

# DNR Outdoor Adventure Center newsletter

## Fall and winter 2021

### Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure staff

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### Hours of Operation\*

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

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.  
Sunday: Closed

### Closed Oct. 16 and 17

We will be closed due to several road closures for the Free Press Marathon Oct. 16-17.

### Holiday hours

Wednesday, Nov. 24: Open  
Thursday, Nov. 25: Closed  
Friday, Nov. 26: Open  
Saturday, Nov. 27: Open  
Sunday, Nov. 28: Closed  
Wednesday, Dec. 22: Open  
Thursday, Dec. 23: Closed  
Friday, Dec. 24: Closed  
Saturday, Dec. 25: Closed  
Sunday, Dec. 26: Open  
Wednesday, Dec. 29: Open  
Thursday, Dec. 30: Closed  
Friday, Dec. 31: Closed  
Saturday, Jan. 1: Closed

Sunday, Jan. 2: Open

## 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](mailto: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\*:

- Floors are washed or vacuumed daily.
- Private field trip: On days that the OAC is closed to the public, we will schedule private field trips with your school to reduce COVID exposure. Email [DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov) for more information.
- 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.
- Private appointment-only and 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 trips  
We will be open on Fridays to the public and for field trips as they were scheduled pre-COVID. Visit [Michigan.gov/OAC](https://Michigan.gov/OAC) to view offerings and to register.
- Private field trips  
On days the OAC is closed to the public, we will schedule private field trips with your school to reduce COVID exposure. Email [DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov) for more information.
- Virtual education sessions  
Bring our educational sessions to your classroom via live instruction on Zoom. Visit the [OAC website](#) to view offerings and to register.

## 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:

Saturday, Dec. 4, 3-4:30 p.m.

Reg Pettibone's Authentic Native American Program

Member benefit: Early seating for members

## Let's get back to meeting!

Whether it's an in-person or hybrid meeting, sequel wedding, reception, family reunion or different event, we have the space for you. Please contact our promotional agent, Jackie Hoskins, at 1-844-622-6367 or email [DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov) for more information on future bookings or to arrange a site visit of the event spaces at the Outdoor Adventure Center.

## Attention Scouts!

Our Scout badge workshops are receiving an upgrade. During this time, we are processing each request on an individual basis. [Submit your request for a Scout badge workshop](#).

## Educator's Corner

### Trying something new

By Casey Jezewski

This past year I had some extra time on my hands, like many people did, so I decided to try out some new hobbies. I experimented with bread baking, but I could never get the dough to rise properly. I gave embroidery a shot, but I could never sit still long enough to finish anything. I found that my favorite new activity was done in the great outdoors: snowshoeing. The previous spring, I had been browsing the aisles of a discount sporting goods store when I saw two pairs of beautiful blue snowshoes, and they were on sale! I knew I had to get them, even though warmer weather had just arrived. When winter finally came back around, I had somewhat forgotten about the snowshoes. I was busy unpacking from our recent move, the holidays came and went, and then all of a sudden it was February! Late in the month there was a heavy snowfall, and I decided it was probably our last chance to try out the snowshoes.

We bundled up, hopped in the car, and headed to our local metropark. We had planned on walking a 3-mile loop trail to enjoy the scenery and do some winter birding. We were on a rarely used trail, so the snow had not been packed down yet. Walking through the fresh powder was more difficult than I thought it would be, as I started working up a sweat. It was quite chilly that day, but it certainly didn't feel cold once we got moving with all those layers on. We got about halfway around the trail when we realized we were advancing at a much slower pace than we normally would. It takes much longer to walk three miles when there are several inches of snow on the ground, even with snowshoes on. We decided to take a shortcut back to the parking lot, rather than finish the loop. Next time we would be better prepared.

Even though we turned in early, the experience was very enjoyable. We were the only two people on that trail, so it felt like we were exploring some secluded faraway land. In actuality, we were still within Wayne County.

