

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CENTER WINTER AND SPRING 2022

This is the text-only version of [the Outdoor Adventure Center's newsletter for winter and spring 2022.](#)

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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

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CONVENIENT ONLINE Registration

The online registration system will facilitate registration for all programs offered at the OAC. [Using our online catalog you will find all options that are available for 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.
- Drinking fountains are disabled.
- Staff members must wear a mask and maintain 6-foot social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer stations have been placed throughout our exhibit areas.
- The interactive toys we usually have out are kept secured for the time being.
- Sneeze guards are in place at the front desk.
- When crafts are offered each child gets their own supplies - no sharing.
- Masks and social distancing are encouraged for guests.
- Virtual field trips are offered for school groups.

* Subject to change.

OFFERINGS FOR Teachers

This year, the OAC is offering a variety of formats for a visit with our educators. We have developed the following options considering the limitations of COVID safety precautions in various districts.

Please choose from the following options to provide an engaging learning experience for your students:

- Traditional field trip – We will be open on Wednesdays and Fridays to the public and for field trips as they were scheduled pre-COVID. Visit our website to view offerings and to register.
- Virtual education sessions – Bring our educational sessions to your classroom via live instruction on Zoom. Visit our website to view offerings and to register.

ATTENTION SCOUTS

Our scout badge workshops are receiving an upgrade. Our first offering will be for Girl Scouts on April 23. 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 for scout badge workshops through the online form here.](#)

A ScOutdoor Adventure!

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Join us for a new program series for scouts! For our first ScOutdoor Adventure, we will host a day of programs that will help Girl Scouts meet requirements toward various badges and patches. A more detailed itinerary of programs will be available early this spring.

Pre-registration required for all attendees (scouts and family members).

FEE: \$10 per scout; general admission for family members.

Scouts must be added to the registration account with a birthdate so that the correct admission fee is charged.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED: [REGISTER FOR A ScOutdoor ADVENTURE!](#)

Girl Scout Wild Winter Night

Hosted by Girl Scouts of Southeastern of Michigan

MARCH 11 5:30 PM - 11:30 PM

- 5:30 PM– 8:00 PM Daisies, Brownies and Juniors!

Come explore the wild side of nature and discover all the ways to G.O. at the Outdoor Adventure Center! At this evening event, girls will earn the new Urban Explorer patch, learn what Leave No Trace looks like in an urban environment, explore the interactive nature exhibits, experience snowshoes, a night hike and so much more!

- 8:30 PM - 11:30 PM Junior (5th grade only) • Cadette • Senior • Ambassador

Juniors and up! Come explore the wild side of nature long into the night! Girls will G.O. with GSSEM at the Outdoor Adventure Center where opportunity awaits. At this late-night event, girls will earn the new Urban Explorer patch, experience the interactive nature exhibits, snowshoe, shoot archery, snowshoe and go on a night hike!

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Registration is handled through the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan. For more information, please contact 888-482-6734

[REGISTER FOR WILD WINTER NIGHT](#)

OAC Membership

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 using our online 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

Down on the Farm in Downtown Detroit – Upland Hills Farms at the OAC

SATURDAY, APRIL 2 from 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

MEMBER BENEFIT: Members can arrive at 11:00 am to visit the farm animals

ROOM RENTAL Let's Get Together!

The Outdoor Adventure Center has 6 meeting and event spaces that can be set to your specifications using the following with our compliments:

- All audio and visual equipment in our inventory
- 60 inch round tables (eight chairs each)
- 5 foot x 2 foot rectangle tables
- 6 foot x 2 foot rectangle tables
- Comfortable chairs
- Parking

Some of our clients include DTE Energy, General Motors, and Wayne State University just to name a few. Weddings, receptions, and other family events have also been hosted at the OAC.

For more information on room rentals at the OAC, contact our promotional agent, Jackie Hoskins at 1-844-622-6367 or DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov.

YOU SHOULD VISIT...SLEEPY HOLLOW

Sleepy Hollow State Park

Sleepy Hollow State Park, located in Clinton County 20 minutes north of Lansing, contains more than 2,600 acres and is situated on Price Road off from US-27 near St. Johns and Laingsburg. A river winds its way through the woods and fields of the park and Lake Ovid is nestled in the middle of it all. Lake Ovid, covering 410-acres, was developed by damming the Little Maple River. The park offers year- round opportunity for recreation.

