FALL & WINTER
Nature Education Programs

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS
OaklandCountyParks.com

OCTOBER 2025 - MARCH 2026

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. Refunds will be issued only for extenuating circumstances.

WINT NATURE CENTER

INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK
9501 Sashabaw Road
Clarkston, MI 48348
248-625-6473
NatureEducation@oakgov.com

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

Foraging Michigan Nuts and Seeds

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

Craft a foraging pouch then hit the trails for a guided foraging hike to learn how to identify, harvest and use various wild nuts and seeds. Note: Tastings/consumption of nuts and seeds will not be included. Suitable for all ages. **$5/person**.

Michigan Myths and Cryptids

Fri. Nov. 7, 5:30-7 p.m.

Dive deep into an investigation of Michigan's very own cryptids. Discuss the Dogman, Bigfoot, Nain Rouge, Not-Deer and more! Join us on an evening hike to look for the real animals that are often mistaken for these cryptids. Suitable for ages 8+. **$5/person**.

Celebrate the Solstice

Sat. Dec. 20, 10:30 a.m.-Noon

Celebrate the winter solstice by exploring traditions and legends that surround the shortest day of the year. Make a yule log to decorate your table or burn on the solstice. All supplies are included. Suitable for ages 8+. **$10/person**.

Snowflake Science

Sat. Jan. 31 2-3:30 p.m.

Some weird science enables the complex shapes of snowflakes. Take part in frozen experiments and observe natural snow if it's available. Suitable for all ages. **$5/person**.

An ASL Interpreter will be provided.

Winter Foods for Hungry lil Dudes

Sun. Feb. 22, 2-3:30 p.m

Discover the important plants, roots and nutrient sources that sustain wildlife during the roughest winter months. Make your own easy suet spread to take home and spread on branches in your backyard! Suitable for all ages. **$5/person**.

To the Sugar Shack

Sat. March 14, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. OR 2-4 p.m.

Ring in the maple season with our new mobile sugar shack! Explore the world of maple with a hands-on lesson on its history, science, and geography. See the sugaring process from tree to table and taste the result. Suitable for all ages. **$10/person**.

Preschool Programs

Children ages 3-6 can enjoy some nature fun as they increase their love for the outdoors through activities like hikes, crafts, and stories.

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. Walk-ins are accommodated as space allows. Refunds are issued only for extenuating circumstances.

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. For field trips and outreach inquiries, please use the booking request forms on the website or call or email the nature centers directly.

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
NatureEducation@oakgov.com

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

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS
OaklandCountyParks.com

Apple Cider Pressing

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

Try your hand at grinding apples and pressing cider, taste fresh Michigan cider and donuts and enjoy an early fall hike. Bring a pre-washed, light-colored T-shirt to decorate with apple and leaf prints. Suitable for all ages. **$5/person**.

An ASL Interpreter will be provided.

Oh Deer! Herd Hike

Sat. Nov. 15, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Dive deep into the natural history of Michigan's three deer species and discover all the things that wildlife managers watch for while maintaining the deer population. We'll hike to explore signs of resident deer. Suitable for all ages. **$5/person**.

Ye Ol' Yule Log

Sat. Dec. 13, 2-3:30 p.m.

Create a festive centerpiece as you learn the history of the Yule Log tradition. All supplies will be provided. Suitable for ages 8+. **$10/person**.

Portable Planetarium

Book our portable, inflatable planetarium to take a naturalist-guided tour of the wonder of the night sky indoors at your facility or at ours.

Click Here or visit OaklandCountyParks.com to learn more about our portable planetarium and how to book.

Homeschool

Homeschool programs cover a wide range of hands-on, nature-centered educational topics. Programs are designed as a drop-off format for students ages 6-13.

Click Here for a list of current Homeschool programs and information about how to register.

Field Trips

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

Click Here for a list of Nature Center Field Trip programs and information about how to book.

Ice Age Giants

Sat. Jan. 24, 2-3:30 p.m.

See and touch fossils from Michigan's frozen past. Compare the sizes and lifestyles of these cold-tolerant mammals as you get to know them. Delve into exciting research with DNA studies and replication that may reveal some ice-age genes in action today. Suitable for ages 8+. **$5/person**.

Snowshoes and Stamps

Sat. Feb. 21, 2-3:30 p.m.

Get inspired by the animals who popularized snowshoes. Make your own stamp craft and go outside to stamp around in snowshoes. If there's no snow, we'll take a wintery walk. Suitable for ages 8+. **$5/person**.

Maple Magic

Sat. Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. OR 2-4 p.m.

Be in the right place on Earth at the right time of year to experience the magic of maple with all your senses. See and hear the sap drip, smell the fresh, hot syrup and hold the tools of the maple trade. Start indoors, proceed to the sap collection and return to taste the rite of spring, maple sugar! Suitable for all ages. **$10/person**.

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For field trips and outreach inquiries, please use the booking request forms on the website or call or email the nature centers directly.

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

Scout Badge Work Field Trips

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

Field trip programs are available by appointment year-round (for a nominal fee) to school and youth groups, preschools, daycare centers, homeschool co-ops, scouts, seniors, church organizations and other community groups. Traveling programs include nature presentations, nature tables and more. Click here to visit general or school field trips page for offerings and to request a field trip or outreach.

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. Click here to view upcoming wellness activities at OaklandCountyParks.com.

Experience the parks in a whole new way by visiting after dark. Nature at night programs are led by experienced naturalists who share interesting facts about the nighttime sky and the activity that happens after the sun goes down.

Sunset on Mars
Sat. Nov. 15, 6-7 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Experience the fascinating phenomenon of a sunset on Mars from within our portable planetarium. The characteristic red of the Martian planet will be replaced by a subtle blue hue. We'll learn about Mars and human efforts to colonize the planet during this program. Suitable for school-aged children and adults. **$5/person**.

Superb Owl Hikes
Fri. Feb. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center, Sat. Feb. 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

Discover what adaptations make owls superb predators. Dissect an owl pellet and see examples of owl species before prowling through the forest as we call for wild owls this Super Bowl weekend. Suitable for ages 6+. **$5/person**.

Vernal Pool Stroll
Sat. March 28, 7-9 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

"Sala-meander" your way down to Wint Nature Center to look for salamanders, frogs, fairy shrimp and many other animals in the "coral reefs" of Northern forests: Vernal pools. Suitable for school-aged children and adults. **$5/person**.

Kids Holiday Mini Camp
Sat. Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Kids - come to the nature center for a morning of holiday fun including science experiments, a snack and holiday crafts you'll be able to take home to give to someone special. This is a kid's-only event, so leave your parents at the door! This program is suitable for ages 5-10 years old. A release form is required with registration. **$15/child**.

Let's Be Geologists Mini Camp
Sat. March 7, 1-3:30 p.m

Explore the science of Geology. Learn about how rocks are made, the different characteristics of rocks and much more by looking at real specimens and participating in hands-on activities. Plus, start your own rock collection. All supplies are included. This program is suitable for ages 5-10 years old. A release form is required with registration. **$15/child**.