

FALL & WINTER

Nature Education Programs

OAKLAND
COUNTY PARKS
OaklandCountyParks.com

OCTOBER 2024 - MARCH 2025

REGISTER ONLINE NOW! →

Must-know information for all programs: Programs may take place outdoors or have an outdoor component. Dress for the weather. Outdoor footwear and attire are recommended. In case of inclement weather, programs may be cancelled or rescheduled. Please do not attend a program if you are ill. Refunds will be issued for illness or inclement weather.



INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK

9501 Sashabaw Road
Clarkston, MI 48348
248-625-6473

Preregistration with payment required.
Call 248-625-6473 for registration

Potions Class

Sat. Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Explore the strange world of acid-base chemistry in this program. We will look into how some natural pigments change color with acidity and learn about the role of pH in nature. Suitable for ages 8+. **\$5/person.**



Wizards Star Party

Sat. Nov. 16, 1-3 p.m.

Make a potion, decipher every flavor beans and more. Wear costumes or show off your house colors! Suitable for ages 6+. **\$5/person.**



Kids Holiday Camp

Sat. Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Check out a morning of kids-only holiday fun! This program will consist of learning about animal adaptations, making a holiday gift for someone special, a game and more. Suitable for ages 5-10 years old. A release form is required with registration. **\$5/child.**

Happy Birthday Michigan

Sat. Jan. 25, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Did you know that the state of Michigan's birthday is Jan. 26? Join us for a birthday celebration featuring Michigan history, fun facts and a Michigan-themed craft. Suitable for all ages. **\$5/person.**



Maple Sap to Syrup

Sat. Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m. -noon
OR 2-3:30 p.m.

Got a sweet tooth? Join us to learn the science and history to why maple sap, syrup, and sugar are so important to this region. Tap a log with a brace and bit and sample a sweet treat while you hear about sugaring techniques through the ages. Suitable for all ages. **\$5/person.**



X Marks the Spot

Sat. March 15, 2-4 p.m.

What are those leprechauns up to now? Learn the adventure of letterboxing as we solve clues to find the pot of gold in this interactive session of mischief and mayhem. Suitable for all ages. **\$5/person.**
An ASL Interpreter will be provided.



Preschool Programs



Children ages 3-6 can enjoy some nature fun as they increase their love of the outdoors.

A detailed program schedule is available on OaklandCountyParks.com. Each nature center has unique programming.

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Preregistration with payment is required for all nature center programs. Park entry fee waived if registered by end of business day prior to event. No walk-ins are allowed at this time. There is no refund for advance payment unless in case of illness or program is cancelled.

Register and pay: Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express are accepted. Call 248-858-0916 to register during regular business hours or call the nature centers during open hours.

Programs take place rain or shine. Dress for the weather as programs may be held outdoors. Programs will be cancelled if weather is inclement.



RED OAKS COUNTY PARK

30300 Hales St.
Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-585-0100

Preregistration with payment required.
Call 248-858-0916 for registration.



Sweetheart Stroll & Bonfire

Sat. Oct. 18, 6-7:30 p.m.

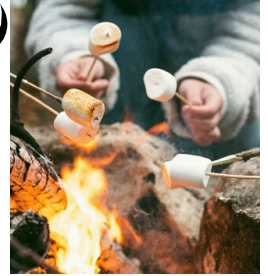
Celebrate Sweetest Day at this adults-only program. We'll start off learning about animal mating and courtship around a bonfire, then take a romantic nature walk around Friendship Woods. Suitable for ages 16+. **\$5/person.**



Winter Wonderland & Bonfire

Sat. Jan. 11, 2-3:30 p.m.

Love it or hate it, winter in Michigan is a big deal! Come learn what animals are doing during the winter, make a snow-themed craft and enjoy s'mores around a bonfire! Suitable for all ages. **\$5/person.** An ASL Interpreter will be provided.



Michigan's Native American Heritage

Sat. Nov. 23, 2-3:30 p.m.

