HUNTERDON PARKS
HARBINGER

Your source for Hunterdon County Parks & Recreation events, programs, and news.

Winter 2026-2027
December, January, February



While the Hunterdon County Arboretum is under construction the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation office has temporarily moved.

You can find our temporary office at 6 Gauntt Place, Flemington, NJ 08822. We are located on the lower level of Building 2. Our mailing address is still PO Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822.

HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900
Office Location: 1020 State Highway 31, Lebanon, NJ
Telephone (908) 782-1158 · Fax (908) 806-4057
Email: parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation

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Online Program Registration

Scan here to register online.

You can register for any of our Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation programs online. Visit our website www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation and click the photo for Online Program Registration.

Register in person by completing the program registration and medical record form on the last page of this Harbinger. Visit 6 Gauntt Place Building 2 Lower Level, Flemington, NJ 08822 Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM or mail your completed form with check payment to Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822.

Program details including parking addresses and any other pertinent information such as items to bring will be printed on your receipt.

CANCELLATION POLICIES:
You will be notified by phone if we cancel a program and you will receive a full refund. Programs are designed for all types of weather and participants should dress appropriately. Cancellations and requests for refunds made by participants must be in writing. Cancellations made less than one week prior to the program will not receive a refund.

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Bus Trips

New York City

Sunday, December 6, 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM
Departs NYC at 6:00 PM
Parking Location: Deer Path Park
NYC Location: Bryant Park
Ages: All | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: $50 per person
Instructors: Patrick Eckard and Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinators



Join us for a coach bus trip into the winter wonderland of NYC. Experience the holiday season in historic Manhattan, where the aromas of hot chocolate and pine waft through the air! On this Christmas expedition, you design your perfect day in the city and we will bring you there. You can spend your day at the world-famous Rockefeller Center ice rink or on a ride through Central Park with your loved ones. You can shop at the historic New York City Macy's or go to the Broadway show of your choice; the options are endless. The private coach bus departs from Deer Path Park at 8:30 AM, and will head straight to Bryant Park which is near Times Square and other attractions. The bus will leave Bryant Park at 6:00 PM; please plan your day accordingly. No more dealing with trains and traffic; we provide the transportation, and you take it from there.

Scan here to register for any program online.

Philadelphia Flower Show

Tuesday, March 16, 9:45 AM to 7:00 PM
Parking Location: Deer Path Park
Ages: Adult
Cost: $93 per person includes PFS ticket
Instructors: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist and Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Sit back & relax as we take you by coach bus to the world's oldest and largest indoor flower show! The show features large-scale gardens, elaborate landscapes, and over-the-top floral creations. Visitors are treated to fabulous floral designs, live entertainment, gardening how-to workshops, and lectures by experts. You can shop for plants and gifts, sample wines, and attend different seminars. Enjoy lunch at Reading Terminal Market across the street from the Flower Show; meals are not included in the cost of the trip.
Registration Deadline: February 15 at 11:59 PM.
Special Cancellation Policy: All cancellations by participants must be made in writing before February 16.



Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Parks Van Trips

Family Trips

Explore High Point

Friday, January 29, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Parking Location: Deer Path Park
Ages: 8 through Adults | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: $33 per person, an additional entrance fee of up to $21 and up to $25 ski/snowshoe rental fee to be paid the day of the trip if there is snow
Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Trade pavement for powder and experience winter from New Jersey's highest point! At 1,803 feet above sea level, High Point Monument rises above rolling farmland, forested hills, and valleys stretching across three states. Glide through quiet winter woods on skis or snowshoes, breathe in the crisp mountain air, and enjoy breathtaking views of this spectacular northern New Jersey landscape. No experience is necessary, but snow activities can be strenuous. Dress warmly, come prepared to spend the day outdoors, and bring a bag lunch. No snow? No problem! We'll explore the park on a guided winter hike instead. Snow activities are weather dependent.





NJ Devils Hockey

Tuesday, April 6, 2027, 4:30 PM to 11:30 PM
Parking Location: Deer Path Park
Ages: 13 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: $81 per person
Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator

Hockey night! Come enjoy a night out watching the New Jersey Devils take on the Tampa Bay Lightning! Your ticket includes $20 food and beverage vouchers, and we'll finish the evening with a special photo on the Devils' ice. It's a fun night of hockey and a memory that will last a lifetime!

