metro parks programs

Dec 2018, Jan-Feb 2019  (advanced registration opens Nov 21)

**BATTLEFIVE DARBY CREEK**

**DECEMBER**

**PHOTO GROUP WORKSHOP: BRING YOUR CAMERA!**
Learn how to control depth-of-field, freeze or blur motion and photograph in low light with your camera. Beginner level. Ages 18 and older  
**Nature Center**  
**DEC 8 SAT 10AM**

**FULL MOON HIKE**
Take a brisk moonlit 4-mile hike through fields and forests. **Ranger Station**  
**DEC 22 SAT 5PM**

**PRESCHOOLERS: WINTER BIRDS**
Discover the birds that stay in Ohio over the winter. Make a bird feeder to take home.  
**Nature Center**  
**DEC 11 TUE 9:30 OR 11AM**

**NIGHT LIFE IN THE STREAM**
See what animals awaken after dark in the 53-foot living stream.  
**Nature Center**  
**DEC 15 SAT 5:30PM**

**HOLIDAY CRAFTS**
Create easy seasonal crafts with materials found in nature.  
**Nature Center**  
**DEC 22-23 SAT-SUN 1–3PM**

**MOVIE MATINEE WILDKRATTS: CREATURE ADVENTURES**
Watch two Wild Kratts episodes, “Build it Beaver” and “Bass Class” and learn more about two animals that can be found within the park.  
**Nature Center**  
**DEC 29 SAT 8:30AM**

**MOVIE MATINEE DISNEY NATURE: EARTH**
Learn about the yearly struggle for survival of three amazing species, the polar bear, African bush elephant and humpback whale.  
**Nature Center**  
**DEC 30 SUN 1PM**

**MOVIE MATINEE CHARLIE & THE CURIOUS OTTERS**
Follow the story of three orphaned river otters and learn about these curious animals. Ages 18 and older  
**Nature Center**  
**DEC 28 FRI 6:30PM**

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**
Search for feathered friends as part of the National Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Tally results and enjoy hot chocolate.  
**Nature Center**  
**DEC 29 SAT 8:30AM**

**MOVIE MATINEE DISNEY NATURE: BEARS**
Follow a family of brown bears in the mountains of Alaska.  
**Nature Center**  
**DEC 18 FRI 6:30PM**

**FULL MOON HIKE**
Take a brisk moonlit 4-mile hike through fields and forests.  
**Ranger Station**  
**DEC 21 MON 5PM**

**HOLIDAY CRAFTS**
Create easy seasonal crafts with materials found in nature.  
**Nature Center**  
**DEC 22-23 SAT-SUN 1–3PM**

**FULL MOON HIKE**
Take a brisk moonlit 4-mile hike through fields and forests.  
**Ranger Station**  
**DEC 21 MON 5PM**

**METRO FIVE-O programs for age 50 and older are color-coded by degree of difficulty:**

**LEVEL 1**  (easy, fully accessible)  **LEVEL 2**  (slow pace, less than 1-mile hike)  **LEVEL 3**  (up to 2-mile hike, moderate pace)  **LEVEL 4**  (hike over two miles at strenuous pace)

**YOGA IN THE PARK**
Learn movements to rejuvenate your mind and body.  
**Cedar Ridge Lodge**  
**JAN 12 SAT 11:30AM**

**OWLS OF DARBY CREEK**
Try to lure in these raptors for a closer view on a 2-mile hike.  
**Indian Ridge**  
**JAN 12 SAT 5:30PM**

**PRESCHOOLERS: OWLS**
Learn about these silent fliers through story, song and craft.  
**Nature Center**  
**JAN 15 TUE 9:30 OR 11AM**

**FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIE DISNEY NATURE: EARTH**
Learn about the yearly struggle for survival of three amazing species, the polar bear, African bush elephant and humpback whale.  
**Nature Center**  
**JAN 19 SAT 8:30AM**

**FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIE DISNEY NATURE: BEARS**
Follow a family of brown bears in the mountains of Alaska.  
**Nature Center**  
**JAN 18 FRI 6:30PM**

**OHIO GEOLOGY DISPLAY**
Learn about the geology of Ohio.  
**Nature Center**  
**JAN 19-27 SAT-SUN 9AM–5PM**

**NIGHT LIFE IN THE STREAM**
See what animals awaken after dark in the 53-foot living stream.  
**Nature Center**  
**JAN 19 SAT 5:30PM**

**CUB SCOUT DAY: WEBELOS EARTH ROCKS**
Webelos (10 & 11 year olds) will participate in activities that meet the requirements for the Earth Rocks Pin.  
**Advance registration**  
**JAN 20 SUN 10321400**

**FULL MOON HIKE**
Take a brisk moonlit 4-mile hike through fields and forests.  
**Ranger Station**  
**JAN 21 MON 5PM**
Battelle Darby Creek programs

**Preschoolers: Owls**
Learn about these silent fliers through story, song and craft. *Nature Center*
Jan 25 Fri 11am or 1pm

**Metro Five-0: Level 3 Harriers & Short Ears**
Look for northern harriers and short-eared owls on a 2-mile prairie hike. Ages 50 and older *Nature Center*
Jan 26 Sat 5pm

**Bison: Behind the Scenes**
See how park staff tend to our bison. *Nature Center*
Jan 27 Sun 1pm

**February**

**Pieces of the Past**
Enjoy a display of artifacts from prehistoric people who lived and traveled around Big and Little Darby creeks. *Nature Center*
Feb 3-10 Sun-Sun 9am–5pm

**Metro Five-0: Level 2 Owls**
Take a short walk on a paved trail to look for owls. Ages 50 and older *Cedar Ridge Lodge*
Feb 3 Sun 6pm

**Photo Group: Image Review**
Attendees are invited to share their photos and share constructive feedback. All skill levels. Ages 18 and older *Nature Center*
Feb 9 Sat 10am

