m.

Did you know we have evidence of wildlife such as red foxes, coyotes, mink and more, right here in the city? Join us with your four-legged friends as we hike and explore the habitat of our Detroit wildlife.

Friendly dogs with current vaccinations and valid licenses are welcome. Please remember to BYOPB (Bring Your Own Poop Bag)!

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity.

FEE: This is a free outdoor event. Regular admission fees apply for building access.

[Milliken State Park Riverwalk Cleanup – Saturday, June 29](#)

Noon

Calling all who care deeply about our parks and valuable green spaces for urban wildlife! Join us as we hike through Milliken State Park to collect any garbage and restore the beauty of the park. Participants will earn a commemorative 2019 OAC service patch. This is a great opportunity for community service hours. #TrashTag

FEE: Admission complimentary upon completion.

[Bike to the Belle Isle Beach – Sunday, June 30](#)

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Join the OAC staff for a fun east Detroit riverfront bike ride as we ride past the construction site of Atwater beach out to the Belle Isle beach for nice riverside cooldown. After some quality relaxation on the beach, our group will depart back to the Outdoor Adventure Center to finish off the day. Join the OAC in a biking adventure to Belle Isle's beach area. We will use the Riverwalk as our trail and learn about some local history along the way.

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity.

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee will be charged at registration. Preregistration required.

[Register for Bike to the Belle Isle Beach.](#)

[Youth Survival Day Camp – Sunday, July 21](#)

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Send your youth adventurer for a day of recreation and survival fun at the Outdoor Adventure Center! Campers will get to partake in animal tracking, archery and fishing, and will even get to make s'mores over a campfire. Guests will receive an OAC buff, survival fishing rod kit and plaster animal track cast.

FEE: \$20. Preregistration required.

[Register for Youth Survival Day Camp.](#)

[Dequindre Cut Graffiti Hike – Saturday, July 6](#)

2 p.m.

What do the Hygienic Dress League, Fell300ft, and Malt all have in common? You can find many of their murals just outside our front door on the Dequindre Cut. Join us for an urban hike through the Dequindre Cut and learn the history

behind the murals and street art found throughout the trail. This hike will cover a total distance of 2 miles and will be dog- and wheelchair-friendly.

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity. Cameras are encouraged.

FEE: Included with price of admission.

Snow Cone Hike – Sunday, July 14

11 a.m.

Do you like snow cones and hikes? Did you know they go together like peanut butter and jelly? Join us for a hike through Milliken State Park to discover the rich history, wildlife sightings and river views the park has to offer. Snow cones will be given out midway through the hike. This is a fun hike for all ages and is wheelchair-friendly.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Path Paws: Prohibition History Hike – Saturday, July 20

10 a.m.

Bring your four-legged friends as we hike along the Detroit riverfront and learn about the rich Prohibition and rum-running era history. Topics include Hiram Walker of Walkerville, Stroh Brewery, Zydna Brewery and how the relationship between Windsor and Detroit changed as the national prohibition of 1920 took effect.

Friendly dogs with current vaccinations and valid licenses are welcome. Please remember to BYOPB (Bring Your Own Poop Bag)!

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity.

FEE: This is a free outdoor event. Regular admission fees apply for building access.

S'mores and the Great Fire of 1805 – Saturday, July 20

2 p.m.

On July 11, 1805, the city of Detroit burnt to the ground from a fire started at a local bake shop. The lack of a professional fire department at the time left city residents to fight the fire themselves by making a bucket brigade. Discover the history of this event while enjoying some s'mores. At the end of the program we will fetch watch from the river to put out the fire just as our historical Detroiters did over 200 years ago.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Nature Photography Hike – Sunday, July 21

2 p.m.

Bring your camera and celebrate nature with a nature photography hike through Milliken State Park and its wetland area. End the event with a nature photography exhibit dedicated to the pictures that capture the nature around us. Photographers of all levels welcome!

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity.

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee will be charged at registration. Preregistration required.