Birding Van Trips

Barnegat Light

Saturday, December 12, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Location: Deer Path Park
Ages: Adult
Cost: $41 per person
Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Barnegat Light State Park is a great winter birding spot, with lots of sea ducks, gulls, and winter shorebirds. We will hike to the end of the jetty from 7th Avenue. Dress warmly; a rigorous sandy hike on the beach is to be expected. Along the way there and back we will make a few other stops to pick up a few additional species in the bay and ocean. And, if time permits, we will check out one of the surrounding salt marshes before heading back home.

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Whitesbog and Abbott Marsh

Sunday, January 17, 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Parking Location: Deer Path Park
Ages: Adult
Cost: $41 per person
Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Join us as we drive down for a southern loop through South/Central New Jersey for swans and wintering ducks. We will first head to Whitesbog, the birthplace of the modern blueberry, as we look for the Tundra Swans as they winter amongst the cranberry bogs. From there, we will come back north to the Abbott Marsh and walk the trails searching for wintering ducks. The marsh can host large rafts of ducks before they migrate up to or through Hunterdon. Species can include shovelers and teal.

North Shore Run

Saturday, February 20, 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Parking Location: Deer Path Park
Ages: Adult
Cost: $41 per person
Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Join us on a run along the North Shore of New Jersey looking for winter ducks and other species in and around the lakes, waterways, beaches, and ocean in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. We will most likely start in Ocean at the Manasquan River Inlet and work our way north from there to at least Lake Takanassee. The trip will have multiple stops, so dress in layers and be prepared for climbing in and out of the van.





Special Events

The Polar Express Movie Morning

Saturday, December 19, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: All ages | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program
Cost: Free but pre-registration is required. Space is limited.
Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator



All aboard for a festive morning of holiday fun! Join us for a showing of The *Polar Express* and enjoy this classic Christmas movie with family and friends. Come dressed in your coziest pajamas and get comfortable with blankets, pillows, or one of the chairs provided. Bring your own snacks and drinks to enjoy during the movie. Before the movie begins, create a fun holiday-themed craft to take home! Pajamas are encouraged for everyone!

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Nature Programs

Youth Nature Series

Tot Walks

Time: 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 2 to 3 years with adult
Cost: $10 per session
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Discover nature at your local park! Leave the strollers behind as we read a story and take a walk to learn about the nature around us and do a craft on each theme.

Winter Trees
Session A: Wednesday, December 9
Session B: Thursday, December 10
Weather
Session A: Wednesday, January 20
Session B: Thursday, January 21
Groundhogs
Session A: Wednesday, February 17
Session B: Thursday, February 18



Nature Club

Eight Tuesdays, January 5 to February 23
Time: 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Cost: $90 per child for all 8 lessons
Ages: 3-6 years with adult
Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Discover, innovate, engage in games, and embark on explorations! Our well-loved nature clubs offer an array of captivating subjects to introduce your child to the wonders of the natural world. Children will explore nature through engaging hands-on experiences, such as science experiments, games, and craft projects. As we move through the season, the children will have the opportunity to witness the fascinating transformations. Please be sure to dress your child for the outdoors so they will be able to enjoy these activities. We strongly recommend old clothes and sturdy shoes that can get dirty.

Nature Adventurers

Eight Tuesdays, January 5 to March 2
No class February 3
Time: 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 5 to 9 | Drop off program
Cost: $90 for all 8 lessons
Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Hey explorers! Ready to jump into awesome adventures and discover the wild outdoors? Join Nature Adventurers and get ready for super fun hikes, animal spotting, campfire stories, and wild games! Whether you're a nature newbie or a backyard pro, you'll make cool new friends, learn amazing stuff about plants and animals, and help keep our planet happy and healthy. So, grab your backpack, put on your adventure hat, and come play outside with us — the wild is waiting!

Homeschool Nature Series

Wednesdays, 1:00 to 2:30 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 7 to 17 years with adult
Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist



This season we will be focusing on some of the species that use human support and the nesting sites that we can make for them. Each lesson will focus on a particular species and participants will have the opportunity to assemble a kit to take home and install for their wildlife friends. As this is a very popular series, we ask to limit registrations to one project per family of each nesting house. Prices listed below are per project.

