

# DNR Outdoor Adventure Center Fall 2023 Newsletter

## Hours of operation

### School year (Oct. 1 – May 31)

Sunday: noon – 3 p.m.

Monday: closed

Tuesday: closed

Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thursday: closed for general admission; group visits scheduled by appointment only

Friday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Summer (June 1 – Aug. 31)

Sunday: closed

Monday: closed

Tuesday: closed

Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thursday: closed for general admission; group visits scheduled by appointment only

Friday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturday: noon – 3 p.m.

## Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure staff

Patricia Abernathy

Mariah Adams

Bettie Clark

Natalie Cypher

Damira Dugger

Patrick Endres

Margie Gatliff

Katie Gillies

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Corene Sneed  
Alijah Thomas  
Frank Toarmina  
Rujeania Vance  
Linda Walter  
Danielle Wilemski  
Sheryl Wright

## 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

## Discounted admission – Museums for All

Ensuring opportunities for all is important to us. We have joined the Museums for All network as of Oct. 1, 2023. This new program will replace the Free Sunday/Thrilling Thursday programs we formerly offered. This new program offers a deeply discounted rate for those enrolled in SNAP EBT and/or WIC programs.

Cardholders who have a current SNAP EBT card or WIC card AND a valid photo ID will receive a discounted admission rate of just \$1 per person for themselves and up to 5 guests. The discount applies only to admission and not for special classes and programs. Admission costs must be paid by cash or with credit card at the time of admission.

To view other Michigan locations that are in the Museums for All network, visit <https://museums4all.org/#>.

## Convenient online registration

Our 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. 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](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov).

## Offerings for teachers

Field trips to the Outdoor Adventure Center are the perfect combination of education and fun for all ages, from preschool through high school! To qualify for a field trip and discounted admission, groups must be preregistered at least three weeks in advance and have at least 20 people in the group.

A cafeteria area for groups to have lunch is available; however, the space is not reserved.

The building is best experienced in small groups. We require one adult chaperone to accompany every six children throughout the OAC.

For an additional \$2 per student, groups may choose to add a classroom experience to their visit. All programs include background information, age-appropriate activities and hands-on learning components meeting teaching standards for Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations and Next Generation Science Standards.

We will be open on Wednesdays and Fridays to the public and for field trips. On Thursdays, we will schedule select groups to visit when we are closed to the public. This option has limitations based on the size of the group and classroom sessions.

To register for a field trip, visit the following link: [Group application form](#).

## Accessibility at the OAC

### Mobility

- A paved sidewalk runs from the parking lot to our front door.
- Electronic-assist doors are available at the entrance and exit.
- An elevator is available to access all three floors of the building.
- Ramps are installed behind the sustainable home and behind the hunting exhibit on the second floor.
- Service dogs are welcome inside the building. The OAC follows Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for service dogs. The dog must be trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability. Visitors are not allowed to bring emotional support animals or pets into the OAC.

### Hearing

- With at least two weeks' notice, every attempt will be made to provide sign language interpreters.

### Vision

- Large print and Braille maps are available for loan at the front desk.

### Sensory inclusion

- The OAC has partnered with KultureCity to improve our ability to assist and accommodate guests with sensory needs. Our objective is to provide an inclusive and seamless experience for all guests for all events, including those with sensory needs.
- We strive to raise awareness of the needs and challenges faced by individuals with sensory processing differences by supplying our team members with annual training.
- An all-gender restroom is located on the second floor.

- A secure, private Quiet Room is located on the second floor of our building and is available to any person who needs this space during open OAC hours. The features of this room include tile flooring with a soft rug, an automatic overhead light that can be turned off, a soft light that can be turned on and off, a two-person couch, a side table with a removeable lid containing a weighted blanket and sensory items, books, and a silent clock.
- A limited number of sensory bags – containing special KultureCity VIP badges, fidget tools, noise-canceling headphones and other resources – are available for checkout (at no cost by leaving an ID) at our front desk on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Weighted lap pads are also available upon request (at no cost by leaving an ID) at our front desk.
- A visual tour of our building is available to view at home to prepare for a visit.
- Communication boards are located on every level of the building next to the elevators, in both classrooms and outside by the front door.
- The KultureCity Sensory Inclusive App is available to view our social story to help you plan your visit. App Store: <http://bit.ly/KCiphone> or Google Play: <http://bit.ly/KCandroid>.

### Family needs

- An all-gender restroom is located on the second floor.
- A secure nursing room is available on the second floor. Any staff member can help guests gain access to this room.
- Baby-changing tables are available in all restrooms. They can be found in the accessible stalls.
- The entire building is stroller-accessible.