[Register for Nature Photography Hike.](#)

Hiking the Paper Trail – Saturday, July 27

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Here is your chance to combine the two worlds of hiking and origami! Join us as we hike through Milliken State Park with various stops and origami folds along the way, eventually creating an origami crane for you to take home! Each stop will introduce you to a native Michigan tree followed by a brief discussion of its historical, economic and wildlife significance to our region. We recommend joining the fun at the start time as we may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity. This hike will be wheelchair friendly.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Urban State Park Day – Sunday, July 28

2 – 3:30 p.m.

Join us in celebrating our first “Urban State Park Day” as we host an outdoor photo gallery (weather permitting) in addition to an urban state park-wide scavenger hunt. Stop by our urban adventure table at the OAC to grab some info to help plan your next DNR urban state park adventure!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Get Hooked on Fishing – Saturday, Aug. 3

11 a.m.

Try your luck right here at Milliken State Park! All equipment, bait and instruction included. A fishing license is required for adults age 17+ to be able to fish. All children under the age of 17 can fish for free with adult assistance.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Nature Journaling at Milliken State Park – Saturday, Aug. 3

2 p.m.

Join us for a day of art, photography and writing. Guests will have the opportunity to create their very own nature journal before a short hike through Milliken State Park, where we can record our observations and discoveries in a creative and fun way. This event is great for all ages!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Trek through the Trees – Sunday, Aug. 4

2 p.m.

Trees are terrific! And they benefit humans and wildlife alike. Join us for a summer hike through Milliken State Park, where we will focus on the trees around us, who uses them and for what, and how to identify them!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

National Trail Mix Day – Saturday, Aug. 31

2 p.m.

Make a personalized trail mix (peanut free) that tastes great, and then join the OAC team for a short hike through Milliken State Park.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

GROWN-UP GATHERINGS

Friend Fridays: Kayaking – Friday, May 24

6:30 – 8 p.m.

Friends 18 and older, join us for an introduction to kayaking and an evening on the beautiful canals of Belle Isle. Instruction and equipment provided by Riverside Kayak Connection. Meet at the Flynn Pavilion on Belle Isle Park. A Recreation Passport is required to enter the park and can be purchased for \$11 at the OAC during regular hours, at the Customer Service Center (entrance from Orleans Street) or at Belle Isle.

FEE: \$16 per person. Preregistration required.

[Register for Friend Fridays: Kayaking.](#)

To register:

Girls' Night Outdoors: Kayaking – Friday, June 7 OR Friday, June 14

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Join us for our Girls' Night Outdoors (GNO) program series! Bring your friends for an introduction to kayaking and an evening on the beautiful canals of Belle Isle. Instruction and equipment provided by Riverside Kayak Connection. Meet at the Flynn Pavilion in Belle Isle Park. A Recreation Passport is required to enter the park and can be purchased for \$11 at the OAC during regular hours, at the DNR Customer Service Center (entrance from Orleans Street) or at Belle Isle.

FEE: \$16 per person. Preregistration required.

[Register for Girls' Night Outdoors: Kayaking.](#)

Coed Yoga and Archery Night – Friday, July 19

7 – 9 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of stretching, relaxing and shooting arrows with this fun archery and yoga mash-up! Stretch out those muscles and get loose before diving into an evening of archery with compound and recurve bows on the Outdoor Adventure Center's range. No yoga or archery experience is required to attend this event. Limited yoga mats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Bringing your own yoga mat is recommended.

FEE: \$25. Preregistration required.

[Register for Coed Yoga and Archery Night.](#)

Friend Fridays: Paddleboarding – Friday, Aug. 2 OR Friday, Aug. 16

6:30 – 8 p.m.

05/21/2019

Bring your friends for an introduction to stand-up paddleboarding and an evening on the beautiful beach of Belle Isle! Participants will have the opportunity to try 45 minutes of paddleboarding and another 45 minutes of beach games and sunset relaxation. Please bring your own towel and water bottle. Instruction and equipment provided by Riverside Kayak Connection.