December 9: Wintering Chickadee Box | $20
January 13: Phoebe/Robin Nesting Platform | $15
February 10: Eastern Bluebird Box | $15

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Nature Programs

Family Nature Programs

Owls of Hunterdon

Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 7 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: Free but pre-registration is required
Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Great Horned Owls are already into their breeding season. This is the time that we can hear the owls calling at night. Join Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist, as he introduces the owls that can be found in Hunterdon County and the state. Along with facts about each of the owls, you will hear the calls of each species and learn the fundamentals of how to find them.

The Fisher and the Porcupine

Wednesday, January 20, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 7 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: Free but pre-registration is required.
Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Fishers have been reported in Hunterdon for a few years now. So have Porcupines. They are some of the newest animals to have returned to the County. Join Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist, as he presents the history, the habitat and requirements, and the recovery of these animals. He will also touch on the relationship that exists between these two animals.



Animal Skulls

Tuesday, January 26, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 5 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: $8 per person
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

See and touch real animal skulls as we learn what the eye placement, number of teeth, and shape of the skull can tell us about how an animal lives. Compare skulls of mammals, birds, and reptiles and learn to identify the animal from its skull. Did you know that one skull is really made up of multiple bones fused together? Did you know that wear on a deer's teeth can tell you how old it was? We will explore the skull stations individually or in small groups, and then go over the questions together.



Build a Bluebird Box Workshop

Wednesday, February 10, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 8 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: $15 | Limit one box per family.

Welcome bluebirds to your home by building and installing a nesting box for them. During this program, we will learn about our Eastern Bluebirds and the challenges they face. We will then assemble boxes together. Wood will be pre-cut and screws are provided. Please bring your own Phillips screwdrivers. Limit one box per family.

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Nature Programs

Wildlife Valentines

Friday, February 12, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: All | All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: $10 per child with adult
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Send our animal friends a little love this Valentine's Day as we make some treats for our local wildlife! We plan to make nut butter pinecones and suet balls. After we craft, we will take a short walk to hang up some of our feeders for the animals at our parks. Please indicate any contact allergies to food upon registration so we can accommodate. All children will bring home a couple gifts for the wildlife in their backyard.



NJ Black Bears

Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Echo Hill
Ages: 7 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: Free
Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist



Black bears are back and thriving in New Jersey. In this newly updated program, we will explore the history, life cycle, and behavior of these powerful yet misunderstood animals. Learn how the state monitors bear populations, what to do if you encounter one, and how we can all coexist safely.

Skunk Cabbage Walk

Thursday, February 25, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Location: Hunterdon County Arboretum
Ages: All | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: $8 per person
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

It's still cold but we know spring is coming when the skunk cabbage is blooming! Learn about this bizarre flower whose red spikes look and smell like rotting meat to attract their pollinators! Did you know that skunk cabbage can produce heat up to 60 degrees warmer than the air around it? It can even melt snow! Join us for a gentle walk along our boardwalk and surrounding trails to find skunk cabbage, early blooming Witch Hazel, and other early signs of spring. Expect to walk about three quarters of a mile.



Group Requested Lectures

Is your group interested in learning more about a specific topic? Contact us about requesting a lecture about one of our topics including bats, birds, mammals, Jurassic and Ice Age eras, wildflowers, and so much more. Programs can be held at a county park, at your public meeting place, or virtually.

For more information about what programs we offer, or to request more information about scheduling a program visit our website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/506/Group-Education-Programs.

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Scouting Programs

Shapes in Nature Hike
Brownie Girl Scout Badge

Saturday, January 30, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 6 to 10 years with adult
Cost: $8 per child
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Math is everywhere in nature! From spirals in flowers and pinecones to the mirror images of butterfly wings, nature is beautiful and intricate. We will track and graph natural objects, explore symmetry and tessellations, and collect data about birds. Dress to be both indoors and out. This program is designed around the Brownie Girl Scout badge Shapes in Nature, but is open to any child interested in learning about these topics!



Spirit of the Water
Cub Scout Wolf Elective

Saturday, February 27, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 6 to 10 years with adult
Cost: $8 per child
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Water is vital to all life on Earth! Learn where our water comes from, how it can become polluted, how it is treated, and how we can conserve water. This program is designed around the Cub Scout Wolf Elective Adventure Spirit of the Water, but is open to any child interested in learning about these topics!

