

Everyone attending a program needs to register, both adult & child. Face masks are required during the entire program.



Space is limited to allow for physical distancing from other non-family members. Participants are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer.



SPECIAL EVENT

Cross-Country Candlelight Ski/Hike



Both Friday and Saturday evenings from 5–9 p.m.

- December 18 & 19 – Harrison Benwell, Wonder Lake
- January 15 & 16 – Marengo Ridge, Marengo
- February 12 & 13 – Prairieview, Crystal Lake

Don't miss your chance to cross-country ski on trails lit only by candlelight! Skiers of every experience level and age are welcome, but you must bring your own equipment. Gather around the campfire after your time out on the trail. Trails will be groomed for skiing if there is 4" of snow or more. No pets please.

Not enough snow? Leave the skis at home and enjoy a candlelight hike, a campfire and the allure of the winter woods. *Note: Check Before You Go, cancellations may occur due to weather (if trails are icy/hazardous or the wind chill drops below -20°) or staff emergencies. Check under Site Advisories at MCCDDistrict.org.*

Frozen

Ages 7–12 w/Adult

Saturday, January 23, 10–11:30 a.m.
Shelter, Rush Creek, Harvard
Fee: R Free/NR \$2.00 Code: 6881



Do you want to build a snowman? Or learn how no two snowflakes are the same? Or make a snow volcano? Come test your "frozen powers" and see all the amazing properties water has in the winter time.

Winter Bird Hike

Ages 14+

Saturday, February 6, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
Brookdale, Main Entrance, Woodstock
Fee: R Free/NR \$2.00 Code: 6863



Not all birds migrate to warmer climates for the winter. Come look for those that are still around as well as the ones who migrate here for the winter. Please bring binoculars if you have them.

Crafty by Nature

Make and Take: Bird Seed Cookies Adults and Families, Ages 5+
Saturday, December 19, 10–11:00 a.m.
Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake
Fee: R \$5.00/NR \$7.00 Code: 6842

Make festive birdseed ornaments to feed your winter bird residents during the cold winter months! We will learn about which birds stay active all year long and what food they need to survive winter. Each participant can make two bird seed cookies to take home.

Nature's Ornaments Adults and Families, Ages 6+
Sunday, December 20, 1:30–3 p.m.
Savanna Room, Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: R \$5.00/NR \$7.00 Code: 6876 Register by 12/17.

In preparation for the upcoming holidays, come over to the Lost Valley Visitor Center to create one-of-a-kind pioneer inspired ornaments using materials from nature. There will be a variety of ornaments you can create and hang in your home!



Upcycling: Out with Old, In with the New

Adults and Families, Ages 10+

Monday, December 21, 7–9 p.m.
Savanna Room, Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: R \$5.00/NR \$7.00 Code: 6891

Saturday, February 20, 2–4 p.m.
Savanna Room, Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: R \$5.00/NR \$7.00 Code: 6885

Come check out how you can turn an old possession into a new creation! This upcycling program will show you fun ways to take old items you don't use anymore and re-purpose them to something new! For one of the projects YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN OLD T-SHIRT! All other supplies will be provided.

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SPECIAL EVENT

In Search of Eagles

Saturday, January 9



Cindy Smith

Search for Eagles — 9 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

McHenry Dam, Algonquin Dam, Carpentersville Dam

Representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and McHenry County Audubon will be on hand at locations along the Fox River in Illinois to help you search for eagles. There will be scopes and binoculars available for use at each location, along with guided activities for children. Visit the site closest to you or visit them all! Maps to the locations are available on MCCDistrict.org under special events and on Friends of Hackmatack’s Facebook page [@FriendsHackmatackNWR](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsHackmatackNWR).

“Eagles and Osprey, Back from the Brink”— 1–2 p.m. *Ages 14+*

Online via Zoom platform. Registration is required. Fee: R Free/NR \$2.00 Code: [6905](#)

Christian W. Cold, retired wildlife technician and educator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Wildlife Management, presents an overview on the biology, life history and current status of bald eagles and ospreys in Wisconsin. He will provide a historical account on the decline and subsequent recovery of birds which experienced a period of reproductive failure due to the indiscriminate use of organochlorine pesticides, and recognize both birds as historical examples of species, which are now valued as living indicators (barometers) of environmental health and vigor.

An Afternoon with the Short-Eared Owls *Ages 8+*

Saturday, December 12, 3:30–5 p.m.

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood

Fee: R Free/NR \$2.00 Code: [6858](#)

The short-eared owl is an Illinois endangered species, but we are fortunate to have them visit Glacial Park every winter! We will begin our afternoon with a short indoor presentation and then search the park at dusk for these special creatures. Bring binoculars if you have them and dress for the weather.



Creature Feature: Owls *Ages 8+*

Saturday, January 30, 10–11 a.m.

Fire Ring & Patio, Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake

Fee: R \$2.00/NR \$5.00 Code: [6865](#)

Not every animal can withstand the harsh winter environment. Some animals spend the winter hibernating or migrating someplace warm. But what about the animals that stay active all year long? How are they able to cope with the cold? A live owl is our featured creature as we discover how they are able to stay active during the winter. Dress for being outside.



Short-eared owl