More than 228 species have been recorded in Sleepy Hollow, from the common Blue Jay to the Eastern Bluebird. During migration, look for waterfowl in Lake Ovid. The rarely recorded Bonaparte's Gull and Bald Eagle also have been sighted.

In addition to the activities listed above, snowshoeing is a popular activity at Sleepy Hollow State Park. The Park is also active in Green Initiatives.

EDUCATOR'S CORNER

Floating Back into Fishing

By: Patrick Endres by: Patrick Endres

Friendships are a great way to get into the great outdoor hobbies we have in our state. This was the case for me and float-tube fishing. I was speaking to one of my friends last year at a party about his recent interest in fishing. He explained that he was fishing with his father- in-law at Island Lake Recreation Area. When I asked him what type of fishing he was doing, he explained that he was fishing on an inner tube. I was surprised and asked for more details. He explained that fishing companies have developed inner tubes that allow you to sit up in a tube and fish, and that float-tube fishing allows you to access areas of ponds, rivers, and inland lakes that you can't get to when you shore fish.

After some further discussion, I got so excited to try this type of fishing, my friend and I planned a trip for the following day. We got up early and drove to Island Lake Recreation Area. Since this was my first time float-tube fishing, I was able to borrow one of my friend's tubes. I didn't catch any fish this trip, but I was hooked on doing this again. Over the winter, I purchased my own fishing tube and upgraded my

fishing equipment. I was excited to do more fishing. This past summer this same friend and I went out at least two or three times.

These few times fishing also inspired me to keep a fishing pole and tackle in my car, so whenever I found myself near a fishing spot, I could throw a line in the water. The excitement I experienced while on these fishing trips has also spawned an interest in expanding my knowledge of other types of fishing. I have bought books, watched fishing shows on my streaming services, and am currently planning to attend fishing classes. If you would like to try fishing for the first time or just want to rekindle an old hobby, consider attending a fishing program at the Outdoor Adventure Center! While most of our fishing programs take place during the warmer months, we will have a couple of opportunities for ice-fishing programs, conditions permitting. This newsletter we are featuring more information about Michigan fish, fishing locations and opportunities, and more! Good luck and fish local. [You can also visit Michigan.gov/fishing for more Michigan fishing information.](https://Michigan.gov/fishing)

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.

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

Try It!

Class Date:

Class Time:

Saturday, January 8	2:30 PM - 3:00 PM and 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM
Saturday, February 12	2:30 PM - 3:00 PM and 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM
Saturday, March 12	2:30 PM - 3:00 PM and 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM
Saturday, April 16	2:30 PM - 3:00 PM and 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

ARCHERY at the OAC

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. Participants could have the opportunity to practice their shot with various target faces and activities with instructor's discretion. Participants must be 8 years of age or older.

All equipment is provided. Limited to 8 participants.

FEE: \$12 & PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Explore It: Skill Development

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29 from 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Expand your love for archery in this fun, skill-building program. Participants will have the opportunity to practice their shot with various target faces and activities. Skill development activities will vary.

Explore It: Cupid's Arrow

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

It's the month for love! Bring your valentine to the OAC and learn to shoot archery together. Participants will have the opportunity to practice their shot while participating in Valentine's Day themed activities.

[REGISTER FOR EXPLORE IT: CUPID'S ARROW](#)

Explore It: March Mad Skills

SATURDAY, MARCH 26 from 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Archers will learn the skills of archery and participate in tournament-style games. Will you win? Will it be an underdog story? Come and find out.

[REGISTER FOR EXPLORE IT: MARCH MAD SKILLS](#)

DNR CERTIFICATION COURSES

Boater Safety Course

SATURDAY, MARCH 26 from 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

This is a no-cost event being hosted by The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division and The Wayne County Sheriff Department at the Outdoor Adventure Center. No meals will be provided at this event. We recommend bringing a bag lunch. All other course materials and supplies will be provided. The main purpose of the boater safety education course is to train

knowledgeable, safe and responsible boaters. Topics covered include general boating and water safety, navigational rules, causes and prevention of crashes, operation and fueling techniques, environmental concerns and reporting responsibility.

