

SPRING & SUMMER Nature Education Programs



APRIL - SEPTEMBER 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.



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

Plush Pal Picnic

Sat. July 18, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

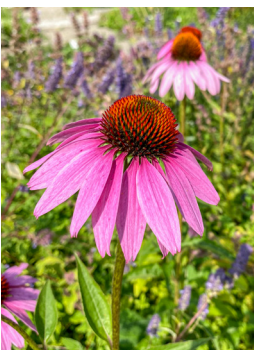
Bring your plush pal to an outdoor picnic and explore their place in nature! We'll play games to demonstrate where our pals fit into their habitats, then go on a hike to see some of them along the trail. Suitable for all ages. **\$10/person.**



Magical Moss Terrarium

Sat. April 18, 2-4 p.m.

Discover the secret life of moss through an exploratory hike highlighting the characteristics, categorizations and importance of this ancient plant group. Take a piece of the magic home with you by creating a moss terrarium! Suitable for ages 6+. **\$10/person.**



Get Your Start on a Home Native Garden

Sat. May 30, 10:30 a.m.-noon

The flowers are back - let's meet them on a gentle stroll. Now that you know them, take home a free native plant to start your own wildflower garden! Suitable for all ages. **\$15/person.**

Powerful Plants: Teas and Trees

Sat. June 13, 2-4 p.m.

Discover regionally common plants that have historically been used in medicine and healing. Make your own dried tea mixture using some of these plants. Suitable for all ages. **\$10/person.**



Aquatic Alchemy

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

Investigate water's unique properties by taking a hike to see it in action. Collect water samples to conduct experiments that reveal how its chemistry enables the life it supports. Suitable for ages 8+. **\$10/person.**

Capturing Colors

Sat. Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-noon

Count how many colors you can spot while exploring the wild world of patterns and pigments on a guided hike! Then, channel your discoveries into a creative watercolor craft inspired by the beauty you observed. 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. [Click here to register online now.](#)



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.



Citizen Science and You

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

Explore local community science initiatives looking for volunteers and learn how to contribute to the data at Oakland County Parks during a seasonally appropriate data collection session. Suitable for ages 8+. **\$5/person.**



Magical Moss Terrarium

Sat. July 25, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Discover the secret life of moss through an exploratory hike highlighting the characteristics, categorizations and importance of this ancient plant group. Take a piece of the magic home with you by creating a moss terrarium! Suitable for ages 6+. **\$10/person.**



World Migratory Bird Day

Sat. May 9, 8-9:30 a.m.

Interested in birds, but finding it hard to become a bird watcher? Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day with a naturalist as we flock together to search for our feathered friends. Bring your own binoculars (limited supply available to borrow). Suitable for school-aged children and adults. **\$5/person.**



Empty Nest

Sat. Aug. 22, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Unleash your inner architect by learning about the types of bird nests found throughout our state. Build a nest of your own using natural materials! Suitable for all ages. **\$10/person.**

Get Your Start on a Home Native Garden

Sat. June 6, 10:30 a.m.-noon

The flowers are back - let's meet them on a gentle stroll. Now that you know them, take home a free native plant to start your own wildflower garden! Suitable for all ages. **\$15/person.**



Red Oaks Nature Center's 30th Anniversary

Sat. Sept. 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Time flies when you're having fun! Celebrate the past 30 years of nature education at Friendship Woods and preview the next 30 years during this special event. Suitable for all ages. **Free event.**



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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.



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](#) to visit general or school field trips page for offerings and to request a field trip or outreach.



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. [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.

Once in a Blue Moon

Sat. May 30, 7:30-9 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center and Wint Nature Center

Discover spring constellations and take a closer look at the moon in our new portable planetarium. Afterwards, go on a trail hike to enjoy the moon's glow during this rare lunar event. Suitable for ages 6+. **\$10/person.**

Fluorescent Fun

Sat. June 27, 8:30-10 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

Hunt for glowing fungi under UV flashlights during a hike to examine fluorescent rocks and understand what makes them illuminate. Discover why certain animals, plants, fungi and rocks glow in the dark. Suitable for ages 8+. **\$10/person.**

Drawn to the Flame

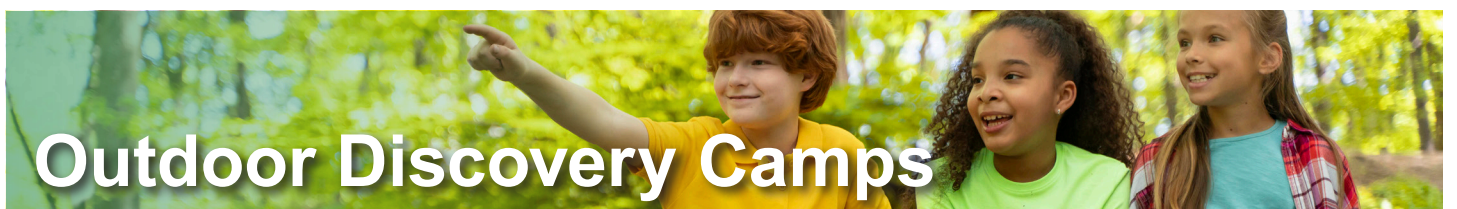
Fri. July 17, 8:30-10 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Observe Michigan's nocturnal insect species under UV light at a set-up bug trap. We'll discuss their roles in the food chain and importance as pollinators. Suitable for ages 8+. **\$10/person.**

Wings in the Dark

Sat. Aug. 15, 8:30-10 p.m.. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Seek nighttime animal aviators and learn ways to encourage their flight through your backyard. Learn the signs and sounds of these flying animals and how to observe them after dark. Suitable for all ages. **\$10/person.**



Outdoor Discovery Camps

Outdoor Discovery Camps are week-long summer campday camp experiences that immerse children ages 6-11 in the wonders of nature. Available at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston, Red Oaks County Park in Madison Heights and Waterford Oaks County Park in Waterford, each week will focus on a different nature theme with unique daily outdoor activities guided by experienced staff.

Camps will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday the weeks of **June 22, July 6, 13, 20 and 27 and Aug. 3 and 10.** Additional child care will be available from 3-5:30 p.m.

Sign your camper up for a week or the whole summer - [register online](#) today!