Meet at Belle Isle Park. A Recreation Passport is required to enter the park and can be purchased for \$11 at the OAC during regular hours, at the DNR Customer Service Center (entrance from Orleans Street) or at Belle Isle.

FEE: \$16 per person. Preregistration required.

[Register for Friend Fridays: Paddleboarding.](#)

JUST FOR FUN

Mother's Day Crafts – Saturday, May 11

10– 11:30 a.m.

Mother's Day is coming! What better way to say all the things you wish you could than giving a handmade gift. Join the OAC for a small activity to make a Mother's Day craft for your mom or someone dear to you.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Maple Syrup Infusion Workshop – Saturday, May 18

2 p.m.

Do you like maple syrup? Then this is the event for you! Learn how to infuse maple syrup with natural ingredients to produce a unique flavor combination at the breakfast table. Guests will get an 8-ounce Mason jar to fill with syrup and add infusion ingredients such as blueberries, cinnamon sticks, jalapenos, orange peels, strawberries, ginger, thyme, lemon and more!

FEE: \$8. Limited to 30 participants. Preregistration required.

[Register for Maple Syrup Infusion Workshop.](#)

Kite Flying on the Riverfront – Saturday, May 25

2 p.m.

Kite flying is a fun way to spend some time outdoors. If you've been waiting for the perfect time to try out kite flying – this is the day! We will take a short walk across the street to Milliken State Park to take advantage of the breeze from the Detroit River. Practice your kite flying and marvel at the wonders of the Detroit River and the beautiful Detroit skyline! You can bring your own kite, or we will provide a kite for you that you can decorate before flying.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Outdoor Games – Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday

Noon – 4 p.m. Sunday

Join us in celebrating the first big holiday weekend and the start of summer vacation! There is no better way to kick off summer than by spending some quality time outside playing games. We will feature a variety of family-friendly lawn games, sidewalk chalk and even some team-building games!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[OAC's Exhibit-Wide Scavenger Hunt – Sunday, May 26](#)

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Come visit the OAC and join your fellow citizens in an exhibit-wide scavenger hunt. Choose from our several scavenger hunts offered and see if you can find the correct answers to earn a small prize! You might even learn something new to share with your friends and family.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Father's Day Crafts – Saturday, June 15](#)

10 – 11:30 a.m.

Need a last-minute idea to celebrate your dad or someone dear to you? Let the OAC help with a quick Father's Day craft!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Outdoor Water Game Weekend – Saturday, July 6 and Sunday, July 7](#)

11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Saturday

Noon – 4 p.m. Sunday

Celebrate an all-American holiday weekend by getting your splash on! Join us for water fights, water relays and a variety of water games. Bring a swimsuit and towel or change of clothes because you certainly will be soaked!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Outdoor Movie Night – Friday, July 12](#)

7 – 9 p.m.

Join the OAC for our first outdoor movie "adventure!" Bring your family for a night of cinematic wonder with a presentation of *Over the Hedge*. Remember to bring your lawn chairs, blankets and snacks!

FEE: This is a free outdoor event. Preregistration required.

[Register for Outdoor Movie Night.](#)

[Happy 4th Birthday OAC/Happy 100th Birthday State Parks! – Saturday, July 20](#)

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Discover the origins of our building's history and the transformation that took place to bring the Outdoor Adventure Center to Detroit's riverfront. See before and after pictures of the building's construction and partake in our birthday party offering complimentary treats and activities!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Dog Days of Summer – Sunday, Aug. 25

1 – 4 p.m.

Come to the OAC for a day of outdoor fun with your fuzzy best friend! We'll have dog-friendly activities set up, including a guided walk along the Dequindre Cut at 2 p.m., "doggie pools," and lots of tennis balls and frisbees!

Friendly dogs with current vaccinations and licenses are welcome. Plus, visit our [Facebook page](#) to enter our dog-owner photo contest! Oh, and please remember to BYOPB (Bring Your Own Poop Bag)!

