

Lancaster County Parks Department

Winter 2021-2022 Program List



Have you created an account with our new online registration system? You can now register for programs online and manage the entire family's schedules in one spot – go to <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks> to sign up now!

Daisy Girl Scouts: Math in Nature **Saturday, December 4**

Ages 5 and up
Environmental Center

As Daisy Girl Scouts are about to discover, math involves lots of fun with shapes, patterns, creative measurement, and art. Register for one or all three of the programs in this new Daisy badge series. We will be outside as much as possible so dress appropriately. Bring a water bottle and a nut-free snack and lunch if registering for all three programs with Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Thursday, December 2

Shapes in Nature	9:00 – 10:15 AM	\$5.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult
Girls find shapes and patterns in the natural world, make patterns of their own, and create nature-inspired art.		
Numbers in Nature	10:45 AM – 12:00 PM	\$5.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult
Girls explore shadows, find novel ways to measure, and collect natural items to sort.		
Design with Nature	12:30 – 1:45 PM	\$5.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult
Girls explore nature's diversity, observe and tally birds, and make simple maps of the area.		

Introduction to Compass Skills **Saturday, December 4**

All Ages
Environmental Center

The ability to use a compass for basic navigation is a worthwhile skill and its application is fun. Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will instruct participants in compass use and integrate pace to complete practice courses in the Environmental Center vicinity. Dress for the weather and for walking on woodland trails and mowed fields. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, December 3. \$3.00 per person.

Munchkin Science: Animals in Winter **Tuesday, December 7**

Ages 3 - 5
Environmental Center

Animals must figure out how to survive winter's freezing temperatures. There are many ways animals do this and munchkin scientists will learn some of them by inspecting fur, feathers, shells and skins from the Environmental Center specimen collection. Naturalist Ann Strauss will lead a winter walk to look for signs of animals that are still active during the winter. This program is geared for children 3-5 years (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, December 6. \$3.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

Unless otherwise noted children must be accompanied by an adult and children 3 and under are free.

To register online, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks>.

To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Homeschool Wednesday: Monarch Migration**Ages 8 - 12****Wednesday, December 8****10:00 - 11:30 AM****Environmental Center**

Winter homeschool science classes continue with a study of migration. With Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel students will explore monarch migration. We will use Journey North's wealth of citizen science reports on monarchs and milkweed to discover patterns in the seasonal cycles of both the plants and the butterflies. We will also discover changes within the butterflies themselves that enable the "super-generation" to overwinter in Mexico and begin the trek back to North America. Wear old clothes and plan for indoor and outdoor activity. Programs are geared for ages 8 through 12. Children under age 8 are welcome if accompanying older siblings; please call to register them. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, December 7. \$4.00 per child and \$1.00 per adult.

Jump into STEM: Painting with Nature**Ages 3 - 5****Thursday, December 9****10:00 - 11:00 AM****Environmental Center**

Preschool scientists will have the opportunity to learn about different parts of evergreen plants found within the park. Join Naturalist Taylor Mervine for a short interactive presentation followed by a fun painting activity. Our young scientists will experiment with the different textures and marks achieved when various evergreens are used as paint brushes. All supplies will be provided. This program is geared for children aged 3 to 5 (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, December 8. \$3.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

Nature Story Time: Owl Moon**Ages 2 and up****Saturday, December 11****10:00 - 11:00 AM****Environmental Center**

Have you ever wanted to learn how to call a Great Horned Owl? *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolan is a story about a young girl and her father who go owling by the silver light of the moon to see if they can convince a Great Horned Owl to fly to them. This book has always been a favorite of Naturalist Ann Strauss who will lead story time followed by a presentation of the Environmental Center's owl specimen collection. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, December 10. \$2.00 per child aged 2 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

Bird Study Merit Badge**Ages 10 and up****Saturday, December 11****10:00 AM - 3:00 PM****Environmental Center**

With foliage down, late fall is an excellent time for observing Lancaster's resident birds. Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will assist scouts in completing requirements 1-4, 6-7, and 10-11. Participation in the Annual Christmas Bird Count scheduled for Saturday, December 18 (registration required but free) at the Environmental Center will fulfill requirements 5 and 8. Dress for extended time walking and birdwatching outdoors. Bring a water bottle, snack, and lunch. Bring a field notebook and binoculars and a bird guide if possible. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Thursday, December 9. \$13.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

Unless otherwise noted children must be accompanied by an adult and children 3 and under are free.

To register online, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks> .

