

DNR Outdoor Adventure Center newsletter – summer 2022

Outdoor Adventure Center Staff

Patricia Abernathy
Mariah Adams
Natalie Cypher
Damira Dugger
Patrick Endres
Julia Felts
Katie Gillies
Peter Gosinski
Emily Grant
Jackie Hoskins
Aubrianna Jackson-Butler
Loretta Miller
Linda Robinson
Michelle Serreyn
Missy Sharp
Corene Sneed
Frank Toarmina
Rujeania Vance
Linda Walter
Danielle Wilemski

Hours of Operation*

* Hours of operation are subject to change pending COVID-19 restrictions.

Sunday*	Closed
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 3 P.M.
Thursday*	Closed
Friday	10 a.m. – 3 P.M.
Saturday	10 a.m. – 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

Convenient Online Registration

The online registration system will facilitate registration for all programs offered at the OAC. At <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/michigan-dnr/catalog>, you will find all options that are available for online registration. 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.

COVID Safety*

The OAC is committed to providing visitors with a safe environment. We have implemented the following changes to our building procedures and environment:

- Mask zones have been added where social distancing with staff is impeded by the activity.
- Floors are washed or vacuumed daily.
- CDC-approved disinfectant wipes and cleaners are used on hard surfaces (such as counters, railings, and other common touch points).
- An electrostatic disinfectant unit is used daily in spaces with irregular surfaces.
- Restroom doors are propped open to alleviate the need to touch door handles.
- Hand sanitizer stations have been placed throughout our exhibit areas.
- Staff will maintain 6-foot social distancing.
- The interactive toys we usually have out are kept secured for the time being.
- Sneeze guards are in place at the front desk.
- Masks and social distancing are encouraged for guests.

* Subject to change.

Group Outings and Field Trips

Field trips to the Outdoor Adventure Center are the perfect combination of education and fun for all ages, from preschool through high school! Check out all of our available options below. The admission for groups of 20 or more is discounted at \$2 per person (both children and adults). For an additional \$2 per student, education sessions can be added to the experience. A minimum of 16 students is required for an educational session.

We offer a variety of educational sessions throughout the year:

- Classroom sessions during the school year for preschool through high school.
- Outdoor interactive nature learning activities for the summer months.
- Interactive, live virtual program options during the school year.
- Afternoon adventures for senior groups.
- Team-building adventures for students or adults.

Badge Workshops

Our Scout badge workshops are receiving an upgrade. We will present a Cub Scout event in the fall. In the interim, we continue to process requests on an individual basis. Please submit your request through the online form below:

[Scout badge workshop request form](#)

Memberships

OAC 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. Family memberships can be purchased online by clicking on the OAC Membership tab at <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/michigan-dnr/catalog>.

Benefits of membership include:

- Free admission for one year from the date of purchase.
- Exclusive, early admission to select special events.
- First glance (before the general public) at all newsletters.
- Members-only adventure packs (for use during your visit).
- Special pricing or early registration for select events.
- Early seating for popular programs.

Current Member Benefits

- Members-Only Campfire Night Friday, July 15.
- Early seating for Leslie Science Center, Saturday, July 23.
- Save 25% on enrollment for Camp Explore.

Members Night

Friday, July 15 6-9 p.m.

For our seventh birthday, we are kicking off the celebration with the OAC members! Our gift to you is a special night of outdoor programming to thank you for promoting our programs and for attending our events; we love seeing familiar faces at our events! This event will include fishing, a bonfire and gourmet campfire food.

FEE: Complementary event for members. Registration required.

[Register for Members Night.](#)

You Should Visit ...

Negwegon State Park

Negwegon State Park is a rustic, undeveloped area open for hunting and hiking. The terrain is a mixture of small dune ridges and low swale depressions that include vernal pools, mature pine forest, hardwoods and aspens, with pockets of open meadows. The park is home to unique natural plant and animal communities that are threatened in Michigan by loss of habitat. Negwegon features a beautiful, natural sand beach on Lake Huron. Please use caution when

visiting as the roads into the park are often so sandy that a four-wheel drive vehicle is needed. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails or off-road.

Backcountry camping allows you to experience Negwegon's most scenic areas accessible only by hiking, kayaking or canoeing along the Lake Huron shore. The remoteness and serenity of backcountry camping draw many people; however, those same reasons necessitate careful planning and preparation. Reservations must be made through Harrisville State Park.