### Language

- Facility maps are available printed in Arabic, Spanish, German, French, Chinese and Japanese. These maps are available in the entrance lobby.

## Sensory-Friendly Days

The DNR Outdoor Adventure Center welcomes friends and families with sensory processing differences to our sensory-friendly building hours!

Enjoy the opportunity to explore and experience the OAC with building sounds and ambient noises at a lower volume. During your visit, there will be a quiet room with sensory materials available to use. At noon, the building will open to the public, with volumes returning to standard operating levels. All staff are KultureCity-certified to ensure the best possible experience.

Fee: complimentary admission.

10 a.m. – noon

Sunday, Oct. 1: Come celebrate Halloween with us! Costumes or fun festive shirts are encouraged!

Sunday, Dec. 3: Join us for a “Winter Wonderland!”

In 2024, we are excited to announce Sensory-Friendly Days will be offered every month! Our first date in the new year is Sunday, Jan. 7.

## 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.
- Restroom doors are propped open to alleviate the need to touch door handles.
- Hand sanitizer stations have been placed throughout our exhibit areas.
- Masks and social distancing are encouraged for guests. Masks are available at the front desk at no cost.

## 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 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.
- Reciprocal membership with Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) and Association of Children's Museums (ACM) participating museums.

### Current member benefits:

- Early seating beginning at 12:45 pm for Leslie Science Center

### Membership benefits have expanded!

Your Outdoor Adventure Center Membership has new, added value. We have partnered with two museum networks. Our members will now be eligible for discounted admission at other attractions. Members will receive an email with a membership card indicating the two logos below. This will need to be saved for use at other partnering locations.

ACM allows active members 50% off general admission for up to six people at one of the 200 participating museums. The card holder must be present for discounted admission. View more information online. Some of the nearest participating museums include Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, Grand Rapids Children's Museum, Impression 5 Science Center, Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum, Mid-Michigan Children's Museum and Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum.

To take advantage of these partnerships, show your new DNR Outdoor Adventure Center membership card that you received in your email.

The ASTC Travel Passport membership allows active members discounted admission when traveling to a participating center over 90 miles from the OAC. A full list of participating centers can be found online. A few that are just over 90 miles away include:

- Alden B. Dow Museum of Science & Art, 1801 W St Andrews Road, Midland, MI 48640.
- Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing, MI 48933.
- COSI, 333 W Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215.

#### FAQs:

What happens if I forget my membership card?

Passport venues are not required to grant free admission to visitors who forget their cards. There is no universal database with all Passport visitors' member data and expiration dates for admission staff to reference. Some venues will allow you to call the science center or museum you joined to confirm your membership, but they are under no obligation to do so.

What else do I need to bring?

Most facilities will ask for a valid picture ID along with your membership card.

### Scout badge workshops

The chart below shows the current offerings for Scout badge workshops. The sessions begin prior to the building opening on Sundays and take place both indoors and outdoors. The workshop provides your Scout group with a classroom session to address the requirements listed on the chart below, an OAC patch for your brag vest and admission to the building. Dress for the weather and wear close-toed shoes. Due to limited classroom space, only the Scout leader and another responsible adult may join the badge workshop. Family members, including siblings, are welcome to join the Scouts to explore the OAC exhibits when the building opens to the public at noon.

FEE: \$14 per Scout for all workshops; includes OAC patch.

Regular admission fees apply for family members, including siblings who wish to visit the building with Scouts after the program.

### Girl Scouts

Level	Badge	Length	Req. covered	Other info
Brownies	Bugs	1.5 hours	1, 2, 4 and 5	April-August only
Brownies	Hiker	1.5 hours	1-3 and 5	Troops can pack a snack for requirement 4
Brownies	Outdoor Adventurer	1.5 hours	1-4	
Junior	Animal Habitats	1.5 hours	1-3	
Junior	Camper	1 hour	1, 2, 4	
Cadette	Archery	1.5 hour	Badge completed	Only 12 Scouts per badge workshop
Cadette	Trees	2 hours	1-4	Late April-October only

## Cub Scouts

Level	Badge	Length	Req. covered	Other info
Tiger	My Tiger Jungle	1 hour	Badge completed	
Tiger	Tigers in the Wild	1 hour	Badge completed	
Wolf	Call of the Wild	1 hour	Badge completed	
Wolf	Paws on the Path	2 hours	Badge completed	
Bear	A Bear Goes Fishing	1.5 hours	Badge completed	April-August only
Bear	Fur, Feathers and Ferns	2 hours	Badge completed	
Webelos	Earth Rocks	1.5 hours	Badge completed	
Webelos	Into the Wild	2 hours	Badge completed	
Webelos	Into the Woods	1.5 hours	1-3, 5	

### Reservation instructions and to request a Scout badge workshop:

The calendar feature is best viewed on a computer. Mobile devices will not show available dates.