To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Hibernation: Where Did All the Animals Go?**Ages 8 and up****Sunday, December 12****1:00 – 2:30 PM****Environmental Center**

Where did all the animals go? Some animals like to go where it's warm during our cold winter months, but what about the ones who stay? Naturalist Carter Johnson will lead a group discussion on hibernating animals both big and small, how they stay warm, and where they hide. Be sure to dress appropriately for this short hike and lesson all about hibernation at the Environmental Center. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, December 10. \$3.00 per child and \$1.00 per adult.

Holiday Papermaking**All Ages****Thursday, December 16****10:00 – 11:00 AM and 6:30 – 7:30 PM****Environmental Center**

Homemade paper for cards, notes, gift tags, and ornaments provides a welcome personal touch during the holidays. Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will provide materials for everyone to create unique papers. Participating artists are welcome to bring additional materials like dried flowers, seeds, and favorite cookie cutters if desired. Dress for a potentially messy craft. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, December 15. \$3.50 per person.

GPS Scavenger Hunt**Ages 3 and up****Friday, December 17****1:00 – 2:30 PM****Environmental Center**

Get outside and go on a scavenger hunt with the help of the Global Positioning System (GPS). Meet at the Environmental Center's forebay where Naturalist Ann Strauss will teach participants how to use handheld GPS units. Participants can then discover on their own a set of predetermined scavenger hunt points with the help of this fun technology. Please dress for outdoor activity. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Thursday, December 16. \$4.00 per person.

Christmas Bird Count**All Ages****Saturday, December 18****9:00 – 11:00 AM****Environmental Center**

Lancaster County Bird Club (LCBC) and the Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation will once again cosponsor a Christmas Bird Count. In keeping with the Audubon tradition dating back to 1900, this event teaches all ages the adventure of bird identification in the wintertime. Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez and volunteers from LCBC will lead a walk in Central Park to identify and record as many species as possible. Please dress for the weather and bring along binoculars if you have them or borrow ours. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday, December 17. Free

Full Moon Walk: Cold Moon**Ages 18 and up****Saturday, December 18****6:30 – 7:30 PM****Environmental Center**

The Cold Moon is upon us. Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez will lead a walk near the Environmental Center as the full moon guides the way and helps us search for wildlife that may be active during the winter evenings. Learn about, listen closely and use your other senses to discover what Central Park is like after dark. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday December 17. \$2.00 per person.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

Unless otherwise noted children must be accompanied by an adult and children 3 and under are free.

To register online, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks> .

To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Build a Bird House
Monday, December 20

6:00 – 7:30 PM

All Ages
Pavilion #22

It's never too late or too early to install a home for the birds. Naturalist Lisa J Sanchez will provide materials and advice as participants build bird houses to attract wildlife to their homes or gift them to brighten someone else's backyard. Learn about cavity nesting birds that may call your box home including local bluebirds who, even in the winter months, will roost with each other in the box to stay warm. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register by noon on Friday December 17. **\$10.00 per box and \$3.00 per person.**

Munchkin Science: Garden of Five Senses
Tuesday, December 21

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Ages 3 - 5
Garden of Five Senses

The Garden of Five Senses located near Central Park's main entrance is just as special in the fall and winter as it is in the spring and summer. Munchkins will join Naturalist Ann Strauss on a stroll through the garden and discuss how our senses aid in exploration and investigation in the natural world. A group game will be played on the open flood plain area following our walk. This program is geared for children aged 3-5 years (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, December 20. **\$3.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.**

Winter Solstice around the World
Tuesday, December 21

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Ages 5 and up
Environmental Center

The winter solstice is one of the oldest winter celebrations in the world and is observed by many different cultures and religions; some eat special meals while others light symbolic fires. Join Naturalist Stevie Kitching for a glimpse into how and why the winter solstice is celebrated by so many. After the presentation, you are invited to join a campfire for a chance to relax and enjoy some hot chocolate during a busy and stressful holiday season. Please dress for the weather and bring a lawn chair if you plan to stay for the campfire. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, December 20. **\$4.00 per person.**

Homeschool Wednesday: Salmon Migration
Wednesday, December 22

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Ages 8 - 12
Environmental Center

Winter homeschool science classes continue with a study of migration. Salmon have fascinating life stories. Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will lead students in discovering the natural travels and trials of selected Pacific and Atlantic populations as well as human impacts on their migrations. Wear old clothes and plan for indoor and outdoor activity. Programs are geared for ages 8 through 12. Children under age 8 are welcome if accompanying older siblings; please call to register them. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, December 21. **\$4.00 per child and \$1.00 per adult.**