Negwegon State Park is also protected as a Michigan State Park Dark Sky Preserve, allowing you to enjoy the night sky.

Friends of Negwegon State Park, a nonprofit organization, partners with the DNR Parks and Recreation Division to help preserve, protect and promote the park through stewardship, education and research. Visit FONSP.org.

Educator's Corner

Nuts about Native Plants

By Michelle Serreyn

Native plants play many important roles in the environment – food source, nesting material, erosion control and nutrient cycling, to name a few. They can perform these same functions in a home garden, no matter how big or small. How do I know? I've been gardening with native plants for over 20 years!

I am rooted in gardening. My grandparents had an extensive garden – fruit trees, vegetables and flowers – where my sister and I spent time exploring, helping and just having fun. Well, at least I was having fun! I tell people “I got all the nature genes, my sister got all the shopping genes.” Nature was always an itch under my skin. When I moved out of my parents' home, I started gardening right away and joined a local garden group. That's when I discovered native plants. These wildflowers, shrubs, trees and other plants are co-adapted with wildlife and hearty under Michigan's wild weather conditions. My garden club started selling native plants, and I was hooked.

Since then I've had multiple native plant gardens, from a small prairie to a woodland garden to a tiny pond. Now I spread the seeds of native gardening in Detroit where I live, especially on Wayne State University's campus. My alma mater (several times over) is a second home to me and where I spend my free time interacting with students and the community in our greenhouse and gardening projects.

Over the past 30 years, I've had lots of jobs. But this year, I finally got back to my other passion – nature and nature education. Many other nature centers and programs later, here I am at the Outdoor Adventure Center! I'm looking forward to working with the team, meeting new people and helping our visitors get excited about the outdoors.

And gardening is a great way to spend time outdoors – alone, with family and friends, or in the community. Even if you don't have space for a garden, there are many volunteer opportunities

and garden groups in the area. There's nothing like growing and nurturing plants and friendships in a garden!

My favorite thing will always be getting my hands dirty, enjoying the smell of newly turned soil, fresh air (and even light rain), and pretending I am the native plant version of Johnny Appleseed – spreading the excitement and pleasure of growing native plants and supporting the wildlife that depends on them!

Adventurous Meeting Place

Tired of those boring meeting places – you know the ones, with the partition walls and dim lighting? Well, we've got the meeting place for you! The Outdoor Adventure Center's meeting spaces have great views. Our unique rooms boast views of the Detroit River, where you can see water vessels cruise between two countries (the United States and Canada). You can also see one of the Great Lakes gems, a lighthouse, which sits at the harbor of the Milliken State Park. We are located by the Dequindre Cut and Detroit Riverwalk.

Our meeting rooms come with complimentary tables and chairs, which we will set up to your specification. We also offer audio-visual, which includes LCD projectors, screens, podiums, microphones and stages, all at no additional cost to you!

Your meeting will be held in a very fun and adventurous place! The Outdoor Adventure Center is great for meetings, as you can explore the center on your lunch break and enjoy all of our interactive exhibits and simulators. How about doing a team-builder and having fun while doing a scavenger hunt? This is a great way to have your group get to know one another better. Just leave it to us and we'll put it all together for you. Who says you have to have a boring meeting?!

Contact our promotional agent Jackie Hoskins at 1-800-622-6237 or email DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov for more details.

OAC Refund Policy

OAC Programs

To receive a refund for a class, program or special event, you must contact the OAC by email at DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov at least three business days prior to the event date. This allows us to place persons on a waiting list in your spot. Without this timely notice, a refund is not available.

Room Rentals

Fifty percent of your rental fee will be refunded up to three months prior to your event date. If you cancel within 90 days of your event, you will forfeit your payment. However, you will receive the \$500 security deposit. Fees are nontransferrable.

Contractual Programs (bookings with partner organizations)

To receive a refund for a class, program or special event, you must contact the OAC by email at DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov at least three business days prior to the event date. This allows us to place persons on a waiting list in your spot. Without this timely notice, a refund is not available.

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 National Archery in the Schools Program targets by Morrell, 3D animal targets, paper targets and much more! Archers will have the opportunity to practice shooting distances of both 6 meters and 10 meters, in the advanced programs.