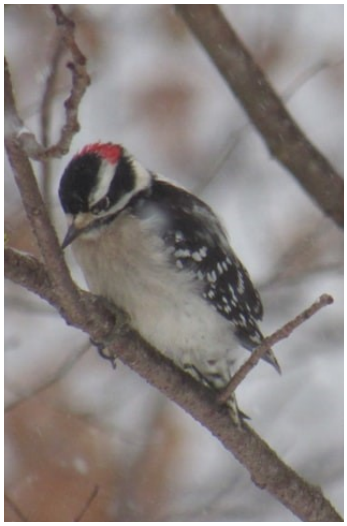


Adult Programs

Bird Walk for the New Year

Tuesday, January 5, 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM
Location: Spruce Run Reservoir
Ages: Adults
Cost: $8
Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Now that the new year has started, Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist, will be offering, in conjunction with the State, a bird walk around Spruce Run Reservoir. We will meet by the tower and work our way through the picnic groves. For those that keep a year list, this can be a great way to start your new list. Please dress for weather conditions.



Wood Duck Box Walk

Sunday, February 14, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
Location: South Branch Nature Preserve
Wings Section
Ages: Adults
Cost: Free
Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist



Join naturalist Debra Somers for a scenic riverside walk where we'll prepare nesting boxes for the upcoming breeding season. This hands-on event blends wildlife education with real conservation work.

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Nature Made Crafts





Evergreen Walk & Craft

Friday, December 4, Wreath
Saturday, December 5, Swag
Time: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 5 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: $15 per project
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Warm up with a winter nature walk around Echo Hill! Do you know the difference between pines, spruces, and hemlocks? Can you find five different shades of green? What's the difference between a conifer and an evergreen? Let's find out the answers to these questions while exploring your local park. Bring your own clippers and a tote bag, or borrow ours, to collect some greens during the walk. We will then assemble your project indoors. Families may work together on one project or pay per person to each create their own.

Nature Created Holiday Candles

Sunday, December 13, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 6 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult
Cost: $13 per project
Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist



Take a winter walk through our park and discover the sights, scents, and wonders of the season. As we explore, we'll gather the crisp, natural aromas of winter and preserve them in homemade candles, perfect as seasonal decorative gifts. Along the way, we'll identify the many types of evergreens that grow here and learn what makes conifers such a fascinating and ancient group of trees. Are all conifers evergreen? Are all cones, pinecones? Join us to create, explore, and uncover the secrets of these remarkable trees that bring beauty to our homes during the holidays.

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Skills Workshops

Map and Compass Skills

Sunday, January 10, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 8 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: $8 per person
Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Step off the trail and into an adventure! Learn the essential skills of map reading, compass use, and outdoor navigation as you discover how to find your way through the woods. Test your new skills with a hands-on challenge, navigate the landscape, and see if you can reach your destination without getting lost. Whether you're a beginner or an aspiring outdoor explorer, you'll gain confidence and have fun along the way!

Emergency Preparedness

Saturday, January 16, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 12 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program
Cost: $8 per person
Instructor: Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

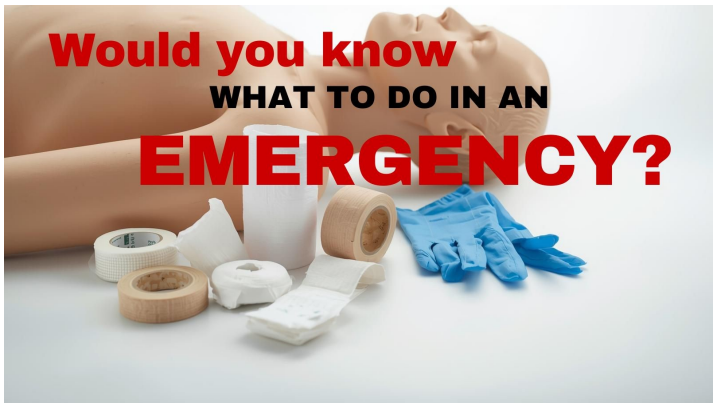
Preparing makes sense. How well you and your family prepare for a disaster before it happens impacts how quickly you recover. We will go over the changing weather events that have been hitting New Jersey and what help is out there when an emergency happens. Meet Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator, who has been an EMT for over 30 years and is OEM Coordinator (Office of Emergency Management) for a local government agency. We have all heard that there is Advisory, Watch, or Warning but what do they mean for you? We will go over what each means and what you should do. There are things to do before a disaster to help save lives and you will gain the tools.