Jump into STEM: Salt Dough Chemistry
Thursday, December 23

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Ages 3 - 5
Environmental Center

Holiday ornament-making and chemistry go hand in hand. Join Naturalist Taylor Mervine in the Environmental Center's classroom to conduct a fun chemistry experiment to make your own salt dough. Through this program young scientists will work on measuring and mixing items together to make something new. Working in small groups the preschool scientists will mix the dough, roll it out, and cut their own ornaments in time for the holiday season. All supplies will be provided. This program is geared for children aged 3-5 years (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, December 22. **\$4.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.**

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To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Gotta Catch 'Em All: Insects**Ages 6 - 12****Tuesday, December 28****10:00 – 11:00 AM****Environmental Center**

Pokémon, the phenomenon that swept the nation in 1996, are still a familiar sight to see. The imaginary creatures are not so imaginary if you take a closer look. Spend the morning with Naturalist Rachel Albright at the Environmental Center auditorium designing your very own set of four insect playing cards inspired by our Lancaster County six legged friends. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, December 27. \$4.00 per child and \$1.00 per adult.

Exploring Evergreens**All Ages****Wednesday, December 29****10:00 – 11:00 AM****Environmental Center**

Evergreens are especially interesting to explore in the wintertime. Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez will lead a walk from the Environmental Center to learn about evergreens growing in the wild. Observe the stature, smell cones, and learn about the uniqueness of many evergreen species in our local environment. Please dress appropriately for outdoor activity. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, December 28. \$2.00 per person.

Winter Wind Chimes**Ages 3 and up****Wednesday, December 29****1:00 – 2:00 PM****Environmental Center**

Wind chimes are a perfect way to capture the winter wind. Get crafty with Naturalist Ellen Blazer as we go on a short hike around Central Park, collecting materials such as pinecones, rocks, and sticks to make our own natural wind chimes. Bring recyclable items of your own to combine with our collected materials to complete the craft. Dress appropriately for outdoor activity. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, December 28. \$3.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

Family Hike: Winter Animals**Ages 3 and up****Thursday, December 30****10:00 - 11:30 AM****Pavilion #22**

Get up close and personal with the fur of a variety of winter animals as well as their skulls and scat in Pavilion 22. Naturalist Ann Strauss will share interesting facts about animals that can endure the cold temperatures of winter. Following the discussion take a guided winter hike on the Red Trail to look for tracks, trails, rubbings, or other signs of these remarkable animals. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, December 29. \$3.00 per person.

Munchkin Science: Mixtures and Textures**Ages 3 - 5****Tuesday, January 4****1:00 – 2:00 PM****Environmental Center**

Who can resist making something goopy, foamy, or fun? Naturalist Ann Strauss will give kids the opportunity to make mixtures from a variety of ingredients, challenging them to think about the chemistry of their creations while having plenty of fun. Interesting textures and consistencies provide plenty of tactile exploration and participants can take home samples of their favorite mixtures. Please dress appropriately for a potentially messy time. This program is geared for children aged 3-5 years (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, January 3. \$4.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

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To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

TNT Science: Hydro Cars**Tuesday, January 4****6:30 – 8:00 PM****Ages 11 - 17****Pavilion #22**

Try your hand at harnessing the power of hydrogen. Naturalist Ann Strauss leads young scientists in the assembly and propulsion of Hydro Car kits. This activity teaches young people to come up with viable and ingenious solutions to modern problems by extracting hydrogen from water to fuel the device. Parents must sign a release waiver before dropping off their children. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, January 3. \$4.00 per person.

Jump into STEM: Measurements of Nature**Thursday, January 6****10:00 – 11:00 AM****Ages 3 - 5****Environmental Center**

Have you ever pondered the length of a squirrel, the width of a deer's head, or the size of a beaver's front tooth? Well now is your chance to measure all these items and more with Naturalist Taylor Mervine. Through this program preschool scientists will have the opportunity to practice their math skills by measuring things such as animal furs, skulls, and other fun natural objects. This program is geared for children aged 3-5 years (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, January 5. \$3.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

Brownie Girl Scouts: Math in Nature**Saturday, January 8****Ages 6 and up****Environmental Center**

Did you know that spiderwebs, tessellations, garden planning, and recipes all fall under the topic of math? Math is fun as Brownie Girl Scouts are about to discover with Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel. Register for one or all three of the programs in this new Brownie badge series. We will be outside as much as possible so dress appropriately. Bring a water bottle and a nut-free snack and lunch if registering for all three programs. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Thursday, January 6.

Shapes in Nature**9:00 – 10:30 AM****\$5.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult**

Girls track and plot natural objects, make spiderwebs, discover tessellations, and observe birds.

Numbers in Nature**11:00 AM – 12:30 PM****\$5.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult**

Numbers come into play as girls explore temperature, compare the lengths of evergreen leaves, and plan a garden.

Design with Nature**1:00 – 2:30 PM****\$8.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult**

Girls estimate the age of shells, trees, and other natural items; explore symmetry within wasp nests; make food for birds; and design a bird feeder. Note that peanut butter will be used in making the food for birds.

Tracks and Turds**Sunday, January 9 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM****All Ages****Environmental Center****Tuesday, January 18 from 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Follow in the footsteps of animals and learn about them from the signs they leave behind. Go tracking with Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez and locate and identify tracks, scat, and other clues helpful in indicating which animals are active and surviving in the winter months. Please dress for the weather. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, January 7 or 14. \$3.00 per person

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

Unless otherwise noted children must be accompanied by an adult and children 3 and under are free.

To register online, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks> .

To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

TNT Science: Owls and their Pellets**Tuesday, January 11****6:30 – 8:00 PM****Ages 11 - 17****Pavilion #22**

This will be an evening about owls of Pennsylvania. Join Naturalist Ann Strauss in learning about owl's hunting methods, common prey, and communication. Each young scientist will dissect an owl pellet to isolate bones and determine the owl's diet. Following the dissection, Ann will lead an owl hunt, and, by using owl call mimicry, she will try to lure them close. Parents must sign a release waiver before dropping off their children. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, January 10. \$6.00 per person.

Homeschool Wednesday: Migration on African Plains**Wednesday, January 12****10:00 - 11:30 AM****Ages 8 - 12****Environmental Center**

Winter homeschool science classes continue with a study of migration. As the world's second largest continent, Africa spans latitudes well north and south of the Equator and hosts diverse habitats. Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will lead students in an exploration of the annual cycles of climate and resulting mammal migrations across the African plains. Wear old clothes and plan for indoor and outdoor activity. Programs are geared for ages 8 through 12. Children under age 8 are welcome if accompanying older siblings; please call to register them. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, January 11. \$4.00 per child and \$1.00 per adult.

Pre-Colonial Pennsylvania**Thursday, January 13****6:00 – 8:00 PM****All Ages****Environmental Center**

What was Pennsylvania like before it became Pennsylvania? This presentation, led by Naturalist Carter Johnson, will explore what the area looked like long before colonists arrived on the continent. Extinct species, old growth forests, and the tribes indigenous to the area are topics that will be covered during this glimpse into the past. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, January 12. \$4.00 per person.

Sustainability Merit Badge**Saturdays January 15, March 12, and April 23****9:30 – 11:00 AM****Ages 10 and up****Environmental Center**

Naturalist and Merit Badge Counsellor Mary Ann Schlegel will facilitate as scouts complete this merit badge over 3 sessions. Prior to the first session, scouts must complete Parts 1 and 2; note that the latter section requires tracking a monthlong household water-reduction plan. In each meeting, scouts must provide documentation and report on their assigned sections prior to receiving assignments for subsequent meetings. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Thursday, January 13. \$15.00 per scout and \$3.00 per adult.

Full Moon Walk: Wolf Moon**Monday, January 17****6:30 – 7:30 PM****All Ages****Muhlenberg Meadow**

The Wolf Moon is upon us. Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez will lead a walk in the meadow, along the creek and through the woods while the full moon shows us the way. Learn about and listen closely to what is howling and hooting at the moon. Meet at Ballfield #1 parking lot located at 539 Golf Rd. Lancaster, PA 17602. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, January 14. \$2.00 per person.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

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To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Munchkin Science: Mysterious Owls**Ages 3 - 5****Tuesday, January 18****1:00 – 2:00 PM****Environmental Center**

As nocturnal hunters, owls have always been intriguing and mysterious. Naturalist Ann Strauss will get to the bottom of some of the mysteries of these nighttime predators. Munchkin scientists will be able to look at owl wings, feet, and skulls up close as they learn about owl adaptations. Dissection of owl pellets will also help unravel the mystery of what owls eat. Participants may take their owl pellet treasures home with them to share what they learned. This program is geared for children aged 3-5 years (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, January 14. \$5.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

TNT Science Series: Chemical and Physical Changes**Ages 11 - 17****Tuesday, January 18****6:30 – 8:00 PM****Pavilion #22**

Young chemists, put on your thinking caps and come ready to learn about chemical and physical changes through experimentation. With the help of Naturalist Ann Strauss, participants will make a cabbage indicator, baking soda rockets, dry ice soup, starch oobleck, and bubble juice. The difference between chemical reactions and physical changes will become easier to identify with these many hands-on activities. Parents must sign a release waiver before dropping off their children. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, January 14. \$6.00 per person.

Jump into STEM: Snow Tracks**Ages 3 - 5****Thursday, January 20****10:00 – 11:00 AM****Environmental Center**

The winter season means snow is around the corner. Naturalist Taylor Mervine will provide young scientists with a better understanding of the animals that live around them and how to identify their tracks in the snow. The preschool scientists will also make their own animal tracks guide to take home with them. All supplies will be provided. This program is geared for children aged 3-5 years (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, January 19. \$3.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

Nature Story Time: *Stranger in the Woods***Ages 2 and up****Saturday, January 22****10:00 – 11:00 AM****Environmental Center**

Stranger in the Woods by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick is a book that celebrates animals of the forest that are active in winter. Naturalist Ann Strauss will introduce participants to these animals helping them discover ways to identify these furry and feathered friends. Following the book, kids will have the opportunity to explore the furs and skulls of the Environmental Center's animal specimens and learn about the animals of winter with a hands-on experience. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, January 21. \$2.00 per child aged 2 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

Science of Staying Warm**Ages 10 and up****Saturday, January 22****1:00 – 2:15 PM****Environmental Center**

Brrr! There's nothing we can do about the cold weather, but we can learn how to stay warm. Meet with Naturalist Stevie Kitching at the Environmental Center classroom to learn about the science of keeping the human body warm. Experiments will be conducted and include concepts such as the importance of hats in our winter wardrobe. Parents may drop off children but must first sign a release waiver. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, January 21. \$3.00 per person.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

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To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Winter Seed Stroll**Sunday, January 23****1:30 – 3:00 PM****All Ages****Muhlenberg Meadow****Tuesday, January 25**

Walk with Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez through the wildflower meadow and the woods along the creek to search for pods, seeds, samaras (helicopter seeds) and nuts. We will learn about this final stage and enjoy its natural beauty, uniqueness and value to nature and wildlife. Meet at the Ballfield 1 Parking Lot at 539 Golf Road, Lancaster 17602. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday January 21 and Monday January 24. \$3.00 per person

TNT Science: Catapult Design**Tuesday, January 25****6:30 – 8:00 PM****Ages 11 - 17****Pavilion #22**

For any young scientist who likes to create, problem solve, and build, this program is for you. Naturalist Ann Strauss will provide participants with catapult construction training before they each build their own ping pong ball catapult. The class will then be split into two groups which will be tasked to construct a catapult able to launch a tennis ball, promoting team building and problem-solving skills. Parents must sign a release waiver before dropping off their children. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, January 24. \$6.00 per person.

Homeschool Wednesday: Plankton Migrate?**Wednesday, January 26****10:00 - 11:30 AM****Ages 8 - 12****Environmental Center**

Winter homeschool science classes continue with a study of plankton migration. Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel introduces students to the utterly fascinating world of the ocean's deep scattering layer. Originally noticed as a false seafloor on sonar scans, this layer was later identified as one of the most extensive migrations on the planet. Within this layer, microscopic organisms vertically move the equivalent of a runner's marathon every night. Wear old clothes and plan for indoor and outdoor activity. Programs are geared for ages 8 through 12. Children under age 8 are welcome if accompanying older siblings; please call to register them. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, January 25. \$4.00 per child and \$1.00 per adult.

A Grandparent Connection: Bones**Saturday, January 29****10:30 - 11:30 AM****Ages 4 and up****Environmental Center**

Like ligaments connect bone to bone, time together connects generation to generation. This program offers another opportunity for older adults to pass on a love of nature and science to the younger generation (related or not) or to allow both generations simply to be inquisitive together. Using an assortment of skeletal specimens from our collection, Naturalist Alan Wissinger will lead participants through close examination of various animals' skeletons, facilitating observation and discussion between the generations as they draw conclusions about the animals which the skeletons reveal. This program is geared for children ages 4 – 12 with their adults. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, January 28. \$2.00 per person.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

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To register online, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks> .

