

Lancaster County Parks Department

Winter 2016 - 2017 Program List



Kids' Fun Fest

Saturday, December 3

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Ages 5 to 7

Environmental Center

Mom or Dad can take advantage of a morning out while Naturalist Ann Strauss entertains the kids. Participants will be doing crafts, science experiments, playing games and taking a short hike. Please have kids dress for making crafts and being outside. Each participant will also need to bring a nut-free morning snack and a packed lunch. Be prepared for fun-fun-fun! Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, December 2. **\$10.00 per child.**

Webelos Adventure: Earth Rocks

Saturday, December 3

9:30 – 11:30 AM

Webelos

Environmental Center

Rocks are fascinating and with leaves down, late fall is the perfect time to explore local geology. Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will assist in completing badge requirements as scouts collect rocks on a short hike, use physical properties to identify minerals, and examine fossils. Scouts will end by making their own "fossils" and modelling plate tectonics with cookies. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, December 2. **\$5.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult.**

Time Out for Mom or Dad

Saturday, December 3

1:30 – 5:00 PM

Ages 8 to 12

Environmental Center

Kids may be dropped off to join Naturalist Ann Strauss for crafts, fun and games. Participants will be crafting, doing science experiments, playing games and taking a hike. Please have kids dress for making crafts and being outside. Each participant will also need to bring a nut-free snack and a bottle of water, as well as a clear jar – pickle size or smaller - and an empty paper towel tube. Be prepared for lots of fun! Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, December 2. **\$10.00 per child.**

Creative Ornaments

Thursday, December 8

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Ages 12 and up

Environmental Center

Come make beautiful holiday ornaments to celebrate the season. There will be several ornament options from which to choose. Participants may complete any number of ornaments in the time allowed. Naturalist Ann Strauss will be available to assist all participants as we enjoy one of the favorite traditions of the holiday season. Parents do not need to attend with children. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Wednesday, December 7. **\$ 6.00 per person**

Holiday Crafts for Children

Saturday, December 10

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Ages 3 and up

Environmental Center

Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will have a series of stations available for children to make simple holiday crafts. Geared for young children with adult supervision, crafts will include ever-popular foil stars and moons, sand art, beads and feature new crafts including handprint reindeer, wreaths, and yarn-wrapped stars. Wear old clothes. Children must be accompanied by adults. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, December 9. **\$4.00 per crafter age 3 and up and \$1.00 per helper.**

Registration is required for all programs. Unless otherwise noted children must be accompanied by an adult and children 3 and under are free. To register or for more information, please call the Parks' Environmental Center at 717-295-2055. Please visit our website at www.lancastercountyparks.org.

Animals in Winter Nature Walk

Sunday, December 11

1:00 – 2:00 PM

All Ages

Environmental Center

Explore the winter woods in search of animal tracks and signs with Naturalist Kelsey Frey. Learn which animals have migrated, which are hibernating, and how the rest will survive the winter weather. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, December 9. **\$2.00 per person**

Animal Survival in the Winter

Saturday, December 17

9:30 – 11:00 AM

All Ages

Environmental Center

Join Naturalist Nate Alter for a winter program to learn how animals are able to survive the harsh conditions of winter. After a brief powerpoint presentation, we will explore nearby trails for signs of wildlife and their food sources. Be sure to dress for the weather, and wear walking shoes. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, December 16. **\$2.00 per person**

Winter Wildflower Walk

Wednesday, December 21

10:00 – 11:00 AM

All Ages

Muhlenberg Wildflower Meadow, Central Park

Join Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez for a walk in the meadow to enjoy the wildflowers in their final beauty. We will explore the seeds and pods that like the flower, have their own natural beauty and uniqueness. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Tuesday, December 20. **\$1.00 per person**

Dissection Series

Tuesdays

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Ages 10 and up

Environmental Center

December 27

Cow eye and sheep heart – register by 12/14; \$12.00 per child *

January 10

Grasshopper and crayfish – register by 12/28; \$6.00 per child *

January 24

Clam and starfish – register by 1/11; \$8.00 per child *

February 7

Perch – register by 1/25; \$6.00 per child *

February 21

Frog – register by 2/8; \$8.00 per child *

March 7

Fetal pig – register by 2/22; \$12.00 per child *

Join Naturalist Ann Strauss for a 6-week dissection series. Participants will learn about the biological systems of the specimens and how they compare to systems of other organisms. We will discuss how organisms became more advanced over time. Each week a different organ or organism will be dissected. A participant can register for the entire series, or may register for any one or more dissections. Please register by deadlines above. Children aged 10 and 11 must have accompanying adults. Note individual dissection fees above. **Register and pay for the series by December 14 for the discounted fee of \$48.00. *Adults are \$1.00.**

