FALL & WINTER
Nature Education Programs

Oakland County Parks

OCTOBER 2026 - MARCH 2027

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
OutdoorLearning@oakgov.com

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

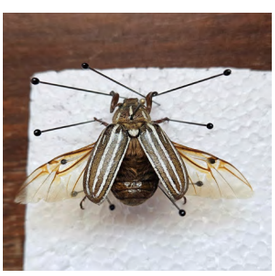
Apple Cider Pressing

Sat. Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-Noon

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. **$10/person**.

Vulture Culture - DIY Bug Pinning

Sun. Nov. 1, 2-4 p.m.



Preservation techniques, like taxidermy, bone cleaning and bug pinning, allow specimens to have a second life as educational tools and artistic décor. Take a hike to find specimens, learn about preservation techniques and create your own "vulture art." We'll provide materials or BYOB (bring your own bones). Suitable for ages 8+. **$15/person**.

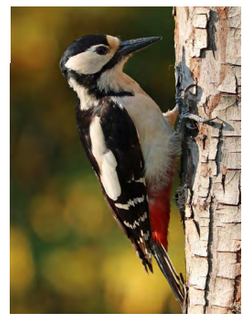
DIY: Yule Log

Sun. Dec. 13, 1-3 p.m.

Create your own festive centerpiece while learning the history of the Yule Log tradition. All supplies will be provided. Suitable for ages 8+. **$20/log**.

The Red-Headed Woodpeckers of MI

Sat. Jan. 16, 10 a.m.-Noon



Michigan is home to several woodpeckers. Most have some red on their heads. Discover their unique (and similar) ecology and adaptations, make a suet feeder, then take a nature walk to see who we can find. Suitable for all ages. **$10/person**.

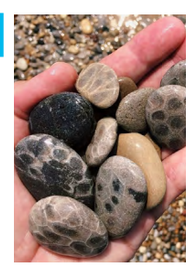
Back to the Sugar Shack

Sat. Feb. 20 & 27,
9 a.m.-Noon & 1-4 p.m.

Ring in the maple season at our brand-new sugar shack! Explore the world of maple with a hands-on lesson on its history, science and geography — plus, see a live demonstration of the sugaring process from tree to table. Cap off your experience with a tasting of maple's many forms! Suitable for all ages. **$10/person.**

Polish Your Own Petoskey Stone

Sat. March 6, 2-4 p.m.



Come and learn how to polish your own Petoskey Stone! While using sandpaper and some "elbow grease," learn about Michigan's state stone and its history. All materials provided. Suitable for ages 8+. **$15/person**.

Early Childhood Programs

Introducing two new weekly series offerings: *Tiny Twigs* - children ages 2-6 bring their caregivers along for a nature adventure. *Little Acorns*: A drop-off series where 3-5 year olds explore the outdoors with naturalist guides.

Click here for more information.

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. Click here to register now.

RED OAKS COUNTY PARK
30300 Hales St.
Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-585-0100
OutdoorLearning@oakgov.com

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

Apple Cider Pressing

Sat. Oct. 17, 10 a.m.-Noon & 2-4 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. **$10/person**.

Spectacular Science Play Day

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

Unleash the mad scientist inside with hands-on experiments at the nature center. Suitable for all ages. **$10/person**.

DIY: Yule Log

Sat. Dec. 12, 2-4 p.m.

Create your own festive centerpiece while learning the history of the Yule Log tradition. All supplies will be provided. Suitable for ages 8+. **$20/log.**

Snowflake Science

Sat. Jan. 23, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

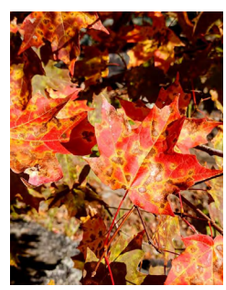
Some weird science enables the complex shapes of snowflakes. Take part in frozen experiments and observe natural snow if it's available. Suitable for ages 6+. **$10/person**.

Polish Your Own Petoskey Stone

Sun. Feb. 7, 2-4 p.m.

Come and learn how to polish your own Petoskey Stone! While using sandpaper and some "elbow grease," learn about Michigan's state stone and its history. All materials provided. Suitable for ages 8+. **$15/person**.

Back to the Sugar Shack



Sat. March 13,
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m & 2-4 p.m.

Ring in the maple season at our brand-new sugar shack! Explore the world of maple with a hands-on lesson on its history, science and geography — plus, see a live demonstration of the sugaring process from tree to table. Cap off your experience with a tasting of maple's many forms! Suitable for all ages. **$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 6-12.
Click Here for more information and registration details.

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.

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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.
Click here for more information about Scout Programming.

Wellness in the Woods

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.

Nature at Night Programs

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.

Wildcraft: Bonfire Magic

Fri. Oct. 23, 6-7:30 p.m. - Red Oaks Nature Center
Fri. Oct. 30, 6-7:30 p.m. - Wint Nature Center

Learn the art of building the perfect bonfire, enjoy a snack and see chemistry in action. Suitable for all ages. **$10/person**.

One Moon, Two Castors

Fri. Nov. 20, 6-8 p.m. - Red Oaks Nature Center
Sat. Nov. 21, 5-7 p.m. - Wint Nature Center

Lodge a complaint; give a dam. Enjoy a night of beaver-themed activities to include Castor the mammal and Castor in the sky. View the stars either outdoors or in our inflatable planetarium depending on the sky. Suitable for ages 6+. **$10/person**.

Winter Solstice Hike

Fri. Dec. 18, 5:30-7 p.m. - Wint Nature Center
Sat. Dec. 19, 6-8 p.m. - Red Oaks Nature Center

Seek darkness in the early evening hours in honor of the longest night of the year with a restorative hike. Suitable for all ages. **$5/person**.

Owl Prowl

Sat. Jan. 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. - Wint Nature Center
Sat. Jan. 30, 6-8 p.m. - Red Oaks Nature Center

Uncover who's hootin' it up at night in the park. Learn about our nocturnal neighbors, dissect their diets and discover their specialized adaptations. Suitable for ages 6+. **$10/person**.

Winter Sky Star Party

Sat. Feb. 13, 4:30-6:30 p.m. - Wint Nature Center
Sat. Feb. 20, 4:30-6:30 p.m. - Red Oaks Nature Center

Enjoy out-of-this-world activities and learn how to star hop your way through the winter sky constellations in our indoor planetarium. If the skies are clear, we'll head outdoors for stargazing. Suitable for ages 6+. **$10/person**.

Vernal Pool Walk

Fri. March 19, 7-9 p.m. - Wint Nature Center

"Salameander" your way down to look for salamanders, frogs, fairy shrimp and many other animals in the "coral reefs" of Northern forests: vernal pools. Suitable for ages 8+. **$10/person**.

Moon Hike: Waxing Gibbous

Fri. March 19, 7-8 p.m. - Red Oaks Nature Center

Learn about the phases of the moon while we navigate the trail in near-full-moon light. Suitable for all ages. **$5/person**.

Oakland County Parks