For all archery programs:

- Participants must be 8 years of age or older.
- Closed-toed shoes are required on the 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.
- All equipment is provided. We recommend participants use provided equipment.

For paid archery programs (excludes Try It programs):

- Admission to the OAC is included for each archery participant and one accompanying spectator.
- Outside equipment with a draw weight over 30 pounds is prohibited.
- Crossbows and broadhead arrows are prohibited. Only target grade-arrows are permitted.
- The OAC does not secure outside equipment. Equipment must be stored outside of the building by participants who wish to visit the exhibit area after an archery program.
- The OAC does not provide assembly or maintenance support for outside equipment.

Try It!

This is your opportunity to give archery a try. This 30-minute program is designed as a brief introduction to archery. Participants will learn to safely handle a bow and shoot several arrows. Preregistration is not available for this program. Participants must sign up on-site at the Outdoor Adventure Center on the day the program is offered. Sign-up will begin about an hour before classes start and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Class dates and times:

Saturday, June 11, 2:30-3 p.m. and 3:15-3:45 p.m.

Saturday, July 9, 2:30-3 p.m. and 3:15-3:45 p.m.

Saturday, July 23, 2:30-3 p.m. and 3:15-3:45 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 6, 2:30-3 p.m. and 3:15-3:45 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 20, 2:30-3 p.m. and 3:15-3:45 p.m.

Explore It!

This is your chance to explore archery. This one-hour program will give participants the opportunity to learn to safely handle a bow, learn proper stance and shoot several arrows. Browse our Explore It program selections to find the program that best suits your interests!

Participants must be 8 years of age or older. All equipment is provided.

Limited to 18 participants. Preregistration required. FEE: \$12.

Explore It: Father's Day Archery

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

Saturday, June 18 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Preregistration required. [Register for Explore It: Father's Day Archery.](#)

Explore It: Skill Development

Grow your love for archery in this fun program. Participants could have the opportunity to practice their shot with various target faces and activities. Skill development activities will be provided with instructor's discretion.

Saturday, July 30, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Preregistration required. [Register for Explore It: Skill Development.](#)

Explore It: 3D Target

Grow your love for archery in this fun, skill-building program. Participants will have the opportunity to practice their shot on various 3D animal targets. This program is perfect for practicing hunters or anyone who just wants to try something different.

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Preregistration required. [Register for Explore It: 3D Target.](#)

Featured Interactive Exhibit

These exhibits are included in the price of admission and 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 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! These exhibits are subject to cancellation based on staff availability.

Love a Tree

Saturday, May 14, 1:15 - 2:30 p.m.

Trees give us so much! Clean air, clean water, food, wood and so much more! Show some appreciation for our forest friends.

World Snake Day

Saturday, July 16, 1:15-2 p.m.

Come learn about snakes that call Michigan home! You will have the opportunity to meet educational snakes that call the OAC home.

National Lighthouse Day

Saturday, Aug. 6, 1:15-2 p.m.

Michigan boasts over 100 light stations (individual lights or complexes of multiple buildings) - more than any other state! Many of these structures are still keeping our lakes and rivers safe. Find out more about how lighthouses function and where you can see some local structures. At 2 p.m., join us for a short hike to Milliken State Park to visit our closest light station.

Hummingbird and Monarch Migration

Saturday, Aug. 13, 10-11:30 a.m. and 1:15-2 p.m.

These tiny flyers can travel thousands of miles to their overwintering sites. How do they do it?! Explore the marvels of migration and find out how you can help these long-distance travelers.

Michigan Bats

Saturday, Aug. 27, 1:15-2 p.m.

Aug. 27 is International Bat Night. Learn about some of our local bats that call Michigan home. We'll provide information for learning more about these tiny mammals.

Get Outside

Get Hooked on Fishing

Looking to learn more about the fish found in Detroit River and how to fish? Participants will be introduced to the parts of a fish and how to identify fish. This is a catch and release fishing program.

Meet the OAC education team at the front entrance of the Outdoor Adventure Center and walk together to the Milliken State Park Harbor. Equipment, bait and instruction will be provided; beginners are welcome!

A fishing license is required for adults age 17 and older. All children under the age of 17 can fish for free with adult assistance.