Any motorized boat operator born after June 30, 1996, is required by law to pass an approved boater safety course and to carry a boater safety certificate. In addition, boater education is also required for all personal watercraft operators born after December 31, 1978. Michigan's boater education course is taught by a dedicated core of certified volunteer instructors, sheriff's deputies and Michigan conservation officers.

About the class:

- In person, traditional classroom setting
- Written test (75% or better to pass)
- No minimum age requirement; however, students under 10 years of age must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or other adult approved by parent or legal guardian.

FEE: FREE

[REGISTER FOR BOATER SAFETY COURSE](#)

BACKYARD NATURE

Life of a Honeybee

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Join our friends from Bees in the D for this fun and interactive program! Participants will become a member of a honeybee hive to learn the roles and responsibilities of a honeybee's short life. Great for kids and adults!

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.

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.

Celebrate Black History Month: Recognizing Famous Black International Environmentalists

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 from 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Join us as we take literary venture discovering famous black international environmentalist and how their research has impacted our lands.

What was the role of the Buffalo Soldiers?

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The Buffalo Soldiers' main duty was to support the nation's westward expansion by protecting settlers, building roads and other infrastructure, and guarding the U.S. mail.

Random Acts of Kindness

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Taking time to come together and share time making a craft project to give to someone in need of a friendly act of your kindness. Just a small token of your kindness to others.

GET OUTSIDE

Wonderful Winter Outdoor Activity

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 8, and 22 from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

You can enjoy the great outdoors any time of year, even the wintertime! Throughout January and February, we will feature an opportunity to try a great winter outdoor activity, according to current ice and snow conditions. Activities may include snowshoeing, ice-fishing, snow "painting," or simply an outdoor hike. Check the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center Facebook page for the most up-to-date information. Throw your winter gear in the car, just in case!

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

Free Fishing Weekend - Ice Fishing at Milliken State Park

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19 from 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Take advantage of this opportunity to fish Michigan's premier waters! We will learn about proper ice fishing equipment and safety practices. We'll provide equipment and guidance for you to try ice fishing at Milliken State Park.

Proper outdoor gear (winter boots, warm outerwear, hats and gloves, etc.) is required for all participants, even those who are not actively fishing. Winter gear can be stored in cars or in complimentary lockers while you enjoy the facility before or after the program.

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. For safety reasons we will not be able to accommodate any late arrivals. Ice fishing will be dependent on ice conditions.

FEE: Included with the price of admission. The admission fee is charged at registration.

Pre-registration required.

[REGISTER FOR FREE FISHING WEEKEND - ICE FISHING AT MILLIKEN STATE PARK](#)

Nature Journaling

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 from 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

What do you see when you look outside? In this hands-on workshop we'll explore different methods of recording our observations. Nature journals are a valuable tool. They provide space for a naturalist to

write their thoughts and develop a deeper relationship with nature. Our staff will provide the materials to make your very own nature journal and guide you through writing and drawing prompts.

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.

Path Paws: A Spring Awakening

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Grab your four-legged friends and join us as we hike and discover the wetland wildlife that has emerged this spring. 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. Rain or shine. Regular admission fees apply for building access.

What people have said:

- “Wonderful, fun, hands-on experience!”
Simons family, Wayland, MI
- “I loved the smile on my daughter’s face!”
Callie’s mom

Pheasants in Detroit

SATURDAY, APRIL 30 from 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Believe it or not, the Ring-necked Pheasant has a strong presence here in Detroit! Join OAC staff and Detroit Audubon for a walk along the Riverfront and around the OAC to look for these grassland birds here in the city! We'll discuss their unique characteristics and why they found a home in Detroit. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited number will be provided.

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: Fee: This is a free outdoor event.

Regular admission fees apply for building access.

Pre-registration required. [REGISTER FOR PHEASANTS IN DETROIT](#)

GROWN-UP GATHERINGS

Make a Wine Bottle Hummingbird Feeder

FRIDAY, MARCH 18 from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Put your empty wine bottle to use! Enjoy a short program about hummingbirds and how you can attract these beautiful birds to your home - whether you have a huge backyard or a city balcony. Then, we'll

provide instruction and materials to convert your empty wine bottle to a crafty, decorative hummingbird feeder! You bring the empty wine bottle, we'll provide the drinks and snacks (including wine!)