**Yoga in the Park**
Learn movements to rejuvenate your mind and body. *Cedar Ridge Lodge*
Feb 9 Sat 11:30am

**Preschoolers: Oh Deer**
Learn about Ohio’s state mammal, the white-tailed deer. *Nature Center*
Feb 12 Tue 9:30 or 11am

**Friday Night Movie**
**Nova: Ice Age Death Trap**
Scientists race to uncover a site in the Rockies packed with fossil mammoths and other extinct ice age beasts. *Nature Center*
Feb 15 Fri 6:30pm

**Ice Age Display**
Learn about life in Ohio during the Ice Age. *Nature Center*
Feb 16-24 Sat-Sun 9am–5pm

**Ice Age Ohio**
Meet Dale Gnidovec, curator of the Orton Geological Museum, and learn about the effects glaciers had on the landscape and wild animals, including mammoths, mastodons, giant beavers and giant bears. *Nature Center*
Feb 16 Sat 2pm

**Feed the Stream**
Give the fish worms and crickets and watch the feeding frenzy. *Nature Center*
Feb 17 Sun 2pm

**46th Annual Winter Hike Series**
Enjoy a 2-, 4- or 6-mile trek along the banks and bluffs of Big Darby Creek. *Ranger Station*
Feb 23 Sat 10am

**Preschoolers: Oh Deer**
Learn about Ohio’s state mammal, the white-tailed deer. *Nature Center*
Feb 28 Thu 11am or 1pm

**Blacklick Woods**

**December**

**How to Be a Citizen Scientist**
Contributing to science is easier than ever. Learn how you can help by using some popular sites and apps. *Nature Center*
Dec 2 Sun 4pm

**Homeschoolers: Nature Ninjas**
Discover how animals use their ninja skills to escape from predators and catch prey. Ages 6-12 *Beech Maple Lodge*
Dec 5 Wed 10am or 1pm

**Unexpected Migrants**
Birds aren’t the only ones! Learn about other animals that migrate. *Nature Center*
Dec 8 Sat 1pm

**You Can Eat That**
Take a short hike to discover what wild edible plants are available in winter and try some samples. *Nature Center*
Dec 9 Sun 2pm

**Preschoolers: Beech Tree Puppets Discover Hibernation**
Join the Beech Tree Puppets as they learn about hibernation and make a sleepy craft. *Beech Maple Lodge*
Dec 12 Wed 10am or 1pm

**Holiday Symbols Display**
Learn about plants and animals associated with the holidays. *Nature Center*
Dec 15-16 Sat-Sun 8am–6pm

**Blacklick Woods Programs**

**December**

**How to Be a Citizen Scientist**
Contributing to science is easier than ever. Learn how you can help by using some popular sites and apps. *Nature Center*
Dec 2 Sun 4pm

**Owls of Harry Potter**
Learn about owls in Ohio and in the Harry Potter universe. *Beech Maple Lodge*
Dec 17 Mon 10am or 1pm

**Metro Five-0: Level 1 Look for an Evergreen**
Take a half-mile walk to search for conifers on National Look for an Evergreen Day. Ages 50 and older *Ash Grove Picnic Area*
Dec 19 Wed 5pm

**Holiday Crafts**
Stop by and make a few holiday-themed crafts. *Nature Center*
Dec 22 Sat 12–4pm

**Upcycled Gift Wrapping**
Try out some new gift wrapping ideas, while giving old items a new use. *Nature Center*
Dec 23 Sun 3pm

**Nature Babies**
Bring your little one and explore animals and the change of seasons through books in the nature center. Caregivers will learn nature signs in American Sign Language. Ages 2 and younger *Nature Center*
Dec 28 Fri 10am

**Wildlife Observation Night**
Catch a glimpse of nocturnal critters through the viewing windows. *Nature Center*
Dec 28 Fri 6–8pm
JANUARY

NEW YEAR, NEW LIST
Join us on a 2-mile walk to search the trails for birds. Nature Center
JAN 1 TUE 10AM

BLACKLICK WOODS IN WINTER DISPLAY
Discover what plants, animals and fungi can be found in the coldest months of the year. Nature Center
JAN 5-6 SAT-SUN 8AM–6PM

46TH ANNUAL WINTER HIKE SERIES
Take a 2- or 4-mile walk through the woods and meadows. Hot drinks and snacks provided. Ash Grove Picnic Area
JAN 9 SAT 10AM

PRESCHOOLERS: DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE
Learn about ducks and geese that visit Ohio through stories, activities and a craft. Beech Maple Lodge
JAN 9 WED 10AM OR 1PM

INSECTS IN WINTER
Learn how insects survive winter, then dig through leaf litter, turn over logs and shake tree branches to find some. Nature Center
JAN 12 SAT 2PM

IRRUPTION!
Learn about rare winter visitors and what brings them here. Nature Center
JAN 13 SUN 3PM

HOMESCHOOLERS: TERRARIUMS
Bring a plastic 2-liter bottle and make a mini ecosystem to take home. Ages 6-12 Beech Maple Lodge
JAN 14 MON 10AM OR 1PM

OWL HIKE
Take a 2-mile walk to search the trails for roosting barred owls. Nature Center
JAN 19 SAT 10AM OR 1PM

ICE AGE OHIO DISPLAY
Learn about life in Ohio during the Ice Age. Nature Center
JAN 19-20 SAT-SUN 8AM–6PM

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION NIGHT
Catch a glimpse of nocturnal critters through the viewing windows. Nature Center
JAN 25 FRI 6–8PM

BUG OFF!
Learn about some of the interesting ways insects defend themselves. Nature Center
JAN 26 SAT 2PM

METRO FIVE-0: Level 3
WILD WINTER WALK
Get outside for a cabin fever reliever on a 2-mile walk as we look for signs of winter wildlife. Ages 50 and older Nature Center
FEB 4 MON 2PM

ANIMAL COURTSHIP DISPLAY
Discover some of the fascinating ways wild animals attract a mate. Nature Center
FEB 9-10 SAT-SUN 8AM–6PM