Preregistration required to ensure the availability of supplies. FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m. - noon
Saturday, May 28, 11 a.m. - noon
Saturday, July 16, 11 a.m. - noon
Saturday, July 30, 11 a.m. - noon
Saturday, Aug. 6, 11 a.m. - noon

[Register for Get Hooked on Fishing.](#)

Free Fishing Weekend – Fishing on the Riverfront

Saturday, June 11, 11 a.m. - noon

Come and celebrate Free Fishing Weekend with us. This catch and release fishing program is open to first-time and experienced anglers. Participants can check in with our education team at the front entrance to the Outdoor Adventure Center and walk together to the Milliken State Park Harbor.

No fishing license is required for adults and children to be able to fish. Preregistration required to ensure the availability of supplies.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Register For Free Fishing Weekend – Fishing on the Riverfront.](#)

Wandering the Wetland

Saturday, May 21, 1:30-3 p.m.

Join us for a hike around the Milliken State Park wetland to explore the rich wildlife habitat, learn about the park's history and enjoy the breathtaking views it has to offer! Discover the ecological significance of wetlands through a fun, hands-on activity. This hike will be approximately 1 mile along a paved trail and is wheelchair accessible. Dress for the weather.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Paws 4 a Cause

Saturday, June 4, 2-3 p.m.

Come to the OAC for a free outdoor walk with your fuzzy best friend. We'll have doggie water stations as we walk the Dequindre Cut. We ask that you select a local animal shelter you want to acknowledge for their need of support; this will be your choice. Bring your signs naming your animal shelter so we may bring awareness to their cause. Friendly dogs with current vaccinations and licenses are welcome.

Please remember to bring your own poop bags No pets allowed inside the OAC.

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

[Urban State Park Day](#)

Saturday, June 18, 2-3 p.m.

Join us in celebrating Urban State Park Day at our exciting Milliken State Park across the street from the OAC. We will be hosting a historic stroll and scavenger hunt around the park. Bring your cameras; there are many great historic and wild scenes to share.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Dequindre Cut Bike Ride](#)

Saturday, Aug. 13, 9-11 a.m.

Bring your bikes and join us for a leisurely, 4-mile roundtrip ride along the Dequindre Cut to Eastern Market. We will learn about the history of the area and explore the market. Upon our return to the Outdoor Adventure Center, we'll cool down with lemonade and a snack.

This paved ride is mostly flat, gradually increasing in grade. There is a steep incline from the Dequindre Cut up to Eastern Market, which can be easily walked if needed. We will depart promptly at 9 a.m., so come ready to ride!

Safety first! Helmets strongly recommended. Don't forget your water bottle! Suggested for ages 7 and up.

Bike rentals are available at Wheel House Detroit. Supplies may be limited. The DNR Outdoor Adventure Center is not involved in bike rentals.

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

[Register for Dequindre Cut Bike Ride.](#)

[Nighttime Animals on Belle Isle!](#)

Thursday, Aug. 11, 7-10 p.m.

Join us at the Belle Isle Nature Center* for a series of outdoor nighttime animal explorations. We'll take a hike to look for resident bats, listen to the calls of summer insects, attract moths to observe up close and more!

*This is an offsite event taking place at the Belle Isle Nature Center. A Recreation Passport is required for entry to Belle Isle Park.

FEE: TBD

[Register for Nighttime Animals on Belle Isle.](#)

Bat Hike at Maybury State Park

Saturday, Aug. 27, 7-9 p.m.

Join the Outdoor Adventure Center and DNR Explorer Program staff at Maybury State Park* to learn about our flying mammals, bats! During this program we will explore bat biology, their habitat and ecosystem benefits they offer. The hike will be an hour and half on paved and unpaved trails.

This hike is recommended for ages 8 and up.

*This is an offsite event taking place at Maybury State Park. A Recreation Passport is required for entry to Maybury State Park.

FEE: Free; registration required.

[Register for Bat Hike at Maybury State Park.](#)

Grown-Up Gatherings

Fishing With Friends – Free Fishing Weekend

Saturday, June 11, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Interested in fishing for the first time? Or perhaps you're a seasoned angler? Either way, join us during Michigan's summer Free Fishing Weekend for a fun fishing tournament with friends. We'll fish near the harbor at Milliken State Park and offer prizes for the most fish, biggest fish and smallest fish caught. Don't let this one get away!