Hands Only CPR Open House

Saturday, February 6, 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 12 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: Free but pre-registration is recommended
Instructor: Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

Would you know what to do if you find someone unresponsive? Stop by anytime during the day to meet Patrick Eckard, an EMT for over 30 years and a CPR and First Aid Instructor. He will go over what to do in an emergency, Hands Only CPR, and signs of heart attacks and strokes. Hunterdon County Parks & Recreation will offer this program free of charge in honor of American Heart Month in February. Knowing what to do in an emergency could save a life. This program does not meet the requirements to receive a CPR or First Aid certification.

*The American Heart Association strongly promotes knowledge and proficiency in CPR and instructional material for this purpose. Use of these materials in an education course does not represent course sponsorship by the American Heart Association. Any fees charged for such a course, except for a portion of fees needed for AHA course material, do not represent income to the Association.



Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Maple Sugaring Programs

Tapping to Find Sweetness

Sunday, January 24, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 6 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: $8 per person
Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Ever wonder how a tree turns into pancake syrup? Come get hands-on and discover the sweet secret! Meet us at the playground, then follow the trail on a short 5–10 minute walk to the Echo Hill sugar bush. Learn how to identify a sugar maple, help inspect the trees, and participate in a hands-on demonstration of tapping a maple tree. Get up close, get involved, and discover how sap makes its way from tree to syrup!



Sap to the Shack

Sundays, February 7 and February 21, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 5 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: $8 per person
Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist, and Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

The sweetest part of winter is waiting in the trees! Come to Echo Hill's sugar bush and get hands-on with the maple sugaring process. Meet at the playground, then take a short 5–10 minute walk to the sugar bush where you'll help collect maple sap straight from the trees. Discover how that clear, watery sap makes its way from the tree to the stove—and eventually becomes delicious maple syrup! Weekday group programs are also available in February. Call to schedule your group adventure.



Group Requested Programs

Your youth or adult group can request a variety of nature, craft, or skill-based programs to be brought to you at a public meeting location or held on-site in a county park. We can cover topics from baskets to CPR, amphibians to wildflowers. Our staff can provide your group with an informative fun event. For more information about what programs we offer, or to request more information about scheduling a program, visit our website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/506/Group-Education-Programs

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Tap Into History: Maple Sugaring & Indigenous Traditions

Saturday, March 6
Maple Sugaring Tours: 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, and 2:00 PM
Museum programs: 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: All Ages | All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: Free | No pre-registration required



Step into the past and discover the sweet story of maple sugaring—from the first discovery of maple sap to the syrup we enjoy today! Enter the sugar camp and see, touch, and experience how clear maple sap is transformed into syrup through evaporation. Through stories, demonstrations, historical interpretation, and hands-on activities, discover how generations of people worked with maple trees—and taste the delicious results for yourself! Explore the ingenious tools Native Americans used before metal and plastic and discover how natural materials were transformed into tools for collecting and processing sap. Come experience maple sugaring the old-fashioned way—from tree to syrup to taste.

Adopt a Maple Tree

Now through January 24, Season-long adoption; visit opportunities during designated maple programs
Ages: Families, classrooms, or organizations
Cost: $10 per tree



Choose a tree. Give it a name. Make it yours! Follow the sweet story from tree to syrup. Your adopted tree comes with a certificate, identification, a Maple Tree Passport, updates throughout the season, opportunities to visit your tree, and a special maple keepsake—plus the satisfaction of knowing you have your very own tree in the sugar camp! The Maple Tree Passport is used for recording scientific observations while practicing math and reading skills, updates as the season progresses (weather dependent), the opportunity to visit your tree during designated maple programs, a chance to see your tree tapped and producing sap, a small maple-themed keepsake, and recognition on an Adopt-a-Tree display at the sugar house. Classrooms can arrange a private field trip to the sugar shack on March 3rd, 4th, or 5th, for an additional $40.