NATURE CENTER WINTER DISCOVERY DAY
Learn about pond life, feed the nature center critters, decorate an animal cookie and make a craft. Nature Center
FEB 10 SUN 2–3:30PM

PRESCHOOLERS: TINY TRAVELER SERIES - THE ARCTIC
Discover the wildlife that live in the Arctic and learn more about this special area through discussion, books and activities. Beech Maple Lodge
FEB 13 WED 10AM OR 1PM

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
Count birds at the feeders to participate in this great citizen science project. Nature Center
FEB 16 SAT 10AM
FEB 17 SUN 2PM

HOMESCHOOLERS: CRITTER SCENE INVESTIGATION
Use evidence to solve a mystery in the park. Ages 6-12 Beech Maple Lodge
FEB 18 MON 10AM OR 1PM

WALKING THE DOG DAY
Take a 2-mile walk with your dog to celebrate National Walking the Dog Day! Treats provided for people and pets. Nature Center
FEB 22 FRI 9AM

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION NIGHT
Catch a glimpse of nocturnal critters through the viewing windows. Nature Center
FEB 22 FRI 6–8PM

INVASIVE SPECIES DISPLAY
View a display about invasive species in Ohio to kick off National Invasive Species Awareness Week. Nature Center
FEB 23-24 SAT-SUN 8AM–6PM

BLENDON WOODS

DECEMBER

2/4/6 FITNESS HIKE
Take an invigorating, fast-paced hike along gravel and natural surface trails. Choose a 2-, 4- or 6-mile hike. Pace will be well under 20 minutes a mile. Ages 14 and older Nature Center
DEC 1 SAT 9AM

HIKE THOREAU LAKE
Hike around Thoreau Lake and find the animals living there. Nature Center
DEC 1 SAT 2PM

WINTER BIRD Hike
Look for winter residents while walking the trails. Nature Center
DEC 2 SUN 9AM
NIGHT AT THE NATURE CENTER
See what comes alive outside the nature center windows after dark! *Nature Center*
DEC 7  FRI  5:30PM

HOLIDAY CRAFT AFTERNOON
Drop by to make a craft that will brighten your winter afternoon. *Nature Center*
DEC 9  SUN  1PM

METRO FIVE-0: Level 3 WALK OF THE MONTH
Take a 1.5-mile walk to discover the sights and sounds of the season. Ages 50 and older *Nature Center*
DEC 12  WED  11AM

PHOTO PROWL: WATERFOWL
Visit Thoreau Lake to photograph the waterfowl. *Nature Center*
DEC 15  SAT  9AM

2/4/6 FITNESS HIKE
Take an invigorating, fast-paced hike along gravel and natural surface trails. Choose a 2-, 4- or 6-mile hike. Pace will be well under 20 minutes a mile. Ages 14 and older *Nature Center*
DEC 19  WED  6PM

CANINE HIKE
Take a 1.5-mile hike to look and listen for Ohio’s native canines. *Nature Center*
DEC 21  FRI  5:30PM

FULL COLD MOON HIKE
Hike 2 miles by the light of the last full moon of the year. *Nature Center*
DEC 22  SAT  5:30PM

WINTER BREAK SCAVENGER HUNT
Stop by to see how many hidden critters you can find. *Nature Center*
DEC 22-31 SAT-MON 10AM–2PM

2/4/6 FITNESS HIKE
Take an invigorating, fast-paced hike along gravel and natural surface trails. Choose a 2-, 4- or 6-mile hike. Pace will be well under 20 minutes a mile. Ages 14 and older *Nature Center*
DEC 25  FRI  9:30AM, 11AM OR 1PM

CUB SCOUTS—BEARS: FUR, FEATHERS & FERNS
Work on requirements toward earning this Bear achievement. *Advance registration*
JAN 26  SAT  10AM–3PM

TRACKS OFF THE TRAILS
Join us for an off-trail hike to search for animal scat, tracks and signs! *Nature Center*
JAN 27  SUN  2PM

HOMESCHOOL: NOCTURNAL ADVENTURE
Learn about animals’ special adaptations for life after dark. Ages 6-12 *Advance registration*
JAN 29  TUE  10AM–3PM
FEBRUARY

**46TH ANNUAL WINTER HIKE SERIES**
Join us for a 2- or 4-mile hike. Refreshments served beginning 10am.
*Natural Play Area Shelter*
FEB 2 SAT 10AM

**NEW MOON LANTERN STROLL**
Enjoy a 1.5-mile hike by lantern light!
*Nature Center*
FEB 4 MON 6:30PM

**2/4/6 FITNESS HIKE**
Take an invigorating, fast-paced hike along gravel and natural surface trails. Choose a 2-, 4- or 6-mile hike. Pace will be well under 20 minutes a mile. Ages 14 and older
*Nature Center*
FEB 6 WED 6–8PM

**GIRL SCOUT CADETTES: NIGHT OWL OVERNIGHT**
Work on requirements toward the Night Owl badge and stay overnight in the nature center. *Advance registration*
FEB 8 FRI 10222000

**NIGHT AT THE NATURE CENTER**
See what comes alive outside the nature center windows after dark! *Nature Center*
FEB 15 FRI 6:30PM

**WINTER BIRD HIKE**
Visit Thoreau Lake and view our wintering waterfowl. *Nature Center*
FEB 16 SAT 9AM

**FROM VISITOR TO VOLUNTEER**
Join us at Highbanks and take the first step to become a Metro Parks volunteer. Learn about the variety of volunteer opportunities at Blendon Woods, Highbanks and Sharon Woods. Enjoy a guided hike, light refreshments and meet like-minded people. Volunteer applications will be available after the program. Ages 16 and older
*Advance registration*
FEB 16 SAT 10232002

**BIRD FEEDER BINGO**
Bring your family and friends to see who can spot the birds – down, across or diagonal!
*Nature Center*
FEB 16-18 SAT-MON 10AM–3PM