No fishing license is required during Free Fishing Weekend. Beer, wine and snacks provided. Age 21 and over only.

FEE: \$20 per person

[Register for Fishing with Friends.](#)

Fishing with Friends

Friday, Aug. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Interested in fishing for the first time? Or perhaps you're a seasoned angler? Either way, grab your fishing license for a fun fishing tournament with friends. We'll fish near the harbor at Milliken State Park and offer prizes for the most fish, biggest fish and smallest fish caught. Don't let this one get away!

A fishing license is required for adults age 17-plus. Beer, wine and snacks provided. Age 21 and over only. FEE: \$20 per person.

[Register for Fishing with Friends.](#)

Special Events

Adventure Days

Friday, July 15 - Saturday, July 16

Join us for lots of fun during our Adventure Days, as we celebrate our 7th birthday!

Free birthday treats to the first 200 guests each day! Join us for outdoor adventure games, crafts and more!

Live Michigan Reptiles and Amphibians with Nature Discovery

Friday, July 15, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturday, July 16, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Join our friends Jim and Carol with Nature Discovery as they share what makes reptiles and amphibians so cool. You'll even have the opportunity to get up close and personal with many of these creatures!

Christmas in July

Saturday, July 9, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

As part of our Christmas in July celebration, we are getting in the holiday spirit with Mrs. Santa Claus!

Join us and learn to decorate holiday cookies with the best baker of the North Pole. Each child will be given a cookie kit – this will include 2 cookies, frosting, sprinkles and tools to spread the frosting. Children will also learn the reindeer macarena and will be given reindeer food with a story, and a Christmas pencil.

FEE: \$10, or free with an unwrapped, new toy for our holiday toy drive.*

Photo opportunities available for an additional donation. A great time to take your holiday card photos and give deserving children a happy holiday.

*All fees and toys will be donated to the Sargent Santa Holiday Toy Drive. Toys will be distributed in December 2022 in cooperation with Michigan DNR conservation officers.

[Register for Christmas in July: Cookies and Crafts with Mrs. Claus.](#)

Dog Adoption Event with Detroit Dog Rescue

Saturday, Aug. 13, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Visit the Outdoor Adventure Center and meet your new best friend! Detroit Dog Rescue will be at the OAC with dogs of all ages who are available for adoption.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Harvest Family Campout

Check-in: Friday, Sept. 23, 5-6:30 p.m.

Check-out: Saturday, Sept. 24, at 8-9 a.m.

Join us for a Harvest Night at the Outdoor Adventure Center!

Like many of our awesome state parks, we will be incorporating a harvest theme for this campout. Campers are encouraged to use fall decorations at their sites, children are encouraged to bring and wear their costumes for a parade and campers are encouraged to bring treats for a trick-or-treat event (prepackaged only, nothing homemade, please). Crafts will have an autumn theme.

S'mores kits, 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.

- This is a family event, and children of all ages will be welcome.
- A quiet time of 10 p.m. will be enforced, with lights out at midnight.
- There are no drugs or 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 accommodate up to six people with an eight-person tent or two small tents. Please email us with your tent dimensions if you have an oversized tent. A limited number of loaner tents are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Emails will be sent after registration with loaner tent assignment. Don't forget to pack a sleeping bag, air mattress and pillow!

Preregistration required. This event will sell out! FEE: \$15 per person

Registration begins Monday, Aug. 1 at 8 a.m.

[Register for Harvest Family Campout.](#)

Just for Kids

Young Explorers: Birding the Riverfront

Saturday, May 7, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Calling all kids ages 7-10 who want to explore and learn more about our nature and wildlife! Our May program will focus on exploring and observing our Riverfront bird habitat and learning how to identify some of our common feathered friends. For each program, participants will add entries to a nature journal, which they can make here and bring back each time. Preregistration required.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Cub Club: Magnificent Marshes

Saturday, May 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

A special set of opportunities for our youngest guests. Children ages 3-6 will enjoy 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.

Preregistration required.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Young Explorers: Pollinator Safari

Saturday, June 25, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Calling all kids ages 7-10 who want to explore and learn more about our nature and wildlife! Our June program will focus on pollinator species found in our area, including bees, butterflies, beetles, and wasps! We'll conduct a pollinator search along the Riverfront and submit our observations to the community science program iNaturalist. For each program, participants will add entries to a nature journal, which they can make here and bring back each time.