Step 1: Log in or create an account.

Step 2: Choose a green date – Sundays at 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. are the only current options.

Step 3: Choose a start time (this may change, when we send your confirmation, due to length of workshop and number of scouts).

Step 4: Click "Add to Cart."

Step 5: Check out.

Step 6: View or print attachments. Choose badge options and indicate number of scouts, then "Submit responses."

Step 7: Click "Complete Transaction" to submit your request.

Step 8: You will receive an email confirmation within five to seven days if your request is approved.

[Register for Scout Badge Workshop.](#)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Availability is based on several factors and is not limited to the online calendar. Your online request will be confirmed once the request is reviewed against all factors.

## OAC rentals

### Be different!

If you are looking to step outside of the box for your next event, think of the Outdoor Adventure Center. We can host from 20 to 182 people in our event spaces. The Forest Room and Riverview Loft are great rooms for your event! We also have a spacious lawn next to our center just in case you want to enjoy the breeze off the Detroit River!

To view the Outdoor Adventure Center's event spaces, check out our website: [Michigan.gov/OAC/event-and-meeting-space](https://Michigan.gov/OAC/event-and-meeting-space).

Contact our promotional agent Jackie Hoskins at 1-800-622-6237 or email [DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov) for more details.

## You should visit ... Fort Custer Recreation Area

Fort Custer State Recreation Area is a 3,033-acre park located in Augusta, between Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. The park features three lakes, the Kalamazoo River, a modern and equestrian campground, a swimming beach, boat rentals, more than 40 miles of trails, paddling and fishing opportunities, second-growth forests and remnant areas of prairie. The trail system is popular with mountain bikers, equestrians, hikers and dog sledders.

Originally farmland, the area was acquired by the federal government to establish Camp Custer, an induction and military training center for the U.S. Army during World War II. The land was deeded to the State of Michigan under President Nixon's Legacy of Parks in 1971.

## Staff spotlight

Rujeania Vance makes sure that we bring fun and variety to our programs and services. Ms. Vance is a Program Assistant who has brought many great traditions to the Outdoor Adventure Center. Programs that Ru is most proud of include all of our pet-friendly events. Ru coordinates Path Paws (pet walk events), Zombie Pet Patrol – a fall costume-themed event – and Dog Daze, a day of fun in the sun for area pets and their owners. Ms. Vance's dog, Cinco, usually joins in the fun. Cinco is a 7-year-old chihuahua who has a special outfit for every occasion. He is the unofficial mascot of the Outdoor Adventure Center. Why pet events? Ru loves connecting fellow pet lovers to the area businesses and nonprofit organizations that support pet owners.

Ru also championed the installation of our own "Little Free Library" in the Fall of 2022. Our Little Library has become a staple in our neighborhood with guest checking out books and donating new ones. We try to keep a variety of nature-themed books for ages pre-school to adult. We are always looking for donations to keep this special library well-stocked. We have even received a donation of puzzles and our families love them! Rujeania's goal is to promote the love of reading and to spread knowledge to every guest.

Some of the other programs that Ru provides for our guests are:

- Outdoor games, sidewalk chalk and water games in the summer.
- Random Acts of Kindness Day.
- Bison Day.
- Urban Park Day.
- Rock painting.
- OAC birthday celebration.
- City of Detroit birthday celebration.
- And many more

Ru feels that the world can always use more connection, more kindness and more love. She is hopeful that her programs provide that to our guests. Ru says that she is proud when "Folks come to us with a smile and leave with an even bigger smile." She loves being able to make someone's day better.



## Archery at the OAC

### Welcome to the Outdoor Adventure Center's archery range!

We offer a variety archery experiences you can choose from, ranging in price from free to \$60 for a four-week session. 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 from 6 to 20 yards 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 and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in the building.
- All equipment is provided.

For Graduate Shoot:

- Must have completed one of the following prerequisite archery classes within the last year: Explore It, 3D Animal Target, Archery 101 or Bowhunting Basics.
- 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 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 the first program and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

Times: 1:30 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.

Dates:

Saturday, Oct. 14

Sunday, Oct. 29

For this seasonal session, we will practice our skills on paper zombie targets!