Junior Girl Scout Day in the Park: Detective Badge

Wednesday, December 28

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Junior Girl Scouts

Environmental Center

Analyzing fingerprints and handwriting, sending and receiving coded messages, and using observational skills are all great fun! Become a detective for a morning with Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel. Girls will complete all requirements for the Detective Badge. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday December 21. Badges are not included. Make a day of it by joining the afternoon Jeweler Badge program. **\$5.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult.**

Junior Girl Scout Day in the Park: Jeweler Badge
Wednesday, December 28 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Junior Girl Scouts
Environmental Center

From examining Native American adornments to making hieroglyphic pendants, bending wire, and creating paper bead bracelets and earrings, girls will explore jewelry and jewelry-making with Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel. Junior Girl Scouts will complete requirements for the badge by making a gift using the various media and techniques available. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, December 21. Badges are not included. Make a day of it and join in the morning Detective Badge program. **\$7.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult.**

Brownie Girl Scout Day in the Park: Letterboxer Badge
Thursday, December 29 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Brownie Girl Scouts
Environmental Center

From playing with clues and codes to making unique stamps to finding – and then hiding – letterboxes, this badge is nonstop fun! Girls will complete all badge requirements with a series of indoor and outdoor activities with Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel. Dress for the weather and bring a snack if desired. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, December 21. Badges are not included. **\$8.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult.**

Brownie Girl Scout Day in the Park: Hiker Badge
Thursday, December 29 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Brownie Girl Scouts
Environmental Center

With leaves down and woodland views open, winter is a wonderful time for a hike! Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will lead Brownie Girl Scouts in completing badge requirements which include learning about trail signs, maps, and gear before heading off on a hike. Leaders must provide the snack or gorp. Dress for the weather and wear shoes appropriate for a hike on woodland trails. Call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay before noon on Wednesday, December 21. Badges are not included. **\$5.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult.**

Bird Study Merit Badge
Friday, December 30 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Boy Scouts
Environmental Center

Leaves are down and with the Christmas Bird Count for Kids the following day, this is a great opportunity to work on the Bird Study Merit Badge. Merit Badge Counselor and Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will assist scouts in completing requirements 1 through 4, 6, and 8. Participation in the Christmas Bird Count for Kids on Saturday, December 31, should allow scouts to complete the remaining requirements. Please dress for the weather, bring a water bottle, lunch, field notebook, binoculars and bird field guide if possible. Call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, December 28. **\$10.00 per scout and \$2.00 per adult.**

Christmas Bird Count for Kids
Saturday, December 31 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

All Ages
Environmental Center

Lancaster County Bird Club (LCBC) and the Lancaster County Parks co-sponsor a Christmas Bird Count for Kids (CBC4KIDS). The CBC4KIDS is a youth activity that gets children and adults outdoors during the Christmas holidays for a worthwhile “citizen scientist” event. Based on the adult Christmas Bird Count, this abbreviated event teaches youth the adventure of winter bird identification. Participants form teams, or may be assigned to a team. Volunteers from LCBC will teach youth how to use binoculars; loaners will be available if needed. LCBC members will lead the teams on 90-minute walks in Central Park to identify as many species as possible. Team will report their results at the end of the walks and record their data on eBird; submitting their

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bird checklists will introduce the concept of citizen science to the young naturalists and emphasize how their efforts can assist bird population monitoring and conservation efforts. Refreshments and activities will be held in the Environmental Center and all participants are encouraged to bring a packed lunch. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, December 30. **Free.**

Fun and Fascination for Kids

1st and 3rd Wednesdays

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Ages 5 - 9

Environmental Center

January 4	Solids, liquids, gases
January 18	Density
February 1	Matter and magnetism
February 15	Air pressure
March 1	Sun and wind
March 15	Water and the water cycle
April 5	What do plants need?
April 19	Growing plants