Explore Michigan's Native American heritage through a storytelling session, traditional craft, discussions about indigenous perspectives on land stewardship and conservation. Afterwards take a guided hike. Suitable for all ages. **\$5/person.**



Sly Sneaky Squirrels

Sat. Feb. 1, 10:30 a.m.-noon

If you can't beat them, join them! Build your own squirrel feeder while exploring the nine species that call Michigan home. Our biggest, groundhogs, are even called weather predictors! Suitable for all ages. **\$5/person.**

Texturized Clay Tiles with Word Art

Sun. Dec. 1, 2-3 p.m.

Nature-inspired textures and personalized word art combine for unique tile decorations to gift or keep. Oven bake clay will need to be baked at home by an adult. All materials provided. Suitable for all ages. **\$5/person.**



Maple's Sweet Syrup

Sat. March 1, 2-4 p.m.

Michigan has a history steeped in maple sweetness. Learn about the sugaring process, tap a tree in our sugar bush and hike our storybook trail to read a maple story from Michigan author Elisa Kerr. Sample some maple treats and take home maple recipes. Suitable for all ages. **\$5/person.**



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Homeschool

Homeschool programs cover a wide range of hands-on, nature-centered educational topics.

All students are welcome – whether from a traditional homeschool, pod or virtual learning setting.

StarLab

StarLab is a portable, inflatable planetarium that brings the wonder of the night sky indoors. Take a naturalist-guided tour of the current night sky.

Scout Badge Work Field Trips

Attention troop leaders and parents of scouts: Both OCP nature centers offer year-round interactive sessions that meet Scouting America badge requirements for the badges offered. Programs for Scouts are available by appointment.



Field Trips

Field trip programs are available by appointment year-round (for a nominal fee) to school and youth groups, preschoolers, homeschoolers, scouts, seniors, church organizations and other community groups. Traveling programs include nature presentations, nature tables and more.

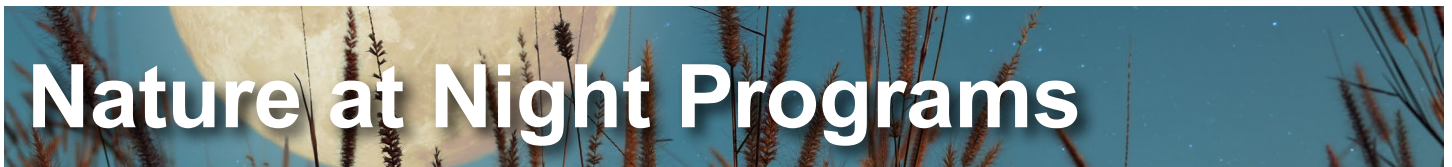
Email NatureEducation@oakgov.com for more information about field trip options.



Wellness Programs

Engaging with nature and being outdoors has many proven physical and mental benefits. From yoga and meditation to drum circles and forest bathing, wellness programming is available for all ages.

View upcoming wellness activities at OaklandCountyParks.com. Each nature center offers unique opportunities to connect with our natural surroundings.



Nature at Night Programs

Geminid Meteors Astro Evening

Fri. Dec. 13, 6-7 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Have an out of this world experience exploring the constellations of the current night sky in StarLab, our indoor, portable, inflatable planetarium. You'll meet Orion, Auriga, and so many more. Suitable for ages 6+. **\$5/person.**

Owl Prowl

Sat. Feb. 8, 6-8 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Uncover who's hootin' it up at night in Friendship Woods. Learn about our nocturnal neighbors, dissect their diets, and discover their specialized adaptations. Suitable for ages 6+. **\$5/person.**

Owl Prowl

Sat. Feb. 1, 5-7 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

Uncover who's hootin' it up at night in the woods at Independence Oaks. Learn about our nocturnal neighbors, dissect their diets, and discover their specialized adaptations. Suitable for ages 6+. **\$5/person.**

Sally Stroll

Fri. March 28, 7-9 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

Grab a headlamp and join us for a night hike around vernal pools. Learn to identify different salamanders and their egg masses and to appreciate the other creatures that call vernal pools their home. Suitable for ages 8+. **\$5/person.**