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Art in the Parks

Plein Air Painting

Monday, December 14, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Location: Hilltop Reserve
Ages: Adult
Cost: $20 per person
Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator

Step outside and discover the tradition of watercolor plein air painting, where artists paint directly from life in the open air. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced painter, you'll learn to observe the landscape, work with changing light and color, and create artwork inspired by the natural beauty around you. Enjoy a relaxing day outdoors while developing your watercolor skills and connecting with the environment through art.
Guidance and demonstrations will be provided throughout the program, along with opportunities for questions and individual support. Basic watercolor materials and supplies will be available, or participants may bring their own preferred materials. Suggested personal supplies include watercolor paints, brushes, watercolor paper or sketchbook, a reusable cup or container for cleaning brushes, paper towels, drawing pencils, and a portable chair or stool. This program will be held outdoors. Please dress for the weather and bring a lunch, snacks, and water.



Still Life Drawing

Fridays, 2:00 to 4:00 PM
December 11
January 15
February 12
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 13 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: $8 per session
Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator



Practice and develop your observational drawing skills while working from life. Through drawing a variety of still life arrangements, participants will explore fundamental artistic concepts such as proportion, shading, perspective, composition, and value. Objects and subjects will be provided and arranged for drawing, offering new opportunities for observation and creative challenge throughout the season.
This program is open to all skill levels, from first-time artists to experienced artists. Enjoy a welcoming and supportive environment where you can practice regularly, experiment with new techniques, ask questions, and build confidence in your drawing abilities. Guidance and informal instruction will be available throughout each session. Still life drawing has long been a cornerstone of artistic training and provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen the skills that support all forms of visual art.

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Botanical Ink Drawings

Thursday, January 21, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: Adult
Cost: $8
Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator

Explore the art of botanical illustration using traditional pen-and-ink techniques! In this hands-on program, participants will learn how to use a dip pen and ink to create detailed drawings inspired by plants. Through linework and stippling, we will explore techniques for creating texture, depth, form, and value while developing careful observation and drawing skills. Participants will work from botanical specimens and references to create their own detailed, nature-inspired ink illustrations. No previous drawing experience is necessary. All skill levels are welcome, and materials will be provided.





Pottery

Thursdays, February 4 and February 18, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 13 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: $11 per person
Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator

Get your hands on some clay and create a fun animal-inspired eyeglass holder in this two-day pottery program! On Day 1, we'll build and shape an oval clay tray with animal ears designed to hold your eyeglasses or sunglasses. After the clay has dried, we'll meet again on Day 2 to paint and decorate our creations. We'll be using self-drying clay, and all materials will be provided. All skill levels are welcome!

Scan here to register for any program online.

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Walks and Hikes

Baby Walks

Fridays, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
Ages: 0 to 23 months with adult
Cost: Free but pre-registration required
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Get outside with your baby and explore your local trails! We will do some nature education geared toward the adults and enjoy the company of other parents and caregivers in the area. We will walk at the pace of the adults; we ask that babies be carried or in a stroller depending on the location.

December 11: Miquin Woods, dirt trails appropriate for carriers only.
January 22: Landsdown Trail, Lower Landsdown Road. Fine gravel trail appropriate for strollers and carriers.
February 19: Echo Hill Park, dirt trails appropriate for carriers only

Kids' Hikes for Fun

Sundays, 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Ages: 5 through Adults | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: Free but pre-registration is required
Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

This winter, let your kids embark on an unforgettable outdoor adventure! Our winter Hikes for Fun are designed to combine fun, education, and exercise in the great outdoors. With engaging activities, your young explorers will discover the beauty and excitement of winter like never before.

January 3: Hunterdon County Arboretum
February 28: Landsdown Trail



HOPE Walks

Tuesdays
Ages: All Ages | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.
Cost: Free but pre-registration is required.
Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator

HOPE stands for Hunterdon Outdoor Park Exploration. Join us for a guided walk to one of our scavenger hunt destinations at 17 different Hunterdon County Parks and earn the token! Be sure to dress for the weather and wear proper footwear. This program is guided by the HOPE booklet and the walk lengths and difficulties vary based on the target location in each park.

December 22: Point Mountain Nature Preserve Central Section, Challenging Difficulty, 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM.
January 19: Miquin Woods, Moderate Difficulty, 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM.
February 16: Musconetcong Mountain Preserve, Moderate Difficulty, 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

Adult Recreation Walks

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM
Ages: Adult
Cost: Free but pre-registration is required
Instructor: Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

Indulge in the tranquility of local parks as you meander through these serene landscapes. These walks are easy to moderate difficulty with varying elevation, and some technical terrain. Please wear appropriate footwear. Each location has varying degrees of intensity; select your walks based on your ability level.