For the winter season, Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will lead children in discovering properties of matter. March and April programs will explore sun, wind, water, and finally plants as the natural world responds to the changing seasons. Actual activities will vary from class to class but will include simple experiments, crafts, games, and as much outdoor time as possible. Dress for potentially messy indoor activities and the weather outside. Younger children with parents are welcome to attend if accompanying older siblings. Please register at (717) 295-2055 by noon on the Tuesday preceding each program. **\$3.00 per child and \$1.00 per adult**

Winter Night Hike

Friday, January 6

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Ages 5 and up

Environmental Center

Please join Naturalist Ann Strauss for a winter's night hike. Program will run whether there is snow on the ground or not, so please come dressed for the weather. We will hike the Scout Trail here on the grounds of the Environmental Center – approximately a one-mile trail. We will listen and look for signs of wildlife – hopefully hearing Great Horned Owls calling for their mates. As we hike we will stop along the trail to observe signs of wildlife and enjoy some activities that will teach us about the nocturnal animals of the woods. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Thursday, January 5. **\$2.00 per person**

National “Winter Trails Day”

Saturday, January 7

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

All Ages

Conewago Recreation Trail

Join Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez at the Conewago Recreation Trail to celebrate National Winter Trails Day. We will walk the trail, enjoy the views of nature in winter, and learn about the natural world. Please dress for the weather. Meet at the trailhead on Route 230. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, January 6. **\$2.00 per person**

Winter Treats for Backyard Birds

Saturday, January 14

10:00 – 11:00 AM

All Ages

Environmental Center

Let's not forget our feathered friends this winter! Join Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel to create a variety of nutritious treats for backyard birds with ingredients including nuts, fruits, peanut butter, and seeds. Wear old clothes for a messy project! Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, January 13. **\$4.00 per person.**

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Storytime and Craft

Sundays

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Ages 3 and up

Environmental Center

January 15

Turtles

January 22

Frogs

February 5

Nonvenomous Snakes

February 12

Salamanders

Dreaming of spring already? Learn about reptiles and amphibians through an interactive story reading, then make a craft celebrating the animal. Meet some real live animals, too, with Naturalist Kelsey Frey. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on the Friday preceding each program. **\$3.00 per person**

Wildlife in Winter

Tuesday, January 17

10:00 – 11:00 AM

All Ages

Environmental Center

Join Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez for an exploration into the activities of wild animals during the winter season. Some of our local wildlife migrate away from this area and many others do interesting things to survive this time of year. This program will begin inside and continue outside. Please dress for the weather. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Monday, January 16. **\$2.00 per person**

Owls of Lancaster County

Saturday, January 21

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Ages 6 and up

Environmental Center

Join Naturalist Brandon Pentz for a look at owls of Lancaster County. We will explore their life cycle, their sounds and unique features, and discuss appearances of Snowy Owls in the area. Participants will also explore the contents of an owl pellet. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, January 20. **\$2.00 per person and \$3.50 per owl pellet (optional)**

SNOW: It's More than a Four Letter Word

Saturday, January 28

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

All Ages

Environmental Center

Naturalist Tina Mark will lead family outdoor activities and explore the science behind snow. Snow or not, plan to walk and look for tracks and make a craft, among other activities. Dress for the outdoors and hope for snow! Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, January 27. **\$2.00 per person**

Sourdough Bread-making Workshop

Saturday, February 4

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Ages 12 and up

Pavilion #22

Join us for a morning of learning the basics of bread. Naturalist Brittany Smith will discuss the foundations of creating your own sourdough culture and the science behind bread. Together we will bake a loaf of fragrant, naturally leavened bread and enjoy sampling it at the end of class! Each participant will leave with the recipe and their own rising dough ball to bake at home. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Tuesday, January 31. **\$5.00 per person**

Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 11

10:00 – 11:15 AM

Ages 10 and up

Environmental Center

Bird watchers of all ages count birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are during the Great Backyard Bird Count. Join Naturalist Emily Broich as we learn how our everyday backyard bird sightings can help scientists understand bird populations with the online program **eBird**. This event occurs one week before the Great Backyard Bird Count to get you ready to conduct your own count. We will take a short walk outside to observe and then submit our observations to **eBird**! Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, February 10. **\$2.00 per person**

Valentine Papermaking

Saturday, February 11

10:00 – 11:00 AM

All Ages

Environmental Center

Come to the Environmental Center for some Valentine papermaking fun! Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will have materials available for making variously colored papers. Feel free to exercise your creativity with your own items as well. Dress for a messy project. Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, February 10. **\$3.00 per crafter and \$1.00 per helper**