FEE: This is a free outdoor event. Regular admission fees apply for building access.

JUST FOR KIDS

Cub Club: Magnificent Marshes – Saturday, May 11

11 a.m.

A special set of opportunities for our youngest guests. Children ages 3-5 will enjoy a story time, arts and crafts, and hands-on nature experiences. This session will focus on wetlands and their benefits to humans and wildlife.

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity.

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee will be charged at registration. Preregistration required.

[Register for Cub Club: Magnificent Marshes.](#)

Young Explorers: Wonderful Wetlands – Saturday, May 18

11 a.m.

Calling all kids ages 6-9 who want to get outdoors and explore our local nature and wildlife! For each program, we will add entries to a nature journal, which participants can make here and bring back each time. May's program will focus on our wonderful wetland habitats and all the animals that call wetlands home. This program will include an exploration of wetlands located across the street at Milliken State Park.

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity.

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee will be charged at registration. Preregistration required.

Register for [Young Explorers: Wonderful Wetlands.](#)

Young Explorers: Birding for Kids – Saturday, June 8

11 a.m.

Calling all kids ages 6-9 who want to explore and learn more about our local nature and wildlife! For each program, we will add entries to a nature journal, which participants can make here and bring back each time. June's program will focus on bird ID skills and will include a bird ID walk along the riverfront and surrounding area. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be available for loan.

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee will be charged at registration. Preregistration required.

Register for [Young Explorers: Birding for Kids](#).

Cub Club: Feathered Friends – Saturday, June 15

11 a.m.

A special set of opportunities for our youngest guests. Children ages 3-5 will enjoy a story time, arts and crafts, and hands-on nature experiences. This session will focus on our local birds and all their special characteristics.

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee will be charged at registration. Preregistration required.

[Register for Cub Club: Feathered Friends](#).

Young Explorers: City Wildlife – Saturday, July 13

11 a.m.

Calling all kids ages 6-9 who want to get outdoors and explore our local nature and wildlife! For each program, we will add entries to a nature journal, which participants can make here and bring back each time. July's program will focus on wildlife that can be seen in urban environments. This program will include a hike to observe some of the birds, mammals and other wildlife that calls the city home.

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee will be charged at registration. Preregistration required.

[Register for Young Explorers: City Wildlife](#).

To register:

Cub Club: Pollinators – Saturday, July 20

11 a.m.

A special set of opportunities for our youngest guests. Children ages 3-5 will enjoy a story time, arts and crafts, and hands-on nature experiences. This session will focus on pollinators and will include a short pollinator hike!

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity.

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee will be charged at registration. Preregistration required.

[Register for Cub Club: Pollinators](#).

Young Explorers: Incredible Insects – Saturday, Aug. 10

11 a.m.

Calling all kids ages 6-9 who want to explore and learn more about our local nature and wildlife. For each program, we will add entries to a nature journal, which participants can make here and bring back each time. Our August program will focus on our local insects – what lives in our neighborhood and why they are so important! Join us for a fun look at some six-legged friends, including a catch-and-release expedition through Milliken State Park!

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee will be charged at registration. Preregistration required.

[Register for Young Explorers: Incredible Insects.](#)

[Cub Club: Nature's Colors and Shapes – Saturday, Aug. 17](#)

11 a.m.

A special set of opportunities for our youngest guests. Children ages 3-5 will enjoy a story time, arts and crafts, and hands-on nature experiences. This session will include a hike that focuses on the colors and shapes we can find within the plants, trees and wildlife, in our natural environment!

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity.

FEE: Included with the price of admission. Only the admission fee will be charged at registration. Preregistration required.

[Register for Cub Club: Nature's Colors and Shapes.](#)

LIVE ANIMALS

[Bugging Out – Sunday, May 5](#)

Noon – 2 p.m.