December 16: Jugtown Mountain Preserve, Moderate Difficulty.
January 20: Teetertown Preserve Parking Lot 2, Moderate Difficulty.
February 17: Miquin Woods, Moderate Difficulty.

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

Senior Strolls

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM
Ages: Adult
Cost: Free but pre-registration is required
Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator

Join our Senior Strolls, specially designed for those aged 55 and above, and experience the sheer delight of walking together. Our walks not only promote a healthier and more active lifestyle but also offer the chance to form meaningful connections with peers, making each walk an enjoyable and socially enriching experience.

December 9: Miquin Woods
January 6: Columbia Trail, High Bridge
February 3: Hilltop Reserve



One-Way Hikes
Tour of the Townships

Ages: Adult
Cost: $8 per person per hike
Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist



Discover the hidden corners of Hunterdon County with a series of one-way hikes along less-traveled trails. These moderately challenging hikes will take you on an exploration through unique landscapes, including water crossings, uneven stone fields, and slopes. A shuttle will transport participants from the meeting point to the trailhead. Each hike covers 2 to 3 miles; we may finish earlier than planned. Please come prepared with weather-appropriate clothing, sturdy footwear, a snack, and at least a quart of water.

Alexandria Township - Schick Reserve
Tuesday, December 15, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Bethlehem Township - Charlestown Reserve
Monday, January 25, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Clinton Township - Windy Acres
Monday, February 22, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

A Walk by Fairy Light

Sunday, December 20, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Location: Echo Hill
Ages: 5 to Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program
Cost: $8 per person
Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

As twilight falls, step into an enchanted woodland glowing with twinkling fairy lights and flickering lanterns. Follow the sparkling trail through the trees as the stars begin to appear overhead. Listen to the evening sounds, look for a little nighttime magic, and let the soft lights lead you along the path. Bring your own lantern or borrow one at the entrance—and come experience the park as you've never seen it before.

Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Location: 1020 Route 31, Lebanon, NJ 08833

Phone: (908) 782-1158

Website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation
Like "Hunterdon County Parks" on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram @hunterdonparksandrec

Mission Statement
The Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural resources, providing safe parks and facilities, and offering educational and recreational opportunities, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

Modification Statement
The Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation welcomes all individuals to participate and enjoy our parks, facilities, and recreational programs. Reasonable modifications, individual adaptations, and support will be provided for persons of all abilities, to encourage everyone to benefit equally from their choice of leisure activities.

Individuals requesting modifications shall describe what they need to use the service. Whenever feasible, please make the request in advance, before the modification is needed to access the service. Each request will be assessed individually.

Reservable Facilities
Arboretum: Two Gazebos
Deer Path Park: Two Pavilions, Gazebo, & Softball Field
Court Street Park: Gazebo/Bandstand
Echo Hill Park: Main Lodge, Multipurpose Room & Group Campsite
Teetertown Preserve: Group & Public Campsites
To reserve a facility, contact the park office.
For information on each park, visit our website.



Scan here to learn more about the reservable facilities.

Visitor Services Staff



Left to right:
Laura Bush: lkroon@co.hunterdon.nj.us
Laura Tarlowski: ltarlowski@co.hunterdon.nj.us
Debra Somers: dsomers@co.hunterdon.nj.us
Brian Eick: beick@co.hunterdon.nj.us
Patrick Eckard: peckard@co.hunterdon.nj.us
Tom Sheppard: tsheppard@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Affiliated Organizations

Arc of Hunterdon County archunterdon.org

Hunterdon Flutterwheels Square Dance Club
hunterdonflutterwheels.nnjsda.org

Hunterdon Hiking Club
hunterdonhikingclub.org

NJ Beekeepers Association nwnjba.com

Heron Glen

Heron Glen has quickly positioned itself as one of New Jersey's finest public golf facilities. From junior camps to leagues, we offer programs for every golfer out there. For your family outing or an afternoon spent with friends, we invite you to see why so many refer to Heron Glen as the course they call home. Our facility offers a beautiful 18-hole golf course, pro shop, driving range, and putting green. For more information, please visit our website at www.heronglen.com or call at (908) 806-6804. 110 US Highway 202/ Route 31, Ringoes, NJ 08551

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

Combined Program Registration and Medical Record

A medical record is valid for one year and can be used for subsequent programs in the following year. If your medical history has changed, please submit a new medical record.