Wacky Science

Saturday, February 18

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Ages 10 and up

Environmental Center

Come ready to mess with Wacky Science! Participants will make Dr. Seuss's famous *oobleck* as well as their own sample of homemade silly putty. Together we will practice making secret notes with invisible ink and learn how to read them. Fun will be had by all when we mix ingredients in a zip lock bag only to watch it explode. Naturalist Ann Strauss will have all the ingredients you need, just bring your curiosity and best messy self! Please call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, February 17. Adults do not have to accompany children. **\$4.00 per person.**

Maple Sugaring

Saturday, February 25

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

All Ages

Pavilion #11

Sunday, February 26

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 5

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Join County Park Naturalists for on-going maple sugaring demonstrations in the sugar bush of Central Park. See trees being tapped, sap boiled to syrup, and candy made from syrup. Maple products will be on sale. Please drop in anytime and stay as little or as long as you would like. Please call (717) 295-2055 to make reservations for a full-hour program during our public program days. There is a \$2.00 fee per person for the guided, hour-long presentations and donations are appreciated for the drop-in programs. Also call us to book a private group demonstration, with a small fee on days other than those listed above. Come to Central Park and follow the signs or the smell to maple sugaring.

Astronomy Program for 2017

The Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation will again be hosting nighttime star watches conducted by the Astronomy Enthusiasts of Lancaster County (AELC). All 2017 star watches will take place at the Lancaster County Parks' Environmental Center. Star watches will provide a science-oriented understanding of the different types of objects found in the universe. These include the moon, planets, stars and star clusters, galaxies, constellations, comets and different types of nebulae. These objects will be viewed through telescopes set up by club members as well as by your naked eyes, so bring your interest and questions, and enjoy yourself under the night sky. **The second date listed for each month is the rain date, only to be used if the first night is cancelled. All dates will be selected on the Wednesdays preceding the programs. Please call 717-295-2055 for more information and visit the AELC's website (<http://www.aelc.us/>) for up-to-date weather related program changes.**

Free: Donations Appreciated

Month	Date	Star Watch Time	Location	Objects
March	17 or 18	8:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Lancaster County Central Park: Environmental Center	Stars: Rigel, Betelgeuse and Sirius Planets: Venus, Mars, Uranus Objects: Orion Nebula, the Pleiades star cluster Constellations: Gemini and Orion
April	21 or 22	8:30 – 10:00 p.m.	Lancaster County Central Park: Environmental Center	Stars: Regulus, Castor and Pollux Planets: Mars and Jupiter Objects: Galaxies M65 and M66 Constellations: Leo and Auriga
May	19 or 20	8:30 – 10:00 p.m.	Lancaster County Central Park: Environmental Center	Stars: Polaris and Mizar Planets: Mars and Jupiter Objects: Star cluster M5 Constellations: Ursa Major and Ursa Minor
June	16 or 17	9:00 – 10:30 p.m.	Lancaster County Central Park: Environmental Center	Stars: Arcturus and Spica Planets: Mars and Jupiter Objects: Star clusters M13 and M67 Constellations: Corvus and Hercules
July	14 or 15	8:30 – 10:00 p.m.	Lancaster County Central Park: Environmental Center	Stars: Izar and Alphecca Planets: Jupiter and Saturn Objects: Galaxies M81 and M82 Constellations: Hercules and Corona Borealis
August	11 or 12	8:30 – 10:00 p.m.	Lancaster County Central Park: Environmental Center	Stars: Vega, Deneb and Altair Planets: Jupiter and Saturn Objects: Planetary nebulae M27 and M57 Constellations: Cygnus and Scorpius
September	15 or 16	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Lancaster County Central Park: Environmental Center	Stars: Antares and Alberio Planets: Neptune and Saturn Objects: Omega nebula, the Andromeda Galaxy Constellations: Sagittarius and Delphinus
October	13 or 14	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Lancaster County Central Park: Environmental Center	Stars: Algol and Caph Planets: Neptune, Uranus, and Saturn Objects: Andromeda Galaxy, star cluster M52 Constellations: Pegasus and Cassiopeia
November	10 or 11	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Lancaster County Central Park: Environmental Center	Stars: Capella and Aldebaran Planets: Uranus and Neptune Objects: Double star cluster, Andromeda Galaxy Constellations: Perseus and Andromeda

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