**PRESCHOOLERS: WHEN WILL IT BE SPRING?**
Everyone is searching for signs of spring!
*Nature Center*
FEB 19 TUE 9:30AM, 11AM OR 1PM
FEB 20 WED 9:30AM, 11AM OR 1PM

**2/4/6 FITNESS HIKE**
Take an invigorating, fast-paced hike along gravel and natural surface trails. Choose a 2-, 4- or 6-mile hike. Pace will be well under 20 minutes a mile. Ages 14 and older
*Nature Center*
FEB 24 SUN 1PM

**OHIO WILDLIFE CENTER: URBAN WILDLIFE**
Meet OWC ambassador animals who enjoy the city life! *Nature Center*
FEB 24 SUN 2PM

**2/4/6 FITNESS HIKE**
Take an invigorating, fast-paced hike along gravel and natural surface trails. Choose a 2-, 4- or 6-mile hike. Pace will be well under 20 minutes a mile. Ages 14 and older
*Nature Center*
FEB 27 WED 6–8PM

**HOMESCHOOL: SIGNS OF SPRING SKUNK CABBAGE**
Take a hike to discover the first flower of the season! Ages 6-12 *Advance registration*
FEB 28 THU 10221102 (2 SESSIONS)

**CLEAR CREEK**

**DECEMBER**

**METRO FIVE-0: Level 4 HEMLOCK TRAIL HIKE**
Join us on a 4-mile backcountry hike to one of Clear Creek’s best overlooks. Ages 50 and older
*Park Office*
DEC 15 SAT 10AM

**ICE CAVE HIKE**
Take a self-guided 3.5-mile backcountry hike to the Ice Cave. Warm up along the way with Das KaffeeHaus coffee and locally made pastries. *Park Office*
FEB 16 SAT 10AM–1PM

**FLY TYING FOR BEGINNERS**
Get a head start on fly fishing season by learning how to tie your own flies.
*Maintenance Shop*
FEB 2 SAT 1PM

**METRO FIVE-0: Level 4 SKUNK CABBAGE HIKE**
Join us for a rugged 4-mile hike and see Ohio’s earliest blooming wildflower. Ages 50 and older
*Park Office*
FEB 20 WED 10AM

**CUB SCOUTS—WOLF: PAWS ON THE PATH**
Hike the trails to work on requirements toward this Wolf Cub achievement. *Advance registration*
FEB 23 SAT 10AM

**SEARCH FOR SKUNK CABBAGE**
Find the first flower of the year and learn its medicinal uses. *Nature Center*
FEB 24 SUN 1PM

**CANINE HIKE**
Bring your dog for a 3-mile backcountry hike to Lake Emily.
*Park Office*
DEC 8 SAT 10AM

**METRO FIVE-0: Level 4 MEMORY ROCK HIKE**
Take a 4-mile backcountry hike through the forest and see spectacular views of Clear Creek Valley. Ages 50 and older
*Park Office*
DEC 12 WED 10AM

**MEMORY ROCK HIKE**
Join us on a 4-mile backcountry hike to one of Clear Creek’s best overlooks. *Park Office*
DEC 15 SAT 10AM

**NEW YEAR’S DAY HIKE**
Start the New Year off with a 3-mile hike on one of the park’s most rugged trails and along the creek. *Fern Parking Lot*
JAN 1 TUE 10AM

**METRO FIVE-0: Level 4 HEMLOCK TRAIL HIKE**
Explore one of the park’s most rugged trails on a 3-mile hike. Ages 50 and older
*Fern Parking Lot*
JAN 30 WED 10AM

**ICE CAVE HIKE**
Take a self-guided 3.5-mile backcountry hike to the Ice Cave. Warm up along the way with Das KaffeeHaus coffee and locally made pastries. *Park Office*
FEB 16 SAT 10AM–1PM

**METRO FIVE-0: Level 4 MORTON HEMLOCK TRAIL HIKE**
Join us for a rugged 4-mile hike and see Ohio’s earliest blooming wildflower. Ages 50 and older
*Park Office*
FEB 20 WED 10AM
SKUNK CABBAGE HIKE
Join us for a rugged 4-mile hike and see Ohio's earliest blooming wildflower.
Park Office
FEB 23 SAT 10AM

OWL HIKE
Search for barred owls on a 1-mile hike. Ages 6 and older Shelter House
FEB 15 FRI 6PM

FOR KIDS: ANIMAL TRACKING
Use your detective skills to find out which animals live here in the park. Ages 5-12
Shelter House
FEB 19 TUE 2PM

HOLIDAY NATURE CRAFTS FOR KIDS
Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon making crafts and sipping hot chocolate. Ages 12 and younger Multi Purpose Room
DEC 2 SUN 2–4PM

CREATURE FEATURE: REPTILES
Visit with reptiles and learn how we take care of these animals. Nature Center
DEC 5 WED 11AM

MOVIE MATINEE
NATURE CAT & WINTER SOLSTICE
Learn about the winter solstice and watch Nature Cat: Winter Dance Party. Nature Center
DEC 21 FRI 11AM

FOR KIDS: OUTDOOR WINTER GAMES
Play games in our open field and learn all the ways that you can have fun in the cold. Ages 3-15 Big Meadow Picnic Area
JAN 3 THU 1PM

FOR FAMILIES: LANTERN STROLL
Carry lanterns to light the way on a 1-mile hike on the Dripping Rock Trail. Nature Center
JAN 5 SAT 6:30PM

PRESCHOOLERS: GOODNIGHT NATURE
Cozy up in your pajamas and learn about what nature does after you go to sleep. Nature Center
JAN 9 WED 11AM OR 1PM

JANUARY

PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR: COMPOSITION
Learn how to improve your photography skills and capture the perfect shot. Ages 8 and older Maintenance Shop
JAN 5 SAT 2PM