To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Groundhog Fun**Saturday, January 29****2:00 – 4:00 PM****All Ages****Environmental Center**

Will Phil see his shadow? Will there be six more weeks of winter? Meet Naturalist Carter Johnson at the Environmental Center classroom to participate in fun-filled activities including a craft and a discussion about groundhogs as we prepare for Groundhog Day! Be sure to wear something warm for our short hike to search for signs of these animals around the center. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, January 28. \$5.00 per child and \$1.00 per adult.

TNT Science: Microscopic World**Tuesday, February 1****6:30 – 8:00 PM****Ages 11 - 17****Environmental Center**

The microscopic world is a fascinating place that teens can only explore and discover if they have both the skills and the microscope. From Naturalist Ann Strauss, youth will learn to use a variety of microscopes and apply their skills to observe plant and animal cells, pond organisms, and other life forms of which we are normally unaware. Parents must sign a release waiver before dropping off their children. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, January 31. \$4.00 per person.

Cabin Fever Hike**Saturday, February 5****1:00 – 2:30 PM****Ages 5 and up****Speedwell Forge County Park**

Shake off the winter blues by bundling up and participating in a refreshing hike at Speedwell Forge County Park with Naturalist Stevie Kitching. It can be hard to work up the energy to hike during the winter but doing it with friends makes it more enjoyable. If you've never gotten a chance to visit this park, now is your chance to join a guided hike. We will meet at 480 Speedwell Forge Road in Lititz and enjoy an easy 3-mile hike on the park's loop trail. Dress appropriately for the weather. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, February 4. \$3.00 per person

Nature's Valentine**Sunday, February 6****1:00 – 2:30 PM****All Ages****Environmental Center**

Love is in the air! Naturalist Ivana Shandor leads a brisk walk around Central Park to inspire our love of nature and to collect materials to make unique Valentine's greetings for the special people in our lives. Artists are welcome to bring dried flowers, seeds, and other special items from home to supplement materials from the park collection. Dress for a cold weather walk followed by craft time. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by Friday, February 4. \$3.00 per person.

Snowflake Science**Monday, February 7****10:00 – 11:00 AM****All Ages****Environmental Center**

Snowflakes are a beautiful form of precipitation occurring during the winter. Each snowflake takes on its own unique shape with no two exactly alike! Join Naturalist Paige Spradling and explore the beauty and mystery of snowflakes. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 and register and prepay by noon on Friday, February 4. \$3.00 per child and \$1.00 per adult.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

Unless otherwise noted children must be accompanied by an adult and children 3 and under are free.

To register online, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks>.

To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Munchkin Science: Winter Hike**Ages 3 - 5****Tuesday, February 8****1:00 – 2:00 PM****Environmental Center**

Calling all Munchkin Scientists outside for a hike along the Scout Trail. Naturalist Ann Strauss will lead a search for animals and their signs on the way to Mill Creek, collecting natural items to throw into the water. Enjoy a running race on the flood plain and, weather permitting, some snowy activities may be added to the fun. This program is geared for children aged 3-5 years (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, February 7. \$3.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

TNT Science: Organ Dissection**Ages 11 - 17****Tuesday, February 8****6:30 – 8:00 PM****Environmental Center**

There is much to be learned by examining organs we cannot see from the outside. Did you know a sheep's heart is very similar to a human heart? Likewise, a sheep's brain can show us a great deal about the anatomy of our own brain. Naturalist Ann Strauss will provide young biologists with their own specimens of each organ to dissect. Parents must sign a release waiver before dropping off their children. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, January 25. \$25.00 per person.

Homeschool Wednesday: Snows, Tundras, and More!**Ages 8 - 12****Wednesday, February 9****10:00 - 11:30 AM****Environmental Center**

Winter homeschool science classes continue with a study of migration. Spring will shortly be in the air, as will our waterfowl friends. Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel introduces students to the plethora of waterfowl that will soon be appearing in Lancaster County. Students will discover the motivations and challenges involved in the mass movement of snow geese, tundra swans, and many ducks toward breeding grounds further north. A follow-up program on Friday, February 25 may allow for viewing of this phenomenon. Wear old clothes and plan for indoor and outdoor activity. Programs are geared for ages 8 through 12. Children under age 8 are welcome if accompanying older siblings; please call to register them. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, February 8. \$4.00 per child and \$1.00 per adult.