This event is open to those 21 and older and sponsored by Friends of the OAC. Michigan wine, non-alcoholic

beverages, and light snacks will be served during the program.

FEE: \$27 per person.

Pre-registration required.

This program is subject to cancelation if minimum enrollment is not reached.

[REGISTER FOR MAKE A WINE BOTTLE HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER](#)

Make a Pollinator Hotel

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Helping our native pollinator species has never been more important! Join us for a fun evening with friends to make your own "pollinator hotel" to take home with you! After a short presentation about the benefits of our native pollinators, we'll provide assistance and materials for you to construct a pollinator hotel to add to your yard this spring. We'll also provide take-home resources for native plant and pollinator gardening and a seed giveaway to get you started!

This event is open to those 21 and older and sponsored by Friends of the OAC. Beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and light snacks will be provided.

FEE: \$27 per person.

Pre-registration required.

This program is subject to cancelation if minimum enrollment is not reached.

[REGISTER FOR MAKE A POLLINATOR HOTEL](#)

Rum-Running Stories

FRIDAY, MAY 13 from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

The Detroit River was a pretty busy place during Prohibition. With tremendous amounts of illegal liquor entering the United States from Canada during the 1920's and early 1930's, stories abound. Join some young "old timers" as we travel back to the era of blind pigs, rum-running and panther sweat.

Participants are urged to dress for the occasion in period-style clothing and tell a few stories of their own! Our friends from the Lake Erie Metropark Marshlands Museum are joining us to present this fascinating program.

This event is open to those 21 and older and is sponsored by Friends of the OAC. Beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and light snacks will be provided.

FEE: \$18 per person.

Pre-registration required.

This program is subject to cancelation if minimum enrollment is not reached.

[REGISTER FOR RUM-RUNNING STORIES](#)

ACTIVE AGING ADVENTURES

SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Join us for a program series just for seniors! Lunch & Learn programs will take place in the afternoon and include a box lunch (your choice of half sandwich or wrap, chips, a cookie, and water). Sit back and enjoy a meal during an exciting and informative program, then move on to a related activity served upon entry, and wrap up with time to explore the OAC exhibits. View upcoming dates and topics below.

FEE: \$12 per person.

Pre-registration required

Explore Michigan State Parks WEDNESDAY MARCH 16

Join us for a lunch overlooking a breathtaking view of the Detroit River. A boxed lunch will be served as Scott Pratt of Michigan DNR describes the best features of our major park properties and spotlights some hidden gems within our state park system. Mr. Pratt is an engaging speaker, and his presentation will help you plan your next trip! Afterwards, we'll lead you through a nature journaling activity within Milliken State Park.

Sandwich preference will be selected at registration.

Pre-registration required.

[REGISTER FOR EXPLORE MICHIGAN STATE PARKS](#)

SENIOR BRUNCH & LEARN 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join us for a program series just for seniors! Brunch & Learn programs will take place in the morning and include donuts, coffee, and tea served upon entry. Sit back and enjoy a breakfast snack during an exciting and informative program, then move on to a related activity, and wrap up with time to explore the OAC exhibits. View upcoming dates and topics below.

FEE: \$6 per person.

Pre-registration required.

Dollars for Ducks THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Do you love birds? Have you visited a National Wildlife Refuge? Thank a duck hunter! The annual federal duck stamp program began in 1934 – it is a work of art, a required purchase for all migratory waterfowl hunters in the U.S. and is one of the most successful conservation fund programs in history. Join Paul Cypher from the Marshlands Museum at Lake Erie Metropark to hear the history and achievements of our duck stamp program, and how you can contribute! We will take a birding walk along the riverfront after the program.

Pre-registration required.

[REGISTER FOR DOLLARS FOR DUCKS](#)

AFTERNOON ADVENTURES

We continue to offer Afternoon Adventures for senior groups looking for an exciting afternoon in Downtown Detroit. Begin your trip with a lunch in Rivertown then join us at the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center for a self-guided tour (just \$2 per person) or add an interesting program – see

program options below – for an additional \$2 per person. Submit your application today – these spots will go fast.

Arrival times for Afternoon Adventures are 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Each class is one hour long; a group must have a minimum of 20 guests.

- 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 fly-ways – 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.

JUST FOR KIDS

Cub Club: Night Mammals

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15 from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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 discuss what makes an animal a mammal and learn about some mammals who are out and about at night time.

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.

Pre-registration required.

Young Explorers: Mammal Tracks and Signs

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15 from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Calling all kids ages 7-10 who want to explore and learn more about our nature and wildlife! Our January program will focus on identifying tracks and other signs of wildlife during the winter months. For each program, participants will add entries to a nature journal, which they can make here and bring back each time.

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.

Pre-registration required.

Cub Club: Cold Blooded Critters

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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 a few of Michigan's reptiles and amphibians, and what they are up to in the wild during wintertime!

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.

Pre-registration required.

[REGISTER FOR CUB CLUB: COLD BLOODED CRITTERS](#)

Cub Club: Trees are Terrific!

SATURDAY, MARCH 12 from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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 trees; the parts of a tree, how trees meet their needs, and how trees are different from one another!

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.

Pre-registration required.

[REGISTER FOR CUB CLUB: TREES ARE TERRIFIC!](#)

Cub Club: Birds and their Eggs

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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 our local birds, the nests they build, and the eggs they lay in the springtime!

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.

Pre-registration required.

[REGISTER FOR CUB CLUB: BIRDS AND THEIR EGGS](#)

Young Explorers: Signs of Spring

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Calling all kids ages 7-10 who want to explore and learn about our nature and wildlife! Our April program will focus on the changes happening outside that tell us spring is arriving! Bursting buds, singing birds, and anything else we can find in our exploration. For each program, participants can add to a nature journal, which they can make here and bring back each time.

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.

Pre-registration required.

[REGISTER FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS: SIGNS OF SPRING](#)

LIVE ANIMALS

Hawk Talk with the Michigan Hawking Club!

SATURDAY, MARCH 19 from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Falconry (hunting with a hawk) is an old sport, but it is still practiced today! Join a few members of the Michigan Hawking Club to hear about the exciting sport of falconry, how you could get started if you're interested, and of course, meet their birds!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Down on the Farm in Downtown Detroit – Upland Hills Farms at the OAC

SATURDAY, APRIL 2 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Agriculture is an important part of Michigan's past, present, and future. Meet some of our farm animal favorites right here at the OAC. Our archery range will be transformed into a barn, and you will be able to get up close to cows, pigs, chickens, and more! This is a popular exhibit – there may be a wait during hours of operation.

MEMBER BENEFIT: Members can arrive at 11:00 am to visit the farm animals. FEE: Included with the price of admission.

We may also be joined by representatives of other agricultural associations in Michigan who will be sharing information and resources about Michigan's rich agricultural heritage and the importance of farm fresh food.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Family Adventure Night at the OAC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022 from 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Stay up late for an after-hours adventure with your family! You and your family will enjoy an evening with indoor and outdoor activities beginning with an "evening experience" in our exhibit area. Take an evening stroll behind our waterfall, a "night ride" on the snowmobile and more! "Breakfast for dinner" will be served in the cafeteria; enjoy pancakes, cereal, fruit, juice and coffee.

Indoor activities will include: flashlight scavenger hunt, make and take craft, nature program and video. Outdoor activities will include: night hike and campfire treats.

This program is being held in lieu of our popular indoor campout, which cannot be held due to the COVID related issues we are currently facing.

Be sure to dress for the weather for outdoor activities.

FEE: \$10 per person

Pre-registration required.

Registration ends on February 13 or when event fills. This event will SELL OUT!

[REGISTER FOR FAMILY ADVENTURE NIGHT AT THE OAC](#)

Meet our Great Lakes Invaders!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

There are many animal and plant species in our Great Lakes and surrounding region that cause destruction and are harmful to our native ecosystems. The good news is you can do something about it! In recognition of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, the OAC and partner agencies who are battling these invasive species will share why these species are a problem and how you can help. You may even have an opportunity to meet some of these species up close! At 12:00pm OAC staff will host a special live encounter program featuring our own Sea Lamprey.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Pre-registration required.