Preregistration required.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Register for Young Explorers: Pollinator Safari.](#)

Cub Club: Pollinators

Saturday, June 25, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

A special set of opportunities for our youngest guests. Children ages 3-6 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.

Preregistration required.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

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

[Cub Club: Fantastic Fish](#)

Saturday, July 23, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

A special set of opportunities for our youngest guests. Children ages 3-6 will enjoy a story time, arts and crafts, and hands-on nature experiences. In this session we will learn what makes an animal a fish, with a focus on fish of the Detroit River.

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.

Preregistration required.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Register for Cub Club: Fantastic Fish.](#)

[Young Explorers: Gone Fishing](#)

Saturday, July 30, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Calling all kids ages 7-10 who want to explore and learn more about our nature and wildlife! For our July program, we're going fishing! We'll learn about some of the common fish species of our Detroit River, then try our luck at the river. Bait and equipment provided. A fishing license is NOT required in Michigan for anyone under 17. For each program, participants will add entries to a nature journal, which they can make here and bring back each time.

Preregistration required.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Register for Young Explorers: Gone Fishing.](#)

[Camp Explore at the OAC](#)

Monday, Aug. 1 – Thursday, Aug. 4

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday – Wednesday, 2-10 p.m. Thursday

Join us for our very first day camp season at the Outdoor Adventure Center!

This four-day camp is open to rising fifth through eighth graders. Explore the one-of-a-kind Outdoor Adventure Center, fish and hike at Milliken State Park, and venture down the Dequindre Cut with our enthusiastic camp counselors in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. End the week with a lock-in and dance party at the OAC!

Preregistration required. Registration begins June 27.

FEE: \$140 per camper. Before and after care available – \$5 per camper per session.

[Register for Camp Explore at the OAC.](#)

Young Explorers: Art and Journaling in Nature

Saturday, Aug. 13, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Calling all kids ages 7-10 who want to explore and learn more about our nature and wildlife! Our August program will focus on quiet observation in nature and recording what we observe. We'll include a variety of journaling techniques such as sketching, listing species seen and simple poetry. For each program, participants will add entries to a nature journal, which they can make here and bring back each time.

Preregistration required.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

[Register for Young Explorers: Art and Journaling in Nature.](#)

Cub Club: Nature's Colors and Shapes

Saturday, Aug. 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

A special set of opportunities for our youngest guests. Children ages 3-6 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.

Preregistration required.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

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

Backyard Nature

Beekeeping Basics

Saturday, May 21, 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 an important pollinator, the honeybee. He will share his journey into the world of beekeeping, explaining common misconceptions and the fascinating life of the honeybee. Workshop participants will learn the basics of beekeeping and what tools are needed, and will have the opportunity to visit active hives to collect and taste the honey. Join us to find out what the buzz is about with beekeeping!

This is a full-day workshop. Please pack a lunch to bring with you.

Preregistration required.

FEE: \$80 per person.

The More You Know

How to Hike with Kids

Saturday, June 4, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Worried you'll be stuck at home with your little ones, unable to enjoy a Michigan summer? Think again! Join our 30-minute information and discussion session for tips and tricks for hiking and biking Michigan's state parks with infants and tots, then take a 30-minute stroll along the Dequindre Cut.

This program is indoors and outdoors, so dress for the weather.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Monarch Mania!

Saturday, June 4, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

The monarchs are coming! How can we help them survive and thrive? Discover more about the monarch life cycle, what they need at each stage of life and their amazing migration.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Juneteenth Speaker Kim Simmons – Juneteenth: From Emancipation Til Now

Saturday, June 18, 1 p.m.

Join Kimberly L. Simmons, founding president and executive director of the Detroit River Project, as she talks about the history of Juneteenth and the local celebrations of Emancipation. Ms. Simmons is herself the descendant of four formerly enslaved African-Americans who found freedom through the Underground Railroad. Her work on the Detroit River Project is directed by the mission to establish the designation of the Historic Detroit River as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. She also has a national recognized program, "Caroline Quarlls, A Family Legacy of Freedom," which was inducted to the National Park Service UGRR Network to Freedom Program in 2005.