Come out and learn about the creepy crawlies found within Michigan waterways. Benthic macroinvertebrates are small aquatic bugs that tell us about the overall health of rivers, streams, and lakes. This program will give you a better understanding of the macroinvertebrates found in local waterways and what they mean to the stream's health.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Finding and Rearing Giant Silk Moths with Nature Discovery – Sunday, June 2](#)

2 p.m.

Some of our continent's largest, most impressive moths can be found right here in Michigan, yet many people can go years without encountering one. Join us for a fascinating look at these beautiful night creatures and learn how you can find them and care for the caterpillars in your home. A limited number of these caterpillars may be available for guests to take home and raise as a fun, educational family activity. Great for the budding scientist of any age!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Become a Snake Scientist – Sunday, July 14](#)

2 p.m.

Michigan is home to 18 species of snakes, and some of them live right nearby! This program will focus on a few of the snake species that inhabit our region. We will practice our snake ID skills, learn about the different needs of different

snakes, and debunk some myths about these misunderstood reptiles. You may even get a chance to get up close and personal with one of our favorite snakes!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fisheries Day – Saturday, June 29

Come to the OAC to learn about Michigan's amazing fisheries. From fish identification to casting practice, you will find something for you in this fun and educational day. We will have representatives from the DNR Fisheries Division, Flygirls of Michigan and the Clinton Valley Trout Unlimited chapter joining us from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for this exciting event. Join us for some fishing in the morning, and stick around for an interesting historical look at Michigan's commercial fishing industry – see both events listed below.

Get Hooked on Fishing!

11 a.m.

Try your luck right here at Milliken State Park! All equipment, bait and instruction included. A fishing license is required for adults age 17+ to be able to fish. All children under the age of 17 can fish for free with adult assistance.

History of Michigan's Largest Commercial Fishing Industry

2 p.m.

This lecture documents the history of Michigan's largest commercial fishery on Saginaw Bay from the 1850s to current times. This 150-year visual history includes archival photos and rare film footage from fisheries around Saginaw Bay. Join us for a fascinating look back at the origins of Michigan's fantastic fishing industry!

FEE: Included with price of admission.

Celebrate our Pollinators – Saturday, July 27

What do butterflies, bees, birds, beetles and bats all have in common? They're pollinators, of course! Join us for a day of activities to learn about, observe and celebrate these important creatures. Plus, find out what you can do at home and in your community to help give our pollinators a much-needed boost! We'll have information, giveaways and a craft you can take home with you available throughout the day. See scheduled activities below:

Saving our Monarchs – What Can You Do?

11 a.m.

Join us for a short presentation on this beautiful black and orange butterfly, followed by a hike to Milliken State Park to conduct a monarch larva survey. Find out how you can help these important pollinators in your own backyard. Survey results will be submitted to the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Life of a Honey Bee

1 p.m.

Presentation by Brian Peterson-Roest of Bees in the D. Participants will become a member of a honey bee hive and learn the different responsibilities and roles of a honey bee's short life. This presentation is fun for all ages!

FEE: Included with the price of admission

[Bike Ride to the Pollinator Garden at Keep Growing Detroit!](#)

2:30 p.m.

Keep Growing Detroit (KGD) is cultivating a food sovereign city where the majority of the fruits and vegetables Detroiters consume are grown by residents within the city limits. Most of the food we eat would be impossible to grow without a little help from pollinators. Join us on a short tour of our 2-acre farm located in the historic Eastern Market District along the Dequindre Cut greenway. Guests will visit KGD's greenhouse, where they grow native plants for partners across the city that are installing pollinator habitat and rain gardens that help manage stormwater runoff. They'll also take guests through their vegetable production areas and perennial gardens that are filled with flowers and herbs that help attract and provide habitat for pollinators.

Bring your own bike or contact Wheelhouse at 313-656-2453(BIKE) to reserve a rented bike.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Dog Adoption Event with Detroit Dog Rescue – Saturday, Aug. 3](#)

Noon – 3 p.m.

Visit the Outdoor Adventure Center and meet your new best friend! Detroit Dog Rescue (DDR) will be just outside of our building with dogs of all ages up for adoption.