WALK AND WOOF
Enjoy a 2.5-mile hike with your dog. Dog Park
JAN 13 SUN 2PM

OFF-TRAIL NATURE HIKE
Take an off-trail adventure to areas of the park not usually seen. Ages 9 and older Shelter House
JAN 27 SUN 2–4PM

ADULTS: OFF-TRAIL WANDER
Enjoy a rugged 4-mile off-trail hike in the Edward F. Hutchins Nature Preserve. Ages 18 and older Advance registration
DEC 17 MON 10AM

STORYTIME: ANIMALS IN WINTER
Learn where animals go when it starts to get cold, through stories and songs. Nature Center
JAN 14 MON 10AM

HOMESCHOOLERS: FEEDER WATCH
Learn about the importance of citizen science and the ways that you can contribute to it from home. Take a hike and search for birds. Ages 8-17 Nature Center
JAN 18 FRI 1PM
Highbanks programs

HOW AT THE MOON
Bring your canine friend on a 3.5-mile hike.
*Nature Center*
Jan 22 Tue 6:30PM

YOUNG EXPLORERS: WINTERY HIKE
Bundle up and take a short hike looking for animals in the forest. Ages 2-5 *Nature Center*
Jan 23 Wed 11AM

MAMMALS OF OHIO DISPLAY
See how animals survive the winter months through games, activities, videos and displays. *Multi Purpose Room*
Jan 26-27 Sat-Sun 12–2PM

CREATURE FEATURE: ANIMAL FEEDINGS
Watch the naturalist feed the education reptiles and amphibians and learn how we care for these animals. *Nature Center*
Jan 29 Tue 11AM

FEBRUARY

HOT CHOCOLATE AND S'MORES
Warm up to a campfire while sipping on hot chocolate and roasting s'mores. *Nature Center*
Feb 1 Fri 6–8PM

STORYTIME: OWLS
Enjoy stories about owls and find out who lives in the woods. *Nature Center*
Feb 4 Mon 10AM

46TH ANNUAL WINTER HIKE SERIES
Enjoy a 2.5- or 5-mile hike. Refreshments afterward. *Northern Shelter*
Feb 9 Sat 10AM

PRESCHOOLERS: OWLS
Discover the wonderful world of owls through activities, crafts and stories. *Nature Center*
Feb 14 Thu 11AM or 1PM
Feb 15 Fri 9:30 or 11AM

OWL HIKE
Hike 2 miles to search for great horned and barred owls. *Oak Coves Picnic Area*
Feb 16 Sat 7PM

SO YOU WANT TO BE A METRO PARKS VOLUNTEER!
Take the first step to become a Metro Parks volunteer. Learn about the variety of volunteer opportunities at Blendon Woods, Highbanks and Sharon Woods Metro Parks. Enjoy a guided hike, light refreshments and meet like-minded people. Volunteer applications will be available after the the program. Ages 16 and older *Advance registration*
Feb 16 Sat @ 10432000

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
Learn how to identify winter birds from the warmth of the nature center as part of this citizen science project. *Nature Center*
Feb 18 Mon 11AM

METRO FIVE-O: Level 1
BEAT THE WINTER BLUES
Gwen Uetrecht leads the way as you use a variety of percussion instruments (all provided). Ages 50 and older *Advance registration*
Feb 20 Wed @ 15541201

HOWL AT THE MOON
Bring your canine friend on a 3.5-mile hike. *Nature Center*
Feb 21 Thu 7PM

EAGLE WATCH
Take a 3-mile hike to the Overlook Deck to look for bald eagles and signs of nesting activity. Ages 8 and older *Nature Center*
Feb 23 Sat 11AM

SCOUT DAY:
GIRL SCOUTS JUNIOR HABITATS
Juniors will participate in indoor and outdoor activities geared toward earning the Juniors Animal Habitat badge. *Advance registration*
Feb 24 Sun @ 10422200

MOVIE MATINEE:
NATURE CAT & VERNAL POOLS
Learn about vernal pools and watch Nature Cat: Onward and Pondward. *Nature Center*
Feb 28 Thu 11AM

JANUARY

WILD WEDNESDAYS: AMPHIBIANS
Visit with the education frogs, toads and salamanders and learn how naturalists take care of them. Ages 2-8 *Nature Center*
Jan 9 Wed 10AM or 1PM

WINTER WONDERLAND
SCAVENGER HUNT
Stop by to pick up your scavenger hunt. Return for a prize and some hot chocolate. Ages 4-12 *Nature Center*
Jan 21 Mon 12–2PM

FEBRUARY

WILD WEDNESDAYS: REPTILES
Visit with the education snake and turtles and learn how naturalists take care of them. Ages 2-8 *Nature Center*
Feb 6 Wed 10AM or 1PM

MAPLE SUGARING
Learn how maple trees are used to produce syrup. Take a short walk to see how trees are tapped to collect sap. Then watch as sap is boiled to make syrup. See if you can taste the difference between corn-syrup and the REAL maple syrup! Ages 5 and older *Nature Center*
Feb 16 Sat 2PM

FEBRUARY FUN DAY
Get rid of those winter blues with fun activities including hot chocolate making, snow experiments and an outdoor scavenger hunt. Ages 3-13 *Lakeside Pavilion*
Feb 18 Mon 2–4PM

DECEMBER

STORY TIME
Listen to a story and meet an animal featured in the tale. Ages 2-8 *Nature Center*
Dec 4 Tue 10AM, 11AM or 1PM

BABIES: IT’S COLD OUTSIDE
Enjoy some indoor winter sensory activities and nature-themed play! Ages 4 and younger *Nature Center*
Dec 19 Wed 10AM

FOR KIDS: ANIMAL TRACKING
Use your detective skills to find out which animals live here in the park. Ages 5-12 *Nature Center*
Dec 28 Fri 2PM

To learn more, visit metroparks.net
**DECEMBER**

**PRESCHOOL IN THE GARDEN: WINTER GREENS**
Learn about plants that stay green during winter through a story and a short hike. Make a holiday craft to take home. [Advance registration](#)  
DEC 5 WED 10811901 (3 SESSIONS)

**COMMON WINTER BIRDS**
Learn about birds on a guided walk and enjoy warm drinks after. Binoculars provided. Ages 18 and older [Gardens Entrance](#)  
DEC 8 SAT 10AM

**MEET THE ARTIST**
View John Holliger’s “The Many Paths of Life” photography exhibit at a reception.  
Innis House  
DEC 9 SUN 2PM

**GARDEN LANTERN WALK**
Enjoy a walk through the gardens lit by candle lanterns. [Gardens Entrance](#)  
DEC 9 SUN 6PM

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**
Search for birds and help collect data for the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. Finish up inside with a warm drink and view birds at the feeders.  
Innis House  
DEC 15 SAT 8–11AM

**GARDEN SCHOOL: WINTER GREENS**
Discover how plants survive winter and make a nature craft with evergreen plants. Ages 6-9 [Gardens Entrance](#)  
DEC 28 10821804

**JANUARY**

**COMMON WINTER BIRDS**
Learn about birds on a guided walk and enjoy warm drinks after. Binoculars provided. Ages 18 and older [Gardens Entrance](#)  
JAN 5 SAT 10AM

**PRESCHOOL IN THE GARDEN: BLUEBIRDS**
Watch for bluebirds at our feeders and find out how these birds survive winter. [Advance registration](#)  
JAN 9 WED 10811906 (3 SESSIONS)

**CENTRAL OHIO PRAIRIES**
Rick Gardner, ODNR’s chief botanist, discusses the natural history, plants and animals that inhabit the prairies at Darby and Pickaway Plains. Sponsored by Columbus Wild Ones. Ages 18 and older [Innis House](#)  
JAN 12 SAT 10–11AM

**METRO FIVE-0: Level 1 COMMON FEEDER BIRDS**
View birds through the windows and discuss what birds are most likely to visit your feeders. Ages 50 and older [Innis House](#)  
JAN 15 TUE 10AM

**46TH ANNUAL WINTER HIKE SERIES**
Join us for a guided 2-mile hike along the trails and garden paths. [Gardens Entrance](#)  
JAN 27 SUN 2PM

**WINTER TREE ID: EASY BARK**
Learn how to identify trees using clues from their bark on this first session of the winter tree id series. Ages 18 and older [Gardens Entrance](#)  
FEB 2 SAT 2PM

**33RD ANNUAL QUILT SHOW**
View quilts produced by members of the Columbus Metropolitan Quilters. Members will be available to answer questions on Saturdays and Sundays. [Innis House](#)  
FEB 2-3 SAT-SUN 11AM–4PM  
FEB 5-8 TUE-FRI 8AM–4:30PM  
FEB 9-10 SAT-SUN 11AM–4PM

**WINTER TREE ID: SILHOUETTES AND BRANCHES**
Learn how to identify trees focusing on characteristics of its form on this second session of the winter tree id series Ages 18 and older [Gardens Entrance](#)  
FEB 9 SAT 2PM

**METRO FIVE-0: Level 3 WALK OF THE MONTH**
Take a 1.5-mile walk to discover the sights and sounds of the season. Ages 50 and older [Gardens Entrance](#)  
FEB 12 TUE 1PM

**PRESCHOOL IN THE GARDEN: WINTER SNOW WHERE DO YOU GO?**
Explore what happens to melting snow through activities and by making an edible watershed. [Advance registration](#)  
FEB 13 WED 10811913 (3 SESSIONS)

**METRO FIVE-0: Level 1 COMMON FEEDER BIRDS**
View birds through the windows and discuss what birds are most likely to visit your feeders. Ages 50 and older [Innis House](#)  
FEB 15 FRI 10AM

**WINTER TREE ID: BUDS AND LEAF SCARS**
Learn how to identify trees focusing on buds, scars and other branch characteristics on this third session of the winter tree id series. Ages 18 and older [Gardens Entrance](#)  
FEB 16 SAT 2PM

**MEET THE ARTISTS**
View the zentangle, photography and paintings of Marjorie Wilhelm and the paintings of Will Lyon at a reception. [Innis House](#)  
FEB 17 SUN 2–4PM

**GARDEN SCHOOL: GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**
Learn about the birds that visit our feeders and contribute to citizen science as we participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Ages 6-9 [Advance registration](#)  
FEB 18 MON 10820516

**INNISWOOD BOOK CLUB**
Join us for a discussion of this quarter’s book “For all the Tea in China” by Sarah Rose. Ages 18 and older [Innis House](#)  
FEB 23 SAT 2PM

**FEBRUARY**

**46TH ANNUAL WINTER HIKE SERIES**
Enjoy a 1-, 3- or 5-mile hike around the lakes, through the prairie and along the banks of Big Darby Creek. [Darby Bend Lakes](#)  
JAN 13 SUN 2PM

**WINTER HIKE FOR YOUR BEST FURRY FRIEND**
Enjoy a 1- or 3-mile self-guided hike with your leashed pet. Warm up around the campfire and we’ll serve hot chocolate for humans and treats for dogs. [Darby Bend Lakes](#)  
FEB 24 SUN 2PM
**ROCKY FORK**

**DECEMBER**

**LOOK FOR OWLS**
Search for owls that spend the winter here.  
*Millstone Shelter*  
DEC 29 SAT 6PM

**JANUARY**

**WINTER RESIDENTS**
Find the birds spending the winter here.  
*Millstone Shelter*  
JAN 20 SUN 10AM

**FEBRUARY**

**WINTER HAWKS**
Look for hawks that hunt in the park in winter.  
*Millstone Shelter*  
FEB 10 SUN 9AM

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**SCIOTO AUDUBON**

**PRESCHOOL STORYTIME**
Bring your little ones for a nature-inspired story or two.  
Grange Insurance Audubon  
EVERY THURSDAY & SATURDAY 10AM

**WEEKLY BIRD HIKE**
Search for birds in the park.  
Grange Insurance Audubon Center  
EVERY SATURDAY 10AM

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**DECEMBER**

**CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS**
A monthly speaker discusses different conservation topics. For more information e-mail Michael at mgoldman@audubon.org.  
Grange Insurance Audubon  
DEC 6 THU 6:30PM

**THE 119TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**
Count all the birds you can at the largest and longest-lasting ornithological event in the world. To register e-mail Michael at mgoldman@audubon.org.  
Grange Insurance Audubon  
DEC 16 SUN @ 11750503

**WINTER WARM UP DAYS**
Warm up at the Audubon Center with crafts, games, stories, movies and songs by the fire.  
Grange Insurance Audubon  
DEC 27-28 THU-FRI 10AM–5PM

**JANUARY**

**WINTER WARM UP DAYS**
See Dec 27  
Grange Insurance Audubon  
JAN 3-4 THU-FRI 10AM–5PM

**CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS**
See Dec 6  
Grange Insurance Audubon  
FEB 7 THU 6:30PM

**FEBRUARY**

**AUDUBON CONSERVATION CLUB**
See Jan 5  
Grange Insurance Audubon  
FEB 13 WED @ 11752000

**THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**
Join bird watchers of all ages to count birds and create a real-time snapshot of where birds are. To register e-mail Michael at mgoldman@audubon.org.  
Grange Insurance Audubon  
FEB 17 SUN @ 11750504

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**SCIOTO GROVE**

**FEBRUARY**

**46TH ANNUAL WINTER HIKE SERIES**
Enjoy a 1- or 2-mile hike followed by hot food and drinks.  
Arrowhead Shelter  
FEB 3 SUN 2PM

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**SHARON WOODS**

**DECEMBER**

**GO WILD KIDS CLUB: HOLIDAY CRAFTS**
Celebrate the season by creating a few works of art to gift or share. Ages 5-12  
Spring Hollow Lodge  
DEC 9 SUN 2PM

**AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**
Search for birds on- and off-trail for the National Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count. Tally your results over a cup of hot cocoa.  
Schrock Lake Restrooms  
DEC 15 SAT 10AM

**HAPPY TAILS-N-TRAILS**
Bring your canine companion for a 2-mile hike followed by a doggie treat.  
Apple Ridge Bulletin Board  
DEC 16 SUN 2PM

**FAST-PACED ADULT FULL MOON HIKE**
Take a fast-paced 2.8-mile hike along gravel, paved and natural surface trails.  
Apple Ridge Bulletin Board  
DEC 21 FRI 5:30PM

**LANTERN STROLL**
Candle lanterns will light the way on a 1-mile stroll through the woods.  
Schrock Lake Restrooms  
DEC 22 SAT 5:30PM

**FAMILY FUN: NEW YEAR’S EVE OPEN HOUSE PARTY**
Stop by anytime to celebrate New Year with games, activities and crafts. Ages 3-7  
Spring Hollow Lodge  
DEC 30 SUN 11AM–3PM
PRESCHOOLERS PLUS: NEW YEAR’S OPEN HOUSE PARTY
Stop by anytime to celebrate New Year with games, activities and crafts. Ages 3-7
Spring Hollow Lodge
DEC 31 MON 10AM–2PM

GO WILD! KIDS CLUB: OFF-TRAIL HIKE
Take a 1-mile hike off-trail in the natural play area in search of winter critters. Ages 5-12
Spring Hollow Lodge
JAN 5 SAT 2PM

KIDS, PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS: OHIO WILDLIFE CENTER
Meet animals from Ohio Wildlife Center and make a craft to take home.
Spring Hollow Lodge
JAN 9 WED 1PM

46TH ANNUAL WINTER HIKE SERIES
Enjoy a 2- or 4- hour hike through fields and forests. Hot soup and drinks served.
Maple Grove Picnic Shelter
JAN 12 SAT 10AM

HOMESCHOOLERS: WATER JOURNEY
Take an adventure as a water droplet and explore the importance of water around the globe. Ages 6-12
Spring Hollow Lodge
JAN 17 THU 10AM OR 1:30PM

FAST-PACED ADULT FULL MOON HIKE
Take a fast-paced 2.8-mile hike along gravel, paved and natural surface trails.
Apple Ridge Bulletin Board
JAN 20 SUN 5:45PM

FEBRUARY

SCOUT DAY: WEBELOS INTO THE WOODS
Webelos will work on requirements towards the Into the Woods adventure.
Advance registration
FEB 09 SAT 10521800 (2 SESSIONS)

GO WILD KIDS CLUB: WHO GOES THERE?
Search for animal tracks and signs off-trail in the forest. Ages 5-12
Natural Play Area
FEB 10 SUN 2PM

FAST-PACED ADULT FULL MOON HIKE
Take a fast-paced 2.8-mile hike along gravel, paved and natural surface trails.
Apple Ridge Bulletin Board
FEB 18 MON 6:30PM

GPS TREASURE HUNT
Search for hidden critters off-trail while using a GPS unit.
Natural Play Area
FEB 24 SUN 2PM

HOMESCHOOLERS: TRACKS N TRAILS
Become a nature detective as you investigate animal tracks and signs. Ages 6-12
Spring Hollow Lodge
FEB 13 WED 10AM OR 1:30PM

SO YOU WANT TO BE A METRO PARKS VOLUNTEER!
Join us at Highbanks and take the first step to become a Metro Parks volunteer. Learn about the variety of volunteer opportunities at Blendon Woods, Highbanks, and Sharon Woods. Enjoy a guided hike, light refreshments and meet like-minded people. Volunteer applications will be available after the program. Ages 16 and older
Advance registration
FEB 16 SAT 10532000

HAPPY TAILS-N-TRAILS
Bring your canine companion for a 2-mile hike followed by a doggie treat.
Apple Ridge Bulletin Board
FEB 18 MON 6:30PM

GPS TREASURE HUNT
Search for hidden critters off-trail while using a GPS unit.
Natural Play Area
FEB 24 SUN 2PM

PRESCOLLERS: STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT
Make a craft, read a story and enjoy other activities as you learn about the night sky.
Spring Hollow Lodge
FEB 27 WED 9:30AM, 11AM OR 1PM
FEB 28 THU 9:30AM, 11AM OR 1PM

SLATE RUN

46TH ANNUAL WINTER HIKE SERIES
Take a 2.5- or 5-mile hike through woods and fields. Food served.
Buzzards Roost Picnic Area
FEB 17 SUN 2PM

SLATE RUN FARM

CHRISTMAS IS COMING
Help decorate the farmhouse in Victorian style. String popcorn and make an ornament to decorate our tree or to take home.
Farmhouse
DEC 1 SAT 1–3PM

‘TIS THE SEASON
Take a break from the holiday bustle with a quiet stroll around the farm. String popcorn and make an ornament to take home.
Farmhouse
DEC 2 SUN 1–3PM

FILLING THE FARM LARDER
Hog butchering is a seasonal activity that provided much of the meat for the coming year on an 1880s farm. Watch the farmers as they clean and prepare the hog carcass.
Farmhouse
DEC 8 SAT 9AM–2PM
DEC 9 SUN 11AM–2PM
**PRESCHOOLERS AT THE FARM: GINGERBREAD FUN**
Decorate a cookie and learn about the holiday tradition of gingerbread with a craft and a story. *Farmhouse*
DEC 13 THU 11AM

**HOMESCHOOLERS AT THE FARM: A GINGERBREAD JOURNEY**
Follow the trail of gingerbread through cultures and time to learn how it became a holiday favorite. *Farmhouse*
DEC 13 THU 1PM

**FAMILY STORYTIME: KEEPING WARM**
Enjoy a story and activity that show how a farm family kept warm in winter. *Farmhouse*
DEC 15 SAT 11AM

**A CHRISTMAS EVENING**
Make decorations, string popcorn and enjoy other seasonal 1880s activities on a special lamplit evening. *Farmhouse*
DEC 15 SAT 4PM

**‘TIS THE SEASON**
Take a break from the holiday bustle with a quiet stroll around the farm. String popcorn and make an ornament to take home. *Farmhouse*
DEC 22 SAT 1–3PM

**SMOKED, SALTED, PICKLED & PRESERVED**
Learn how fruits, vegetables and meats were preserved before the days of artificial refrigeration. The smokehouse will be operating. *Farmhouse*
DEC 30 SUN 1–3PM

**FLASHLIGHT HIKE: A HOLIDAY WALK**
Search for winter’s stark beauty. *Farmhouse*
DEC 30 SUN 7:30PM

**DEC 12 SAT 7PM**

**FEBRUARY**

**MAPLE TIME**
Sample this sweet treat and learn about making maple syrup the 1880s way. A short hike to the sugarbush leaves the farm at 1 and 2pm. Sap collecting and boiling is dependent on the weather but all other activities will take place. Call 614.833.1880 to see if the sap is flowing. *Farmhouse*
FEB 23-24 SAT-SUN 1–3PM

**WALK TO THE EAGLE NEST**
Learn about our national bird and take a 2-mile off-trail walk to visit their nesting site. *Confluence Area*
DEC 22 SAT 10AM

**LAST OF THE YEAR BIRDING**
Enjoy a relaxing walk to search for winter birds. *Confluence Area*
DEC 30 SUN 1:30PM

**THREE CREEKS**

**DECEMBER**

**HIKE ALONG THE CREEK**
Enjoy a leisurely 2-mile walk along the creek in search of winter wonders. *Confluence Area*
DEC 1 SAT 10AM

**WINTER TWIG IDENTIFICATION**
Learn to identify trees by their twigs and gather some to start your own collection. *Confluence Area*
JAN 13 SUN 2PM

**PRESCHOOLERS: BEAR NECESSITIES**
Engage in activities and listen to stories about bears. Teddy bears welcome to attend. *Heritage Nature Center, 551 Wirt Rd, Groveport* 
JAN 16 WED 10AM

**NATURAL PLAY AREA: SHELTER BUILDING**
Practice making a survival shelter using materials found in the woods. *Confluence Area*
JAN 19 SAT 10AM

**CALLING ALL KIDS: OWL PELLETS**
Learn about owls, food webs and adaptations by dissecting an owl pellet. Ages 4-17 *Heritage Nature Center, 551 Wirt Rd, Groveport* 
JAN 21 MON 9:30 OR 11AM

**January**

**WINTER PHOTO WALK**
Search for winter’s stark beauty and photograph field and forest. *Confluence Area*
JAN 6 SUN 1:30PM

**THE COYOTES AMONG US**
Learn about this secretive animal as you wander off-trail in search of their signs. *Heron Pond*
JAN 16 SAT 10AM

**46TH ANNUAL WINTER HIKE SERIES**
Take a 1-, 3- or 5.6-mile hike along the creeks followed by hot drinks and food. *Confluence Area*
FEB 16 SAT 10AM

**FEBRUARY**

**METRO FIVE-0: Level 3 OFF-TRAIL WANDERING**
Take a 2.5-mile on-and-off trail hike through field and forest to visit rarely seen parts of the park. Ages 50 and older *Confluence Area*
JAN 27 SUN 1:30PM

**THE COYOTES AMONG US**
Learn about this secretive animal as you wander off-trail in search of their signs. *Heron Pond*
FEB 16 SAT 2PM

**HOMESCHOOLERS: DISSECTING AN OWL PELLET**
Learn about owls, food webs and adaptations by dissecting an owl pellet. Ages 6-17 *KidSpace, 630 Wirt Rd, Groveport* 
FEB 19 TUE 1PM

**WOODCOCK WATCH**
Take a 1.5-mile walk to watch the aerial courtship display of this fascinating bird. *Confluence Area*
FEB 23 SAT 6PM

To learn more, visit metroparks.net