A special thank you to the Greendoor Initiative for helping sponsor this program.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Nature's Nightlife, Presented by Leslie Science and Nature Center

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2-3 p.m.

Find out what happens after the sun goes down in this exciting exploration into the world of nocturnal animals. Meet different live animals such as bats, owls and arachnids to learn why they choose to work in the dark and how they are adapted for life at night.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Member benefit: Early member seating: 1:50-1:55 p.m.
Open seating: 1:55-2 p.m.

Just for Fun

Bubbles and Outdoor Games

Saturday, May 28, 10-11:30 a.m. AND 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Join us in celebrating 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, bubbles, and sidewalk chalk!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Family Game Day

Saturday, June 18, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Bring your competitive edge to the OAC's Summer Family Game Day! Team up with your family members to compete in Minute to Win It challenges on our front lawn, and take home a fun prize.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Say Something Nice Day

Saturday, June 25, 2-3:30 p.m.

This unofficial holiday is also known as the National Say Something Nice Day. The message is that positivity and optimism go a long way when it comes to spreading joy and happiness. When people kindly interact with each other, they can receive positivity and kindness, which then can bounce back to other people. So join us as we place painted rocks with positive messages along the Riverwalk, and make kindness cards for friends and family.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Sidewalk Art Day

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2-4 p.m.

After having a fun and adventurous day in the OAC, stop by our outdoor canvas and draw a favorite adventure from your visit. Weather permitting.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Dog Days of Summer

Saturday, Aug. 20, 1-4 p.m.

Join us with your friendly four-legged pet as we host a day of games, agility runs, frisbee toss, hikes and water games. Doggie photo station and swimming pools for both small and large dogs. Your dog should be friendly with both people and other dogs and must have current vaccinations and licenses. Safety first! Participating pets should be leashed at all times!

FEE: This is a free outdoor event. Dogs are not permitted in the OAC.

Join the OAC This July as We Rise Up for Parks and Recreation

Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. Created by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Park and Recreation Month specifically highlights the essential and powerful role local park and recreation professionals – such as our staff at the OAC – play in building stronger, more vibrant and more resilient communities all across the country. This July, we are bringing attention to how important it is to rise up and support the field of parks and recreation, because every day, park and recreation professionals rise up for their communities in service of equity, climate-readiness, and overall health and well-being.

This July, we celebrate Parks and Recreation month by offering free outdoor activities for you and your family. We hope to see you at the OAC this month!

Regular admission fees apply for building access. For more information, visit [NRPA.org/July](https://www.nrpa.org/July).

Bubbles and Outdoor Games

Saturday, July 2, noon – 4 p.m.

Join us in celebrating summertime! There is no better way to celebrate Fourth of July weekend than by spending some quality time outside playing games. We will feature a variety of family-friendly lawn games, bubbles and sidewalk chalk!

Outdoor Water Games

Saturday, July 9, 2-4 p.m.

Enjoy your summer Saturday by getting your splash on! Join us for a variety of water games and more. Don't forget to bring your towels!

Hot Enough for You Yet?

Saturday, July 23, 2:45-4 p.m.

After your adventurous day in the OAC, cool off outdoors walking in and out of the splash pads and sprinklers. In addition, enjoy a few water games!

Detroit's Birthday Celebration!

Saturday, July 23

Learn about the fascinating history of Detroit and join us in a chorus of "Happy Birthday" for the city's 321st year. Enjoy a presentation on the history of Vernor's in Detroit and live animal presentations with Leslie Science Center.

Floats and Gnomes: Vernor's Ginger Ale in Detroit

Saturday, July 23, 11 a.m. – noon

Vernor's Ginger Ale began in a drug store on Woodward back in 1866. It is America's oldest continuously made soft drink. Come hear how Vernor's developed from that small drug store to a huge bottling plant near the Bob-lo docks. You'll learn about Boston coolers, cream ales, the Vernor family and the factors that led to this Detroit icon leaving the city. You'll enjoy photos of old Vernor's advertising as the story of one of Detroit's most famous brands is told. What happened to the James Vernor Drug Store? How was the Vernor's Gnome created? What's the difference between a Boston cooler and a Vernor's float? Come find out on July 23!

Keith Wunderlich has collected Vernor's advertising for over 40 years. His collection has been featured in Hour Detroit Magazine, Detroit Metro Times, the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit News, and on WXYZ, WDIV and Detroit Public Television. He runs a club for Vernor's collectors and produces a quarterly newsletter full of Vernor's advertising and history. His book, "Vernor's Ginger Ale," will be available for purchase after the presentation.

Live Animal Presentations From the Leslie Science and Nature Center

Walking Up a Food Chain

Saturday, July 23, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Join us as we construct a live food chain as you meet different, live animals up close. Along the way we discuss how these animals' lives are connected and learn about the delicate balance that allows them to survive both individually and together as wildlife who share a habitat.

Hunters of the Sky

Saturday, July 23, 3-4 p.m.

It's all about survival! Three engaging raptors will visit the OAC to demonstrate and model their amazing survival characteristics and techniques. Hands-on explorations of feathers, skulls and other bird parts provide a stimulating introduction to the hunters of the sky.

Thrilling Thursday

Our family-friendly free evening of fun is back on Thursday nights! We will offer free admission from 6 to 8 p.m. for all our visitors. Each event 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.

Thrilling Thursday: Wonderful Wetlands!

Thursday, May 26, 6-8 p.m.

Wetlands are important not only for wildlife, but for people too! Join us to learn about the plants and animals that call Michigan wetlands home, and explore our own wetland at Milliken State Park to observe migrant birds, calling frogs and other wetland flora and fauna.

Complimentary admission!

Thrilling Thursday: Celebrate Corn!

Thursday, June 23, 6-8 p.m.

Corn is a top agricultural commodity in Michigan. In fact, it is a top agricultural commodity of the United States! Maybe that is why there is a National Corn on the Cob Day in June. Join us as we celebrate this versatile veggie by learning about ways to cook and enjoy it outdoors!

Complimentary admission!

Thrilling Thursday: Camping

Thursday, July 28, 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 the city. This Thrilling Thursday is for you! Practice setting up tents, cooking s'mores and much more!

Complimentary admission!

Thrilling Thursday: Fishing

Thursday, Aug. 25, 6-8 p.m.

Relax and see what you can reel in during an evening of fishing on the Detroit River with the Outdoor Adventure Center. Equipment, bait and instruction will be provided; beginners are welcome! A fishing license is required for adults age 17-plus. All children under the age of 17 can fish for free.

Complimentary admission!

Recreation Passport Cost / Where to Purchase / Details

- Vehicles: \$12 when purchased with your license plate registration renewal through the Secretary of State.
- Vehicles: \$17 when purchased at state parks, DNR customer service centers* (cash or checks only) or at the Secretary of State outside your license plate registration renewal cycle. (Recreation Passport fee + \$5 convenience fee = \$17).
- Motorcycles: \$6 when purchased with your license plate registration renewal through the Secretary of State.

- Motorcycles: \$11 (\$6 passport fee, plus \$5 convenience fee) when purchased at state parks and DNR customer service centers* (cash or checks only) or at the Secretary of State outside your license plate registration renewal cycle
- Moped: \$6 when purchased at state parks.
- Commercial daily pass: \$17 when purchased at state parks (24,000+ pounds and/or seating capacity of 16+).
- A resident Recreation Passport cannot be purchased online.
- The purchase of a separate Recreation Passport is required for any hitched or unhitched towed vehicles.

*The option to purchase passports at DNR customer service centers is temporarily unavailable. You can still purchase passports in person at state parks and recreation areas.

The \$5 convenience fee will not be applied to purchases made at/for:

- Belle Isle Park.
- Non-street-legal vehicles at the Silver Lake State Park ORV area.
- Non-annual renewing vehicles (ie. historical/authentic, street-legal moped, tribal government, dealer, temporary, manufacturer, nonprofit organization (Y) plates).
- Mopeds (a moped Recreation Passport is not available for purchase at the Secretary of State, so the \$5 convenience fee does not apply).
- Commercial vehicles.

Thank you for supporting your state parks by purchasing your Recreation Passport and by visiting our beautiful state parks.

1801 Atwater Street
 Detroit, Michigan 48207
 844-OAC-MDNR (844-622-6367)
Michigan.gov/OAC
DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov

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Visit Michigan.gov/OAC and scroll to the bottom of the page to sign up for email alerts; including this triannual newsletter.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to Michigan.gov/DNR.