Jump into STEM: Sink or Float?**Ages 3 - 5****Thursday, February 10****10:00 – 11:00 AM****Environmental Center**

Naturalist Taylor Mervine conducts fun experiments with preschool scientists to determine what items will sink or float. Through this program participants will predict if various natural items will be buoyant then do a series of experiments to test their theories. This program is geared for children aged 3-5 years (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, February 9. \$3.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

Unless otherwise noted children must be accompanied by an adult and children 3 and under are free.

To register online, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks> .

To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Junior Girl Scouts: Math in Nature**Ages 8 and up****Saturday, February 12****Environmental Center**

Junior Girl Scouts will explore symmetry, weather, shadows, and trees as they work on Math in Nature with Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel. Register for one or all three of the programs in this new Junior badge series. We will be outside as much as possible so dress appropriately. Bring a water bottle and a nut-free snack and lunch if registering for all three programs. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Thursday, February 10.

Shapes in Nature**9:00 – 10:30 AM****\$5.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult**

Girls will explore types of symmetry, the Fibonacci sequence, and create a work of art blending symmetry and nature.

Numbers in Nature**11:00 AM – 12:30 PM****\$5.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult**

Requirements are fun and diverse and include telling time in nature, watching weather and shadows, and exploring dimensions of trees.

Design with Nature**1:00 – 2:30 PM****\$5.00 per scout and \$1.00 per adult**

Activities take a turn as girls explore hiking. We will discover pace, learn to read elevations and topography on maps, and plan food for an excursion.

Shed Hunt**All Ages****Sunday, February 13****1:00 – 3:00 PM****Environmental Center****Tuesday, February 15**

As winter ends every year, deer shed their antlers. Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez will guide a walk to look for some antlers that have fallen off the deer and onto the ground. This program will also teach you about Pennsylvania's state mammal, the white-tailed deer. You will learn how to train your eyes to look for the shed antlers. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, February 11 and Monday, February 14. \$3.00 per person.

TNT Science: Extracting DNA**Ages 11 - 17****Tuesday, February 15****6:30 – 8:00 PM****Environmental Center**

Extract the basic unit of life, DNA, with simple ingredients and simple procedures. Naturalist Ann Strauss will teach the basics of DNA, where it is found, its structure, and how it behaves as the blueprint for life. Young scientists will observe the DNA they extract from a half cup of dried peas. Parents must sign a release waiver before dropping off their children. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, February 14. \$4.00 per person.

Full Moon Walk: Snow Moon**All Ages****Wednesday, February 16****6:30 – 7:30 PM****Pavilion #11**

Let there be snow! Snow or no snow, Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez will lead a walk through the woods under the light of the full moon. Enjoy the quiet of winter, the shadows of the trees and some sights and sounds of nocturnal wildlife. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, February 15. \$2.00 per person.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

Unless otherwise noted children must be accompanied by an adult and children 3 and under are free.

To register online, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks>.

To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Native American Winters**Thursday, February 17****1:00 – 2:00 PM****All Ages****Environmental Center**

It's hard to imagine spending the entire winter exposed to the elements, but the indigenous inhabitants of this area did just that for thousands of years. Listen and learn with Naturalist Carter Johnson as he presents how tribes in what is now Central Pennsylvania not only survived the winter but thrived. The Native American diet, home life, and more will all be covered during this program. A traditional snack will be provided to bring flavor to the history! Participants will need to sign a liability waiver at the program. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, February 16. \$4.00 per person.

Snowflake Discovery!**Saturday, February 19****11:00 AM – 12:00 PM****Ages 8 - 12****Environmental Center**

No two snowflakes are alike! How is that possible? Come and find out with Naturalist Carter Johnson at the Environmental Center where we will learn how snowflakes form and how to make some of our own! Weather permitting, participants will attempt to get an up-close look at how unique these little crystals are. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, February 18. \$4.00 per child and \$1.00 per adult.

February Phenology**Sunday, February 20****1:00 – 2:30 PM****Ages 10 and up****Environmental Center**

Phenology is the study of seasonal natural events like flowers blooming in spring and leaves falling in autumn. Learn and explore with Naturalist Stevie Kitching as we discover why the Earth has seasons and what events to look forward to in the coming weeks as winter thaws into spring. After the presentation we will hike to look for examples of these seasonal changes in our backyard. Please come dressed for the weather. Parents may drop off children but must first sign a release waiver. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, February 18. \$3.00 per person

Munchkin Science: Volcanoes**Tuesday, February 22****1:00 – 2:00 PM****Ages 3 - 5****Environmental Center**