FEE: This is a free outdoor event (unless there is inclement weather). Regular admission fees apply for building access.

Adoption fees set by DDR.

[Overnight Family Campout – Saturday, Aug. 17](#)

Join us for the third annual campout at the Outdoor Adventure Center!

Learn how to pitch a tent and roast marshmallows. Fun for the entire family!

S'more snacks, crafts, a guided hike and a pancake breakfast will be provided for every registered guest. Water bottle refill stations will be available; please bring your own reusable water bottle.

Rainy day campout will be inside the Outdoor Adventure Center.

A quiet time of 11 p.m. will be enforced, with lights out at midnight.

There is no alcohol allowed at this event.

All equipment must be unloaded and walked onto the site – there is no place for cars to pull onto our temporary campsites.

Each site can hold up to two tents and six total guests.

Need a tent? No problem! Loaner tents are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Request loaner equipment at the time of your reservation.

This is a family event, and children of all ages will be welcome.

Site check-in is 7 p.m. Saturday.
Site check-out is 8 – 9 a.m. Sunday.

FEE: \$10 per person. This event will SELL OUT! Preregistration required.

[Register for Overnight Family Campout.](#)

WOW – THRILLING THURSDAYS

WOW – Thrilling Thursdays! Fantastic Frogs and Frog Survey – Thursday, May 30
6 – 8 p.m.

Hop on over to the OAC this evening for some frog-focused activities in the building, then join us for a walk over to Milliken State Park to conduct a survey of the breeding frogs in the wetland by listening for frog calls. Data will be submitted to the Michigan Herp Atlas citizen science project.

Complimentary Admission!

WOW – Thrilling Thursdays! Camping – Thursday, June 27
6 – 8 p.m.

Have you always wanted to camp but wish you were better prepared? Or maybe you are an avid camper but want to have a little fun in an urban setting? This WOW is for you! Practice setting up tents, cooking outdoors and much more! Learn about the youth camping opportunities right here in Detroit with Detroit Outdoors. Moosejaw will also be on hand with demo equipment and to provide more information about different ways to camp.

Complimentary Admission!

WOW – Thrilling Thursdays! Outdoor Cooking – Thursday, July 25
6 – 8 p.m.

Gather ‘round the campfire to make your own delicious dinner while the sun goes down along the riverfront.

Complimentary Admission!

WOW – Thrilling Thursdays! Fishing – Thursday, Aug. 29
6 – 8 p.m.

Come out and enjoy a night of fishing with the Outdoor Adventure Center by the lighthouse at Milliken State Park. All adults 17+ must have a fishing license to participate. No fishing experience required!

Complimentary Admission!

Who wore it best?

The adventure buff (a head wrap that can be worn many different ways) is the signature souvenir for the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center. Submit a photo of yourself, members of your family or a whole group wearing the OAC buff. Each newsletter, we are going to select the best submissions and award prizes. Simply post your best photo to our [Facebook page](#).

Start snapping those selfies – we can't wait to see your best photos.

Afternoon Adventures for Adults

Is your senior group looking for a new experience? We have a great new adventure for your consideration. Begin your trip with a lunch in Rivertown, then join us at the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center for a self-guided experience or attend a special program just for your group. Looking to make a day of it? Spend your morning at beautiful Belle Isle!

The following restaurants are available to book a group dining experience – mention the OAC to get special group rates:

- Andrew's on the Corner, 201 Jos Campau, 313-259-8325
- Atwater Brewery, 237 Jos Campau, 313-877-9205
- They Say, 267 Jos Campau, 313-446-4682

After lunch, head over to the Outdoor Adventure Center for a self-guided tour (just \$2 per person) or add an interesting program. See program options below – for just \$2 more per person. Complete your application and submit today – these spots will go fast. Arrival times for Afternoon Adventures are 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. The Outdoor Adventure Center closes at 3 p.m. each weekday. Each class is one hour long. Must have a minimum of 20 guests.