Sunday, Nov. 19

Saturday, Nov. 25

Sunday, Dec. 10

### 3D Animal Target Archery

This 90-minute program will provide an introduction to hunting with a bow and arrow. The program will include how to safely handle a bow, have and maintain proper stance, and ethical shot placement. Archers will be shooting at 3D animal targets.

FEE: \$18 per person

Preregistration required. On-site registration is not available after the registration deadline.

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. Range time will begin promptly at 6 p.m. We are not able to accommodate late arrivals.

Dates: Tuesday, Nov. 28

[Register for 3D Animal Target Archery.](#)

### 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. Grow your love for archery in this fun, skill-building program.

Participants could have the opportunity to practice their shot with various target faces and activities.

FEE: \$12 per person

Preregistration required. On-site registration is not available after the registration deadline.

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. Range time will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. We are not able to accommodate late arrivals.

Dates:

Tuesday, Oct. 3

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Tuesday, Dec. 12

[Register for Explore It.](#)

### Archery 101

This four-week program will offer a more in-depth archery experience in a safe and fun environment. Each week will focus on a different part of the shot process with fun drills and games to help students learn the sport of archery in a hands-on way. The program will cover the steps of shooting, how to retrieve arrows, and will provide plenty of shooting opportunities for students to refine their skills.

FEE: \$60

Preregistration required. On-site registration is not available after the registration deadline.

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Doors will open at 6:20 p.m. Range time will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. We are not able to accommodate late arrivals.

Dates: Tuesdays (four weeks), Oct. 10 – Nov. 7 (No class on Tuesday, Oct. 31)

[Register for Archery 101.](#)

### Graduate Shoot

Graduate open shoot is available to students who have taken any paid public archery program at the OAC within one year (this excludes Try-It programs). Sessions will allow returning students the opportunity to practice their skills without repeating the instructional portion of a program. Archery games may be available to archers upon request.

FEE: \$10 per person

Preregistration required. On-site registration is not available after the registration deadline.

Time: 5:30-6:20 p.m.

Range time will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. We are not able to accommodate late arrivals. Participants bringing their own equipment must arrive by 5:15 p.m. for an equipment inspection.

Children under the age of 18 years old will need to have at least one parent/guardian enrolled in the class with them.

Dates:

Tuesday, Oct. 3: ages 18 and older

Tuesday, Oct. 17: ages 8 and older

Tuesday, Nov. 14: ages 18 and older

Tuesday, Dec. 12: ages 8 and older

[Register for Graduate Shoot.](#)

### Adaptive Archery

Archery is a sport that is inclusive to all, including those with physical limitations or cognitive disability. This is your chance to explore archery with trained OAC staff. During this one-hour program participants will have the opportunity to learn to safely handle a bow and shoot several arrows. This program is open to individuals 8 years of age and older. Closed-toe shoes required.

After registration, participants will be contacted by an OAC staff member to ensure we currently have resources to help you succeed.

FEE: \$12 per person

Preregistration required. On-site registration is not available after the registration deadline.

Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Range time will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. We are not able to accommodate late arrivals.

This is not a drop-off program. All minors attending the program must have a guardian present in the archery range.

Dates:

Monday, Oct. 16

Monday, Dec. 4

[Register for Adaptive Archery.](#)

## Active Aging Adventures

### Brunch & Learn

During this monthly series for active aging adults, participants will have opportunities to meet our on-site educators, listen to guest presenters, and take part in various natural resource-themed activities. All programs begin at 9 a.m. and include pastries, coffee and tea upon entry. At 9:30 a.m., presentations will begin, so sit back and enjoy your snack during an exciting and informative program, then wrap up with time to explore the OAC exhibits.

Fee: \$6 per person; preregistration required. Payment can be made for groups or individuals.

### Riverfront Railroads

Thursday, Oct. 12

9 a.m.-noon

In the early to mid-1900's, the Detroit waterfront was a hub of industry served by rail lines. When issues arose with train crossings, the city decided to move the Dequindre rail line below grade – hence the Dequindre Cut! Alex Bogert, railroad aficionado and history buff, will share his knowledge and passion about the rail era that flourished here along the Riverfront for several decades. He will also bring photos and artifacts he rescued as the area began to undergo revitalization and reconstruction.

FEE: \$6 per person

Preregistration required. This session is currently full; however, we are accepting wait list applicants.

[Register for Riverfront Railroads.](#)

### Feeding Birds in Winter

Thursday, Nov. 2

9 a.m.-noon

Learn about the birds that will visit your yard in the winter and the feeders and bird food that will attract and nourish them. Presented by Rosann Kovalcik, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Grosse Pointe Woods and a Detroit Audubon board member.

FEE: \$6 per person

Preregistration required.

[Register for Feeding Birds in Winter.](#)

Story of the Sea Lamprey

Thursday, Dec. 14

9 a.m.-noon

Did you know there is an invasive "vampire" living in the Great Lakes? Come hear the story of the most destructive invasive species to enter the Great Lakes and what has been done to remove them. We'll use real data and problem solving to take a look at how agencies are currently managing sea lamprey numbers. You may even have an opportunity to meet this fascinating species up close!

FEE: \$6 per person

Preregistration required.

[Register for Story of the Sea Lamprey.](#)

Senior Stroll- Riverfront Rambles

Join a naturalist for a casual stroll along the Riverfront and through Milliken Park. During each walk, we'll focus on a topic related to natural or cultural history. Wear your walking shoes and dress for the weather – we'll go out rain or shine! Meet outside the front doors at the Outdoor Adventure Center.

Railroading on the Riverfront

Thursday, Oct. 12

11 a.m.-noon

Get a tour of the waterfront area near Milliken State Park and learn about the historical industries in the area, how the railroads connected them, and the construction of the Dequindre Cut.

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

Shipwrecks and Salties: The Great Lakes Freighters

Thursday, Nov. 9

9-11 a.m.

Put on your walking shoes as we travel the Riverfront on our way to Old Mariners' Church the day before the anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. Learn the difference between salties and lakers, some of the history of shipping and shipwrecks on the Great Lakes, and how to track these amazing ships. You can also opt to meet us at Old Mariners' Church at 10 for a short tour and talk about the history of the church.

NOTE: Old Mariners' Church does not have any ramps or elevators. There are several shallow steps into the front entrance and eleven standard steps into the sanctuary. Additional floors and bathrooms are accessible via a staircase with a single stairlift.

FEE: This is a free off-site event.

Preregistration required.

[Register for Shipwrecks and Salties: The Great Lakes Freighters.](#)

## Certification programs

### Hunter Education: Field Day

Oct. 21, 8 a.m.-noon

The main purpose of the hunter education field day course is to provide an alternative to the traditional course. This course is the same as the traditional hunter education course; however, the classroom portion is completed by enrolling in the online training session. In order to purchase a hunting license in Michigan, an individual born on or after Jan. 1, 1960, is required to successfully complete an approved hunter education course. The online course is fee-based and can be taken at [huntered.com/Michigan](http://huntered.com/Michigan). Students completing the online course followed by the field day must present a copy of their certificate of completion (voucher) for the online course at the start of the field day.

All participants must have successfully completed the online hunter education course prior to registering for the field day.

About the field day:

- Four-hour course.
- Written test (80% or better to pass) and practice assessment (pass/fail).
- No minimum age requirement; however, students under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or other adult approved by parent or legal guardian.

FEE: This is free event.

[Register for Hunter Education: Field Day.](#)

## Get outside

### Birding Belle Isle

Sunday, Oct. 8

Sunday, Nov. 12

Sunday, Dec. 10

9-11 a.m.

As an island of green surrounded by the Detroit River, Belle Isle is fantastic spot for birding any time of year. We'll meet near the entrance to the island just past the toll booth, west of the MacArthur Bridge, then caravan to different locations according to where the birds are! For our October, November, and December programs, we'll likely focus on a mixture of migrant waterbirds in the Detroit River and island lagoons and songbirds within wooded areas. Dress for the weather - it is often colder and windier near the river. Staff will provide a spotting scope to share among guests, and a limited number of binoculars will be available for loan. All skill levels welcome.

FEE: This is a free outdoor event. A Recreation Passport is required for entry to the park.

Preregistration required.

[Register for Birding Belle Isle Oct. 8.](#)

[Register for Birding Belle Isle Nov. 12.](#)

[Register for Birding Belle Isle Dec. 10.](#)

### Birding Sterling State Park

Sunday, Oct. 15

9-11 a.m.

Sterling State Park includes Lake Erie shoreline, marsh, and grassland habitat, making it a unique birding location within our state park system. October should bring a mixture of migrant songbirds, waterbirds, and raptors to this beautiful park. We will meet in the small trailhead parking lot, between the north and south lagoons. The trail is paved and flat. Staff will provide a spotting scope to share among guests, and a limited number of binoculars will be available for loan. All skill levels welcome.

This is an offsite event located at Sterling State Park, 2800 State Park Road., Monroe, MI 48162.

FEE: This is a free outdoor event. A Recreation Passport is required for entry to the park.

Preregistration required.

[Register for Birding Sterling State Park.](#)

### Family Hikes – Let's Explore

Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m.