Munchkin Scientists will join Naturalist Ann Strauss as she teaches about volcanoes and answers questions like "What is lava?" and "Why do volcanoes erupt?" Each participant will make their own playdough, build a volcano, and make it erupt. Please dress accordingly for messy fun. This program is geared for children aged 3-5 years (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, February 18. \$4.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

TNT Science: Rocks, Minerals, Volcanoes**Tuesday, February 22****6:30 – 8:00 PM****Ages 11 - 17****Environmental Center**

There is much to be learned about the rocks under our feet and the minerals we see every day. Participating scientists will study the properties of a variety of minerals by performing hands-on tests while armed with a nail, magnifying glass, and vinegar. After honing identification skills, Naturalist Ann Strauss will give participants tips for recognizing basic rock types here in Lancaster County. This program will then dig deeper into the source of volcanoes, their location, and how they erupt culminating in a volcano-building activity. Parents must sign a release waiver before dropping off their children. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, February 18. \$4.00 per person.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

Unless otherwise noted children must be accompanied by an adult and children 3 and under are free.

To register online, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks>.

To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Maple Sugaring for Seniors**Wednesday, February 23****11:00 AM – 12:00 PM****Ages 18 and up****Pavilion #11**

We welcome maple sugaring season as the natural world transitions from winter to spring. Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel will guide participants through the sugaring process with the identification of sugar maple trees, tree tapping, sap harvesting, and the extraction of water to produce maple syrup. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather as this program takes place entirely outdoors. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, February 22. \$2.00 per person.

Jump into STEM: Shapes in Nature**Thursday, February 24****10:00 – 11:00 AM****Ages 3 - 5****Environmental Center**

Naturalist Taylor Mervine leads a late February hike to identify different shapes in nature. Through this program, preschool scientists will participate in a shape scavenger hunt and can work on recognizing those shapes in an outdoor setting away from the classroom. Please dress appropriately for the weather and wear your hiking shoes. This program is geared for children aged 3-5 years (siblings welcome, call to register them). Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, February 23. \$3.00 per child aged 3 and up and \$1.00 per adult.

Middle Creek Migration for Beginning Birders**Friday, February 25****9:30 - 11:30 AM****All Ages****Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area**

Spring is on the way and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is the place to confirm it. After meeting Naturalist Mary Ann Schlegel at the Visitor Center located at 100 Museum Road in Stevens, 17578, participants will proceed to viewing areas. At Willow Point, participants can expect about a 1/2 mile walk on a level path to an overlook. Weather and migration are unpredictable, but we hope for the best. Heavy rain or snow will postpone the program until Friday, March 4. Dress in warm layers for cold and windy conditions. Bring a snack if desired and binoculars if available. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Thursday, February 24. \$4.00 per person.

Maple Sugaring**Saturday, February 26****10:00 AM – 3:00 PM****All Ages****Pavilion #11****Sunday, February 27****1:00 – 4:00 PM****Sunday, March 6****1:00 – 4:00 PM**

It's the sweetest time of the year – maple sugar time! Visit the sugar bush at pavilion 11 in Central Park for interactive demonstrations of the syrup making process. Drop-in any time during this free event as Park Naturalists share the history of production, tap sugar maple trees, boil sap in the sugar shack, finish the syrup and make candy. Participants are encouraged to complete this one-of-a-kind experience with a taste of freshly made maple sugar candy. Patterson Farms will be onsite selling syrup and many other maple products. Groups are encouraged to schedule a private program for a small fee. **No registration necessary. FREE. Donations are appreciated and allow us to continue to provide high-quality environmental education programming.**

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

Unless otherwise noted children must be accompanied by an adult and children 3 and under are free.

To register online, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks> .

To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Refund/Cancellation Policy

In the event that Park staff decides to cancel the program, a full credit/refund will be provided. Should the customer withdraw from the program fifteen (15) or more calendar days prior to the scheduled program, a full credit/refund less a 10% processing fee, will be provided. Should the customer withdraw from the program eight (8) - fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the scheduled program, a 50% credit/refund will be issued. No fee(s) will be credited/refunded if the customer withdraws from the program seven (7) or less days before the scheduled program. **All refunds less than \$10 will be credited to the customer's account - no check or credit card refunds will be issued for refunds less than \$10.**

Smile! You may be captured by our camera!

We occasionally take photos of participants in our programs for promotional purposes.

By participating, you are granting the Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation and its agents the right to use and publish images of you or your minor child. If you prefer not to be photographed, please notify the instructor.

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