Start your reservation Michigan.gov/OAC, then choose Educate, then [Adult Afternoon Programs](#).

Program choices include:

Fishing 101

Fishing is a lifetime sport, and it is never too late to try it. If you have never fished, or you are looking for a chance to refresh your skills, this session will include discussion of licenses, fish identification and behavior, strategies and local water to visit and try your luck.

Birding for Beginners

The Detroit River is an amazing place for birders. From our regular friends who live and nest here to the thousands who visit us through flyways – we are in a great place to begin a birding hobby. You will learn the basics of birding and practice some bird ID along the riverfront. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be available for loan. Dress for the weather.

Birth of a Land Ethic

Explore Michigan's White Pine Era and lessons learned about the wise use of natural resources. An interesting journey through Michigan's history.

City Slickers

Learn the special adaptations of wild mammals in urban environments. Explore the concepts of predator-prey relationships and identify common wild mammals in Detroit. Weather permitting, this could include a walk on the RiverWalk or Dequindre Cut – both are paved and flat, with no steep grades or hills.

Field trips for school, camp and church programs

Plan a day of adventure and fun.

Groups of every age will be inspired by the richness of Michigan's natural resources. All school educational programs align with Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations. General admission for groups is \$2 per person (both children and adults), available for groups of 20 or more. A class can be added for \$2 additional per student.

- [Team-building class options for adults and children.](#)
- [Information to help prepare for your group trip.](#)
- [Field trip application for groups.](#)

For more information, please contact us at <mailto:DNR-OAC@michigan.gov> or 844-622-6367.

Groups of 20 or more will not be admitted without a confirmed reservation.

Group retreat experience

We have expanded our offerings to include a team building experience for corporate clients and for teens. If your company or organizations is looking for a getaway to regroup and refresh – we have lots of options.

Active nature experience: guided bird walk, wetlands walk, river walk, Dequindre Cut or city mammal walk.

Active outdoor experience: guided Dequindre Cut bike ride with a history of the area, Camping 101, snowshoeing, kayaking (at Belle Isle).

Team Building: 1-hour or 2-hour facilitations for groups can include a meal!

Time for Change: 1-hour or 2-hour facilitations designed to encourage new ideas.

Goal setting/personal development: designed especially for middle and high school groups.

Complete an application today and one of our terrific team members will contact you to create a custom experience for your group.

[Team Building Adventures application.](#)

Scout badge workshops

All badge workshops are by appointment for troops. Open workshops are by preregistration only. There are a limited number of spots available – please sign up early. Upon the completion of the session, the Scout will have earned the badge described (actual badges awarded by your troop at a later date). Scouts will also be given a special Outdoor Adventure Center patch for their brag vests. Cost is \$10 per Scout and includes all-day admission to the Outdoor Adventure Center. Must have a minimum of eight Scouts to reserve a badge workshop.

NEW! Girl Scout Cadette-Archery Badge Workshop.

Please submit the [Scout Badge Workshop Application form](#) to register. For more information, please contact us at 844-OAC-MDNR (844-622-6367).

Heritage Girls badges

The Outdoor Adventure Center is now offering programs to fulfill badge requirements for the American Heritage Girls! We can help troops meet requirements for the following badges:

- Archery
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Nature and wildlife
- Outdoor skills
- Insects
- Our feathered friends
- Zoology

Our programs will meet nearly all requirements for girls to earn full badges at the Tenderheart and Explorer levels. If you are looking for ways to meet requirements at the Patriot and/or Pioneer levels, please submit a [Scout Badge Workshop Application](#). This can be found at [Michigan.gov/OAC](#).

Refund policy

(Refund policies for contractual programs may differ from DNR Outdoor Adventure Center policies.)

To receive a refund for a program or event, you must contact the OAC staff by email (DNR-OAC@michigan.gov) at least two business days prior to the event date. This allows us to place those on a waiting list in your spot. Without this timely notice, a full refund is not available.

Back cover

Outdoor Adventure Center
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