One of the beauties of snowshoeing is that you can do it anywhere. You don't have to take a long drive up to northern Michigan. You can snowshoe in a neighborhood park, or even in your own backyard. You also don't even have to purchase snowshoes to enjoy the sport. Many sporting goods or outdoor gear stores have them available for rent, as well as some parks. If the weather allows, the Outdoor Adventure Center offers snowshoeing for all ages at our outdoor winter activity programs. Michiganders are lucky to experience all four seasons in our great state, and there are plenty of things to enjoy outside no matter what time of year it is. I encourage everyone to try something new while exploring the outdoors. Even if you don't find your favorite new hobby, you will make memories along the way.

I normally prefer the sun and waves over the cold and snow, but winter can actually be one of the best times to enjoy the outdoors. The cold keeps many people inside, so outdoor spaces are less crowded.

The snow acts as a beautiful blanket on the ground and trees, and there are no pesky mosquitoes! Just the sound of your crunching footsteps and the occasional song of a bird that might stick around through the cold. Keep your ears open for the quintessential chickadee-dee-dee call of the black-capped chickadee, or the chipping sound of a northern cardinal. As long as you are dressed properly, winter in Michigan can be just as fun as soaking up the sun on one of our Great Lakes.

## You should visit ... [Maybury State Park](#)

Maybury State Park features almost 1,000 acres of gently rolling terrain, open meadow, mature forest, a variety of wildlife, abundant wildflowers and a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Maybury State Park is a busy day-use park, one of the few state parks serving the Detroit metro area. An oasis of lush, green forest amidst developed land, the park is a place for visitors to connect with nature on its miles of varied trails. The state acquired the land in 1971 from the City of Detroit following the closure of the Maybury Sanatorium that once occupied the site.

Containing almost 1,000 acres of gently rolling terrain, open meadow and mature forest, the park offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities including an extensive trail system for hiking, biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing, youth organizational camping, fishing, educational programming, a riding stable and a working farm. Maybury Riding Stable operates the park's riding stable April through November (as weather permits) and offers guided and group horseback rides, lessons and summer camps. Contact the stable at 734-260-8314.

The park's track chair is available for visitors with mobility challenges to explore the park. These off-road, electronic chairs are available first come, first reserved at no cost.

Drone use is prohibited over equestrian facilities and trails, including the Maybury Equestrian Trail, Maybury Riding Stable, Horseman's Staging Area and portions of Maybury Farm.

Contact the park office to reserve the youth organizational campground or ball field and for events at 248-349-8390.

Thanks to the Friends of Maybury State Park for supporting the park. Additional support is provided by the Maybury Trail Riders Association and the Motor City Mountain Bike Association.

## Special events

### [Homeschool Hangout: An Academic Adventure](#)

Friday, Nov. 5, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 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.

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

Preregistration required. [Register for Homeschool Hangout.](#)

## 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 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. Participants must be 8 years of age or older. All equipment is provided. Limited to eight participants per half-hour session. 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 at 3 p.m. and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

- Saturday, Nov. 13, 2:30-3 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 11, 2:30-3 p.m.

## Safety first: Hunter Safety Course

Hunter Safety Course Field Day

Saturday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. OR  
Saturday, Oct. 9, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This event is being hosted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division. Portions of the field day will be outdoors, so please dress for the weather. No meals will be provided. We recommend bringing a bag lunch. All other course materials and supplies will be provided. All participants must have successfully completed the online Hunter Education Course prior to registering for the field day.

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 January 1, 1960, is required to successfully complete an approved hunter education course. The online course is fee-based and can be taken at [Hunter-Ed.com/Michigan](http://Hunter-Ed.com/Michigan).

About the field day:

- Written test (80% or better to pass) and practice assessment (pass/fail).
- No minimum age requirement; however, students under 10 years of age shall be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or other adult approved by parent or legal guardian.

FEE: Free.

## OAC Festi'fall Weekend

### Zombie Pets on Parade

Saturday, Oct. 9, noon - 1:30 p.m.

Pet Halloween 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 of different animals related to 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.

### Wildlife Boo-ologist

Saturday, Oct. 9, 2-3 p.m.

Do you have what it takes to be a wildlife boo-ologist? We will use our sense of touch to determine what mysterious features of some of our favorite "Halloween" wildlife are hidden within mystery buckets at this drop-in exhibit.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

### Halloween Animal Mythbuster

Saturday, Oct. 9, 3-4 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.

## 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.

### Be a Snake Scientist

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2-3 p.m.

Michigan is home to 18 species of snakes, and some of them live right nearby! This program will focus on a few of the snake species that inhabit our region. We will practice our snake ID skills, learn about the different needs of different snakes and debunk some myths about these misunderstood reptiles. You'll even get a chance to get up close and personal with a live snake!

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

### Mammal Track Casting

Saturday, Dec. 11, 2-4 p.m.

Learn about some of Michigan's mammals, big and small. We will have a hands-on exhibit for all ages and the opportunity to make your very own mammal track cast to take home.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

## Get Outside

### Birding the Riverfront

Saturday, Oct. 2, 3-4:30 p.m.

October is a great time to observe migratory birds. We will take a walk along the riverfront to view the birds that either call Detroit home or are just passing through to their wintering grounds. Whether you are new to birdwatching or an expert birder, all are welcome at this program! We will have a limited number of binoculars to borrow. 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.

### Senior Stroll: Autumn in the Park

Saturday, Nov. 6, 2-3 p.m.

Is your senior group looking for a new experience? We have a great new adventure for your consideration. Join us at the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center for a self-guided experience and attend a special fall stroll and learn about the wonderful Milliken State Park and the historic landmarks. Bring your cameras to take some fall pictures.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

## Grown-Up Gatherings

### Friend Fridays: Holiday Craft Night

Friday, Nov. 12, 6:30-8:30 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 surely will 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. Locally sourced beverages from Detroit Vineyards and Atwater Brewery, along with apple cider, water and light snacks, will be served during the program.

Fee: \$25 per person.

Preregistration required.

This program is subject to cancelation if minimum enrollment is not reached. Must be 21 or older with a picture ID.

[Register for Friend Fridays: Holiday Craft Night.](#)

## Just for Fun

### Do Something Nice

Saturday, Nov. 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Join us in making friendship cards and decorating painted rocks of friendship, along with more arts and crafts. We will leave friendship rocks throughout Milliken State Park and take one home or give to a friend.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

### Make 'n Take a Turkey

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

Stop by our craft table and create a turkey for friends and family.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

### Winter Indoor/Outdoor Family Fun Games

Saturday, Dec. 4, 3-4:30 p.m.

Join us for some family winter fun games, both indoor and outdoor. Activities may include sledding, snow painting and more (weather permitting), along with indoor family games, table games, Connect Four, corn hole and more.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

### Indoor Snowball Fights and Indoor Prize Fishing

Saturday, Dec. 18 at noon

Sunday, Dec. 26 at noon

Michigan is famous for its snowy, frigid winter season. Come experience some exciting winter activities at the Outdoor Adventure Center, but 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.

## Just for Kids

### Young Explorers - Be a Junior Hawkwatcher! (Part 1)

Saturday, Oct. 2, 10:30 a.m. - noon



Calling all kids, ages 7-10, who want to learn about and explore local nature and wildlife! For each program, participants can add to a nature journal, which they make here and bring back with them each time. October's program will focus on a Detroit River phenomenon, migrating hawks! We'll learn how to identify some hawk species in flight and complete some of the activities in the Detroit River Hawkwatch Junior Hawkwatcher booklet. We hope you'll join us for Part 2 of the program, on-site at Detroit River Hawkwatch at Lake Erie Metropark on Sunday, Oct. 17.

## Young Explorers - Be a Junior Hawkwatcher in the field! (Part 2)

Sunday, Oct. 17, 1-3 p.m.

Drop in on-site at the Detroit River Hawkwatch at Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown for Part 2! Join staff from the OAC, Lake Erie Metropark and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge to practice your hawk ID skills in the field! We'll work together to complete required activities in the Junior Hawkwatcher booklet, and participants will receive a certificate of completion! Visit [DetroitRiverHawkwatch.org](http://DetroitRiverHawkwatch.org) to learn more about the Detroit River Hawkwatch project.

Lake Erie Metropark  
32481 W. Jefferson  
Brownstown, MI

The site is located at the boat launch within the park.

\*Note that a \$10 daily or \$40 annual vehicle pass is required for entry to the Huron-Clinton Metroparks.\*

Preregistration required. [Register for Young Explorers - Be a Junior Hawkwatcher! \(Part 2\)](#).

## Intro to Hawkwatching

By Natalie Cypher

As a naturalist, educator and all-around wildlife enthusiast, I feel beyond fortunate on a regular basis that my work allows me to combine several passions – my love of nature, teaching and sharing. I have worked for many years in interpretation and environmental education in the Metro Detroit area, and currently, I work as an educator for the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit. The OAC opened in July 2015 and is located near the heart of downtown Detroit. One of our many goals as a natural resource education institution located in an urban area is to introduce new audiences to the outdoors – perhaps even introduce a new favorite hobby. While I certainly enjoy introducing camping, fishing, nature observation and birding to new audiences ... what is my favorite hobby to introduce? HAWKWATCHING!

Lucky for me, I live and work in the perfect location – on the Detroit River and the site of the Detroit River Hawkwatch. DRHW is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is supported by the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Alliance. The actual count site is located at Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown, Michigan, where the Detroit River meets the western edge of Lake Erie. Hawks migrating south from their northern breeding grounds may follow one of several routes around the Great Lakes, and one of those routes funnels them right over the boat launch at Lake Erie Metropark. You can learn more about the migration over DRHW at [DetroitRiverHawkwatch.org](http://DetroitRiverHawkwatch.org). I've visited the count site for several years and "oohed" and "ahhed" at the sights of the thousands of kettling broad-winged hawks in September and the coveted golden eagles in November.

I was even fortunate enough to be an official counter in the fall of 2016 (best job ever!). While counting hawks was a spectacular job, teaching about hawks is particularly rewarding.

When I learned about the Hawk Migration Association of North America Junior Hawkwatcher program that was started at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, I thought, "Okay, we need that here, and I want to do it!" It was a no-brainer. The Outdoor Adventure Center supports several forms of raptor education through our school programming and public programming. Some of our favorite public education programs to host are live bird of prey programs – who doesn't love to look into the round, black eyes of a barred owl or feel the wind from the wing flapping of a bald eagle? These

programs are fascinating and entertaining. They draw large crowds, folks ask many questions, and they are a fantastic opportunity to light a spark in learners of all ages and inspire a conservation ethic for our birds of prey. But I feel that one of our most impactful programs was our version of the Junior Hawkwatcher program.

Thanks to DRHW's rockstar volunteer and photographer Jerry Jourdan, we have a Junior Hawkwatcher activity booklet specific to DRHW. The Junior Hawkwatcher program drew a dedicated crowd – kids who love birds and especially hawks. A kid who could tell me all about peregrine falcons – before attending the program. A kid who drew the migrant turkey vultures in flight over the “stacks” – the smokestacks of the Trenton DTE Power Plant, one of the important landmarks within the count site – in his nature journal that he brought with him. I was on cloud nine. These kids were engaged. After an initial introductory indoor program at the OAC, part two of our Junior Hawkwatcher program convened at the DRHW site, and our dedicated participants were awarded a certificate of completion for the program. It was a beautiful mid-October day, and our migrant turkey vultures put on a great show for special young guests. This I was grateful for, because all hawkwatchers know that the opportunity to marvel at big, low-altitude kettling birds is not a given; it often must be earned with hours spent staring at an empty sky. You know what I mean. But that day the stars aligned. As a perfect bonus to the program, hawk bander and raptor rehabilitator extraordinaire Dave Hogan managed to lure in and band a juvenile female Cooper's hawk that morning, which I could not pass up the opportunity to share. This particularly ornery Cooper's hawk was not so excited about the whole thing, but what she didn't know is that she was a fantastic ambassador for her species and provided an opportunity that our participants will never forget (and I left puncture-wound-free – otherwise it would have been memorable for the wrong reason!).

After a brief talk about Cooper's hawks and their migration, we snapped some photos for memories, and released her on her way! Hawkwatching may not be for everyone – it does require a strong interest, patience and dedication. But these kids had it, and I was so happy to work with them and their families. We do hope to continue our partnership with Detroit River Hawkwatch and HMANA for this valuable program. Valuable for the partners involved, fun for the kids and families, and beneficial for the hawks. A win, win, win. This program is in the books as one of my most rewarding, and I can't wait to do it again. The 2021 Junior Hawkwatcher program will take place 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 3, at the Outdoor Adventure Center and Sunday, Oct. 17 at the Detroit River Hawkwatch site at Lake Erie Metropark. We hope you'll join us for both dates, but attendance at both is not required for the program.

Happy hawkwatching!

### [Cub Club: Terrific Turkeys](#)

Saturday, Nov. 27, 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 that interesting bird – our wild turkey!

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.

Preregistration required. [Register for Cub Club: Terrific Turkeys.](#)

### [Cub Club: Food Chains](#)

Saturday, Dec. 11, 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 the relationships between different animals on a food chain. 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.

Preregistration required. [Register for Cub Club: Food Chains.](#)

## Young Explorers: Whitetail Ways

Saturday, Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Calling all kids ages 7-10 who want to learn about and explore our local nature and wildlife! For each program we will add to a nature journal, which participants can make here and bring back each time. For November's program, we'll take a look at Michigan's state mammal, the white-tailed deer! We'll learn what it's like to be a deer in Michigan throughout the year, what makes them unique, and how you can age a deer based on its teeth.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

Preregistration required. [Register for Young Explorers: Whitetail Ways.](#)

## The More You Know

### Elk in Michigan

Saturday, Oct. 30, 3-4 p.m.

Have you ever seen an elk in the wild? Did you know you can see them in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula? Join us to learn about this magnificent animal and their history in Michigan. This will be a formal presentation with a variety of hands-on opportunities. We recommend joining the fun at the start time.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

### Micro Exploration

Saturday, Nov. 13, 1-2:30 p.m.

Let's get an up-close look at the fine details that exist in nature. From the ridges of a flower petal and the barbs on a feather to the hair on a mammal pelt, we will explore a variety of natural features. We will use a digital microscope for our observations during this program.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

### Reg Pettibone's Authentic Native American Program

Saturday, Dec. 4, 3-4:30 p.m.

Reg Pettibone, a full-blooded native American and champion pow-wow dancer of the Ho-Chunk nation, and his wife will present a true understanding of Native American culture through dance, song and stories. Audience participation and an artifacts display are included.

Fee: Included with the price of admission. Member benefit: Early seating.

### Story of Our Sturgeon

Saturday, Dec. 4, 1-2 p.m.

Come hear the fascinating story of this giant fossil fish – the lake sturgeon! Due to successful habitat restoration projects in the St. Clair and Detroit rivers, this species has been making a great comeback, right outside the windows of the OAC! You'll also have the chance to meet our live lake sturgeon up-close!

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

## Thrilling Thursdays

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.

### October Thrilling Thursday: Night Flight

Thursday, Oct. 28, 6-8 p.m.

Owls, bats, moths and more! October is a perfect month to appreciate our nocturnal neighbors. Join us for a complimentary evening to explore the adaptations of Michigan's nighttime fliers.

Fee: Complimentary admission.

## Who Wore It Best?

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

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

## 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+ 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 (i.e., 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.

## 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](mailto: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 nontransferable.

### 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](mailto: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 [Michigan.gov/OAC](http://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 [Michigan.gov/DNR](http://Michigan.gov/DNR).