This hike series is generously sponsored by Bearpaw Shoes.

Get outdoors with the family and explore our wonderful Michigan state parks! Hikes will begin at the destinations listed below, not at the OAC. Preregistration required for each hike.

Participants will receive a DNR Stamp and Go Guide at their first hike, and a stamp for each park visited during the Family Hiking Series.

Week 1 – Oct. 19: Milliken State Park in Detroit

Week 2 – Nov. 2: Belle Isle Park in Detroit

Week 3 – Nov. 16: Maybury State Park in Northville

Week 4 – Nov. 30: Milliken State Park in Detroit

FEE: \$5 per family

Preregistration required.

[Register for Family Hikes – Let's Explore.](#)

### Mushroom Walk at Maybury State Park

Sunday, Oct. 1

8-10 a.m.

Join the Outdoor Adventure Center and local forager Lorenzo Lo Piccolo for a hike at Maybury State Park! We will explore some of the park's wooded trails to observe, identify, and learn a bit more about mushrooms of Michigan.

Meeting location details will be emailed to pre-registered participants prior to the program.

FEE: This is a free outdoor event. A Recreation Passport is required for entry to Maybury State Park

Preregistration required.

[Register for Mushroom Walk at Maybury State Park.](#)

### Take-A-Hike-Day

Saturday, Nov. 18

2-3 p.m.

Join us as we stroll around Milliken State Park, and the Outdoor Adventure Center looking for various facts about the park, a scavenger hunt, and taking photos of our beautiful wildlife.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

### Zombie Pets on Parade

Saturday, Oct. 28

1-2 p.m.

Pets in costume parade around Milliken State Park and down the Dequindre Cut. Pets are encouraged to be dressed up in costume. We will stop along the way and discuss Halloween myths and fun facts about different animals related to Halloween. We recommend joining the fun at the start time. No pets will be allowed to enter the Outdoor Adventure Center.

FEE: This is a free outdoor event.

## Grown-Up Gatherings

### Pewabic Tile Workshop

Friday, Oct. 6

6-8:30 p.m.

Join the OAC and Pewabic Pottery for a tile clay workshop! Pewabic Street Team will provide blank tiles and supporting materials for you create your own tile to keep or give as a gift.

Tiles will take four to six weeks for processing and must be picked up at Pewabic Pottery.

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

FEE: \$35 per person This event is subject to cancellation if minimum attendance is not met.

Preregistration required.

[Register for Pewabic Tile Workshop.](#)



## Holiday Craft Night

Friday, Nov. 17

6-8:30 p.m.

Grab your friends and family to kick off the holiday season with the OAC. Your evening will be filled with making your own holiday wreath and a custom stamp for your holiday gift tags. Join us for what will surely be an evening of creativity and joy at the OAC!

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

FEE: \$30 per person This event is subject to cancellation if minimum attendance is not met.

Preregistration required.

[Register for Holiday Craft Night.](#)

## Just for Fun

### Indoor Snowball Fights and Indoor Prize Fishing

Sunday, Dec. 17

Saturday, Dec. 23

Saturday, Dec. 30

Noon-3 p.m.

Michigan is famous for its snowy, frigid winter season. Come sample some exciting winter activities at the Outdoor Adventure Center, in the comfort of a heated building! We will have indoor “snowball fights” and “prize fishing”!

This is a drop-in event and may end earlier depending on the number of participants and amount of supplies.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

## National Bison Awareness Day

Saturday, Nov. 4

2-3 p.m.

You see them on coins, on team logos, even on state flags. This honor is reserved for our North

American bison, on National Bison Day. This year we will celebrate our bison with a teaching table and more. Join us in learning about the history of one of our national treasures.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

## National Ugly Sweater Day

Saturday, Dec. 16

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Come celebrate National Ugly Sweater Day with us! Explore the OAC while enjoying the festive holiday decorations and festivities while wearing your ugly sweater.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

### Reindeer Games

Saturday, Dec. 16

1:30-3 p.m.

Bring your competitive edge to the OAC's official Reindeer Games! Team up with your family to dash, dance, and prance through our challenges, and take home a fun prize.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

### Just for Kids

#### Little Cub and Explorers Club!

Why not share all the fun together? We've decided to try out a new format for our former Cub Club and Young Explorers programs, inviting all participants ages 3-10 for a combined experience, with separate focus activities for the different age groups. We'll explore a different topic each month, beginning with an introductory activity for everyone, followed by two choices for age-appropriate activities – one for Little Cubs (ages 3-6) and one for Explorers (ages 7-10). Little Cubs will enjoy crafts and a story time, and Explorers will dive a little deeper into science and exploration. Note that activities for the Explorers will last approximately 30 minutes longer than those for Little Cubs. Activities may or may not include outdoor exploration, so please come prepared for the weather!

#### Little Cub and Explorers Club: Night Flight

Saturday, Oct. 14

10:30 a.m.-noon

Bats and owls are just some of the animals we think about around this time of year. Join us for an exploration of the similarities and differences between some of our favorite nocturnal flyers!

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

Preregistration required.

[Register for Little Cub and Explorers Club: Night Flight.](#)

#### Little Cub and Explorers Club: Terrific Turkeys

Saturday, Nov. 18

10:30 a.m.-noon

What do a gobble and a purr have in common? They are both sounds made by an interesting bird – the wild turkey! Join us to learn more about toms, jakes, hens and poults in this session focused on this symbol of the Thanksgiving season. We'll explore what turkeys eat, their family life and their habits throughout the seasons.

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

Preregistration required.

[Register for Little Cub and Explorers Club: Terrific Turkeys.](#)

Little Cub and Explorers Club: Animals in Winter

Saturday, Dec. 9

10:30 a.m.-noon

It's beginning to look a lot like winter! And the animals have noticed. Join us to explore how different kinds of animals, from amphibians to birds to mammals, survive and even thrive through the cold winter months.

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

Preregistration required.

[Register for Little Cub and Explorers Club: Animals in Winter.](#)

## Scouts

ScOutdoor Adventure: Girl Scouts

Saturday, Nov. 11

1-4 p.m.

Join us for our annual Girl Scout badge workshop day! Brownies, Juniors, and Cadettes will have the opportunity to meet requirements towards various badges and receive patches for attending this day of programming. This is not a drop-off program; Scouts must be accompanied by a paid adult during the program. Preregistration required for all attendees (Scouts and family members). This event is subject to cancellation if minimum attendance is not met. A portion of the event will be held outside rain or shine; please dress for the weather. Click the registration link to learn more details for each level.

Please note that check-in for ScOutdoor Adventure begins at 12:30 p.m.; Scouts must complete check in by 1 p.m. or they will miss their first session.

OAC educators will address components of the following badges: Brownie: Outdoor Art Creator, Eco Friend, Hiker.

Junior: Animal Habitats, Camper, Eco Camper

Cadette: Archery (all steps will be addressed)

FEE: \$16 per Scout.

Preregistration is required for all attendees (Scouts AND family members).

[Register for ScOutdoor Adventure: Girl Scouts.](#)

## Live Animals

### Leslie Science Center Presents Walking Up the Food Chain

Sunday, Nov. 5

1-2 p.m.

Help us build a food chain by meeting 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.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

MEMBER BENEFIT: Early seating beginning at 12:45 p.m. for Leslie Science Center.

## Special Events

### NEW THIS YEAR: Michigan DNR Showcase will be part of The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Harvest Fest and Food Truck Rally!

Saturday, Oct. 7

Sunday, Oct. 8

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Learn more about Michigan's natural resources, parks, trails and more! The fisheries division will have lots of great information and hands on practice opportunities for those wanting to learn to fish. DNR Law Enforcement Division will have vehicles, career information and more. Friends from the Forest Resources Division will have some hands-on activities and interactive fun with a Smokey Bear attraction. The Michigan Department of Agriculture Department will have food safety and nutrition information and activities. The Outdoor Adventure Center will have activities, crafts and games.

Find us at close to the Franklin Street entrance of this terrific event.

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy invites you and your family to the [Detroit Harvest Fest and Food Truck Rally](#)! Featuring 50+ food trucks, six music stages and fun Harvest Fest Activities for the whole family. Admission to the Harvest Fest and Food Truck Rally is \$5 at the gate and FREE for children under 3.

### Homeschool Hangout: An Academic Adventure

Thursday, Oct. 26

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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.

This event features programs for students grade K-8. Visit the registration link for program details.

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

Preregistration required.

[Register for Homeschool Hangout: An Academic Adventure.](#)

## Cookies With Mrs. Claus

Saturday, Nov. 25

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

We are getting in the holiday spirit with Mrs. Santa Claus! Join us to decorate holiday cookies with the best baker at the North Pole. Each child will be given a cookie kit – this will include two graham crackers, frosting, sprinkles and tools to decorate. Children will also learn the reindeer macarena. Fees and toys will be donated to the Sergeant Santa Holiday Toy Drive. Toys will be distributed in cooperation with Michigan DNR conservation officers and City of Detroit police officers.

FEE: \$10 (payable onsite) or a new, unwrapped new toy for our holiday toy drive. Program fee or gift includes one cookie kit per child. Regular admission rates apply.

## Annual Holiday Toy Drive “Stuff a Truck,” Michigan DNR and City of Detroit Police Department

Friday, Nov. 24, and Saturday, Nov. 25

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Outdoor Adventure Center is kicking off our “Stuff a Truck” toy donation drive with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Michigan DNR conservation officers and City of Detroit police officers are collecting toys for their annual event, aiming to collect enough toys to fill the back of a Conservation Officer’s patrol truck! All donated toys will be distributed through the Detroit Sergeant Santa program and shared with deserving, local children. We can only accept new, unwrapped toys. Families who bring donations for the toy drive (unwrapped toys or cash) can get complimentary photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus in front of our big tree. Regular admission rates still apply.

Can’t make it for the toy drive kickoff dates? We will be collecting donations the first two weeks in December – stop by during our regular hours of operation or have your donation shipped directly to: DNR Outdoor Adventure Center TOY DRIVE, 1801 Atwater St., Detroit, MI 48207.

## The More You Know

### Halloween Animal Mythbusters

Saturday, Oct. 28

1-2 p.m.

Are owls really wise? Are bats really blind? Come learn the truth behind some of our most misunderstood animals. We'll play some wildlife trivia, observe animal features up close and have an opportunity to make something to take home with you. All activities will focus on popular animals of Halloween.

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.

## STEM Family Night

Thursday, Nov. 16

6-8 p.m.

Design is Everywhere!" Tap into the amazing superpowers of the plants and animals all around us and let nature inspire you. All families are welcome to come and participate in this hands-on exploration of biomimicry. Prepare your family to learn, create, and experience the worlds of fashion, architecture, sport, and invention through the lens of the natural world. Presented in partnership with the Metropolitan Museum of Design Detroit.

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

Preregistration is required

[Register for STEM Family Night.](#)

## Mushrooms of Michigan

Saturday, Dec. 2

2-3 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what goes into fungi foraging? Join Lorenzo Lo Piccolo to learn about Michigan's mushrooms. This presentation will include fungi facts and anatomy, foraging and safety tips, foraging etiquette and sustainability details, information on mushroom poisoning, and a search and identification activity!

Lorenzo Lo Piccolo began foraging in the early 2000s. What began as a springtime mushroom interest quickly became a long passion to forage and appreciate local fungi and plants and their mutual connections. Lorenzo holds a Mushroom Certification in Michigan from NAMI/MDARD and enjoys sharing his foraging experiences in local public libraries and guided park tours. He posts all his findings on Instagram [@lorenzo.funginus](#).

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

Preregistration is required

[Register for Mushrooms of Michigan.](#)

## Wild Science Saturdays

1-2 p.m.

There's always more to nature than meets the eye! We'll take an in-depth look at the science behind natural phenomena with hands-on activities one Saturday each month.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

## Vampires, Zombies and Robots, Oh My!

Oct. 14

Some of our Halloween monsters have real-life versions in the animal kingdom. Find out more about these critters and how they are inspiring science.

Meet one of these critters up close and snap a selfie!

## Celebrating World Travelers

Nov. 18

Why do birds leave when winter arrives? And how do they know where they are going? Migration is a perilous journey yet so many animals make the trek. How can we learn from them and help them survive? Play a game and make a craft to take home!

## Surviving the Deep Freeze

Dec. 9

A frog ice cube? A heart that beats only four times in one minute?! Learn about the ways wildlife survive the winter and how science is using some of these techniques. Try your hand (literally!) at comparing different survival techniques.

## Recreation Passport

[Cost, where to purchase and details](#) (increases effective March 1, 2023):

- Vehicles: \$13 when purchased with your license plate registration renewal through the Secretary of State.
- Vehicles: \$18 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 = \$18).
- Motorcycles: \$7 when purchased with your license plate registration renewal through the Secretary of State.
- Motorcycles: \$12 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 (Recreation Passport fee + \$5 convenience fee = \$12).
- Moped: \$7 when purchased at state parks.
- Commercial daily pass \$20 when purchased at state parks (24k+ 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 \$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 (i.e., 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.

## Contact information

Outdoor Adventure Center  
1801 Atwater St.  
Detroit, Michigan 48207  
844-OAC-MDNR (844-622-6367)  
[Michigan.gov/OAC](https://Michigan.gov/OAC)  
[DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov)

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

Visit [Michigan.gov/OAC](https://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](https://Michigan.gov/DNR).