Homeschool Hangout: An Academic Adventure

FRIDAY, APRIL 1 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Bring your young scholars to the Outdoor Adventure Center for scavenger hunts, hands-on activities, and classes by grade-level. This event is perfect for homeschool parents and their children who are looking for a fun and educational experience.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Pre-registration required.

Members: email DNR-OAC@michigan.gov to register.

[REGISTER FOR HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT: AN ACADEMIC ADVENTURE](#)

Lumberjack Pancake Run

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

- 9:00AM .5K run (just 162 feet), fun for every age!
- 9:30AM 5K

Pancake breakfast follows

This race takes place on the Dequindre Cut. The course is flat and fast. We start in front of the Outdoor Adventure Center. Parking is located on Atwater, across from the Milliken State Park and Harbor.

Race swag includes a custom medal, a lumberjack buff, entry to the Outdoor Adventure Center beginning at 10:00am, and a pancake breakfast.

All participants are encouraged to wear their best flannel apparel and sport their best lumberjack beard. Prizes will be given.

FEE: \$22 per person.

Additional tickets available for purchase for all family and friends of our racers for just \$5

Pre-registration required.

[REGISTER FOR LUMBERJACK PANCAKE RUN](#)

Lumberjack Day

SATURDAY, MARCH 26 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

After our Lumberjack Run, join us for special programming and activities related to Michigan's Forests and the lumberjacks who worked in Michigan.

STEWARDSHIP

Great Backyard Bird Count

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a community science project managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It allows the general public worldwide to gather and contribute data about their local birds that will assist scientists and natural resource managers in their research and management of these bird species. Join us for a hike along the riverfront and Milliken State Park to help count and identify our local birds and send our findings to this great project. All skill levels are welcome – this is a great program for anyone looking for an introduction to birding. A small number of binoculars will be available for loan.

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.

Detroit River Coalition Earth Day Clean Up

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM*

*Participants do not need to attend the entire time; shorter shifts are available at the registration link.

The Michigan DNR and Outdoor Adventure Center are proud members of the Detroit River Coalition. Each year we participate in their international Earth Day Clean Up effort.

Volunteer to clean up at Milliken State Park (across the street from the Outdoor Adventure Center) on Saturday, April 22. This is a great opportunity for all ages to get outside and make a positive difference in our state park.

Trash bags and latex gloves provided to all volunteers. Dress for the weather.

TO REGISTER FOR: DETROIT RIVER COALITION EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

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.

Enjoy the Winter Outdoors!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Don't hibernate, recreate! Join us for some ideas about how you can enjoy the outdoors this winter, from snowshoeing, to ice-fishing, to backyard bird feeding. We'll provide information that can get you started, and some activities may be available to try dependent on current snow conditions.

FEE: COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION

Archery Adventure

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Try your hand at archery with us! We will open the range for drop-in style shooting while we are open for the evening.

FEE: COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION

THURSDAY, MARCH 24 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The Outdoor Adventure Center's Spring Open House

Our Open House is designed to introduce local organizations that want to share their exciting programs with the public, along with a free evening of adventure exploring the OAC and our exciting exhibits of "Up North, Downtown."

FEE: COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION

Make a Backyard Habitat

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

April is the perfect time to plan your backyard habitat for the spring and summer! We'll provide some information and simple resources to get you started making a habitat for migrant and nesting birds, native pollinators, and other beneficial wildlife in your yard. We'll have some backyard wildlife-themed crafts and activities for you to enjoy as well.

FEE: COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION

RECREATION PASSPORT

COST / WHERE TO PURCHASE / DETAILS

PLEASE NOTE: As of March 1, 2020, the Recreation Passport vehicle entry fee increased to \$12 due to a statutory provision to adjust the fee based upon the Consumer Price Index.

- 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 (24k+ lbs 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, manufacture, non-profit 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.

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 non-transferrable.

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.

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This newsletter is posted on our website and is available by email.

Visit www.michigan.gov/oac and click on “About Us” and look for the red envelope to sign up.”

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 www.michigan.gov/dnr.