Today's Date _____

Participant's Name _____Participant's Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian (for minor) _____Parent/Guardian Date of Birth _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____ (c) _____

Address _____

Street Town State Zip

E-mail _____ □ **Check here to be added to our E-mail List.**

Program Name	Program Date	Location	Time	Fee
			Total Fees Enclosed	$

Make check payable to "Hunterdon County Parks." Fees are listed in the *Hunterdon Parks Harbinger* and on the website and are used to offset the cost of the program.

IMPORTANT POLICIES: (Participant or parent/guardian, please read and provide authorized signature.)

1. Cancellation requests must be in writing. **No refunds will be issued for cancellations made less than one week prior to the program.**

2. Payment is due at the time of registration. Please mail it to the PO Box listed above or drop it off at the office location. Cash, check, or credit is accepted.

3. I have read and understand these policies and consent to myself or my child participating in the above referenced program(s).

_____ Date: _____

(Signature of Participant or Parent/Guardian for minor)

EMERGENCY CONTACT(S) – AT LEAST ONE CONTACT WHO IS NOT A PARENT/GUARDIAN

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

Please complete the back side of this form.

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted

HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

Combined Program Registration and Medical Record

Physician(s) Name and Number _____

List all known allergies _____

Describe allergic reaction(s) and how it is managed _____

_____

Medical issues _____

Current medications _____

_____ **(Parks staff do not administer non-emergency medication)**

Health Insurance Provider _____ Policy number _____

Please describe any other relevant conditions or information that we should know _____

_____

RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY AND ASSIGNMENT OF CLAIMS

As consideration for being allowed to participate in the event(s) described below I agree:

1. I hereby assume all of the risks of participating, viewing and/or volunteering in this event. I realize that liability may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities organizing or conducting this event and hereby release them of all possible liability. I certify I am at least 18 years old, or this is signed by my legal guardian or Parent. I promise not to sue and agree to pay all court costs and all attorney fees that result from my action, civil or otherwise.
2. I certify that I am physically fit with no known physical or mental impairment and have prepared for participation in the event(s). I acknowledge that this Accident Waiver and Release of Liability form will be used by the event holders, sponsors, and organizers of the event(s), in which I may participate and that it will govern my actions and responsibilities at said events. I certify that I am not under the influence of any narcotic, alcohol or other drug that may impair my understanding or judgment and that I will not at any time during the event(s) participate while under the influence of any narcotic, alcohol or drug. I certify that I have fully adequate insurance to cover all medical claims, and any other equipment and any damage or liability I may ultimately be found responsible for, during all travel to the point of my entry into this event.
3. In consideration of my being permitted to participate in this event, I hereby take action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows: (A) Waive, Release and Discharge from any and all liability for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft or actions of any kind which may hereafter accrue to me during the event or during my traveling to and from this event, THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES OR PERSONS: County of Hunterdon, and their respective boards and commissions, officers, agents, officials, employees, volunteers, contractors and representatives, the employees, organizers, sponsors, representatives, agents, volunteers and (B) indemnify and Hold Harmless the entities or persons mentioned in this paragraph from any and all liabilities or claims made by other individuals or entities as a result of any of my actions during this event. Accordingly, I do hereby release and discharge the above from all claims, demands, and causes of action of every kind whatsoever for any death, damages and /or injuries which may result from my participation in this event. This shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.
4. I hereby consent to receive medical treatment, which may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident and or illnesses during the event(s). I agree to pay for any and all costs related to medical response, treatment and transport on my behalf.
5. Photo Release: I authorize and acknowledge that I or my child may be photographed and/or videotaped for educational and publicity purposes (Website, Facebook, Instagram, Brochures, etc). Photos and videos will not include names or personal information about any individual unless permission is granted. **Initial: _____**

I hereby certify that I have read both pages of this Waiver, Release and Assignment of Claims in its entirety. My signature below indicates that I fully understand it and agree to its contents.

Full Signature: _____ If a minor Parents signature_____

(Signature indicates agreement to terms and conditions)

Printed name: _____ Date: _____

Pre-registration required & children must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted