



October 2020

Fridays, October 2 & 9

Shot in the Dark Night Tournament

(12-Adult) Teams of two play a nine-hole scramble at Burke Lake Golf Course using glow-in-the-dark balls. There will be closest-to-the-pin contests and prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. Play begins at 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be served beginning at 6 p.m. The cost is \$75 per team. Registration begins 30 days prior to the event and is limited to the first 18 teams. The rain dates are October 3 and October 10. Call 703-323-1641.

Friday, October 2

All About Owls Campfire

(4-Adult) Barred owls inhabit our stream valley parks. Learn to identify these owls from other native owls while enjoying a campfire. Toast marshmallows over the embers. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 7 to 8 p.m., and the cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. This program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Painting at the Pond

(9-Adult) Take a short walk around the pond with a naturalist and then enjoy a peaceful time in nature painting with watercolors. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 4 to 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-631-0013.

Garden Talk:

Rethink Your Lawn: Grow Less

(16-Adult) Tired of spending money on fertilizer, pesticides and water to maintain that lush lawn? Want to improve your landscape while decreasing maintenance? Grass is often an overused element. Fall is the best time to rethink grass. Extension Master Gardeners present basic principles of decreasing turf area and discuss plant selection for interest, location and season. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes



Watershed Clean-Up Days

(All ages) Bring the community together to clear the earth's arteries by removing tires, bottles, cans and other debris dumped in local waterways. This is a great community service project for individuals, families, service groups and students. Clean-ups will be held:

- Sunday, October 4: Huntley Meadows Park
- Saturday, October 17: Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
- Saturday, October 24: Lake Fairfax Park
- Saturday, November 7: Cub Run RECenter, Hidden Pond Nature Center, Providence RECenter and Riverbend Park.

Get details on locations, dates and times at

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer.

Saturday, October 3

Nature Scavenger Hunt

(4-Adult) Join us at Green Spring Gardens on the first Saturday of each month to learn about different aspects of nature and go on the hunt for themed objects around the park. The scavenger hunts run from noon to 1 p.m., and the cost is \$5 per person. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Feeding Day

(4-13 yrs.) Join a naturalist and youth volunteers as we demonstrate how we feed our site display animals. Make a birdfeeder to take home and use. Search for worms and insects and assist in serving dinner. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$8 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Fall Veggies: From Garden to Soup

(16-Adult) Cindy Brown of Smithsonian Gardens demonstrates how to extend your gardening into fall. Learn how to prepare a bed for planting seeds, transplants and garlic. Afterward, warm up with a comforting bowl of vegetable soup featuring fresh ingredients you could grow yourself in autumn. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$22 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Classes and programs may change due to pandemic-related issues. For the most up-to-date listings, visit [Parktakes online](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes).

Saturday, October 3

Four Club Fall Classic

(8-Adult) Challenge yourself at this nine-hole, individual stroke play tournament at Jefferson District Golf Course where participants are allowed to have only four clubs. The cost is \$35 per person, which includes prizes. The rain date is October 10. Call 703-573-0444 to register.

Oaks of Hidden Oaks-Hike and Draw

(Adults) Learn about the importance of oak trees and how to identify local oak species on a hike around the park. Then, return to the shelter to draw acorns and leaves. The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 10 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$14 per person. Six-foot distancing and masks are required for everyone's safety. Dress for the weather. Meet in the shelter behind the nature center. This program will be canceled in the event of heavy rain. Call 703-941-1065.

Pohick Creek Exploration

(6-Adult) Join the park manager at the creek to catch and identify fish and other species that call this tributary of the Potomac River home. Learn about geological influences which help to determine why some species occur where they do. Nets and their proper use will be covered. The park has some waders, but wear clothing and footwear that can get wet. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 10 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$10 per person. This program is weather dependent. Call 703-451-9588.



Saturday, October 3

Grow Your Own Native Plant

(4-Adult) Join a naturalist to learn about some of the native plants in our park and why they're so important. Learn how you can help our native ecosystems stay healthy and strong. Then, plant your own native plant to take home and grow so you can educate your friends and family, too. The program at Riverbend Park runs from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-759-9018.

Sunday, October 4

Blacksmithing Demo

(All ages) Come to Colvin Run Mill and watch as the blacksmith fires up his forge and works with hammer and tongs to make iron tools and utensils. This free outdoor demonstration runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. No reservations required. This program is weather dependent, so call to confirm that it will be taking place. Call 703-759-2771.

Kayak Fishing

(8-Adult) In this class, students learn about the fish in Royal Lake and how to catch them safely and efficiently from a kayak. The program at Royal Lake Park runs from noon to 4 p.m. The cost is \$41 per person. For more information, call Lake Accotink staff at 703-569-3464.

Mondays, October 5 & 12

Outdoor Storytelling

(2-Adult) Join us at Green Spring Gardens for a story. Parents can bring a picnic blanket to share with their children or just sit in the grass and listen to our storytellers read a story with a different theme at each meeting. Afterwards, take some time to explore our gardens, ponds and historic house. The program runs from 9 to 9:45 a.m. The cost is \$3 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

Mondays, October 5 & 26

Little Hands on the Farm

(2-5 yrs.) Join us to learn about a different element of farm life each week. Children will get to spend time with a different farm animal at each session. Other activities may include story time, creating crafts and introductory-level farm chores. The program at Frying Pan Farm Park runs from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. for children ages two and three and from 11 to 11:45 a.m. for children age three to five. The cost is \$8 per person. Reservations are required and all attendees must register. An adult must attend with a registered child. For more information, call 703-437-9101.

Mondays, beginning October 5

Field Trips for All:

Life in Historic Virginia

(Grade 1) Discover what life was like for people in the 1800's. On alternate Mondays, explore how textiles were created or how school was run in 1794. Each event includes take-home items for the family. The programs are 45 minutes long and are offered several times each day. These programs at Sully Historic Site are restricted to a single family or learning pod. The cost is \$6 per person. Reservations are required. An adult must attend with the registered child. For more information, call 703-437-1794.

Monday, October 5

Adaptations and Ecosystem Relationships

(Grade 3) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees, parents and students, must register to control group size.

- The program runs at Hidden Oaks Nature Center from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-941-1065.
- The program runs at Hidden Pond Nature Center from 11 to 11:45 a.m. The cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-451-9588.
- The program runs at Huntley Meadows Park from noon to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

Garden Sprouts

(3-6 yrs.) Your preschooler enjoys nature-themed toys and puzzles while you meet other playgroup parents at Green Spring Gardens. Through games, songs, activities and a garden walk, we explore seasonal topics. This program will be held outdoors from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$8 per child. Call 703-642-5173.

Wild Women

(12-Adult) They heard the call. Hear how women preserved and protected parks, open spaces and the natural world. Hike with a naturalist to see how past women shaped the field of ecology, land management and preservation. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Monday, October 5

Life Cycles

(Grade 2) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees, parents and students, must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 10 to 10:45 a.m. The cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call 703-451-9588.

Natural Resources, Rocks and Minerals

(Grade 4) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees, parents and students, must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call 703-451-9588.

Astronomy: The Solar System

(Grade 6) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees, parents and students, must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call 703-451-9588.



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<https://twitter.com/fairfaxparks>

Monday, October 5

Seasons and Weather

(Grade 1) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources.

This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 9 to 9:45 a.m. The cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-451-9588.

Rock Cycle

(Grade 5) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources.

This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-451-9588.

Watershed Science

(Grade 7) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources.

This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-451-9588.

Tuesday, October 6

Birding for Beginners

(12-Adult) Interested in birding? We can get you started. Learn about the park's birds and gain some basic identification skills. The program at Burke Lake Park runs from 10 to 10:55 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children age 12 to 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-323-6600.

Homeschool Animal Vets

(8-15 yrs.) Students get hands-on experience caring for animals in the visitor center and park. We will explore the lives of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Learn the best care standards for animals, feed and refresh tanks for exhibit animals, explore the park and learn how park staff help wildlife. All lessons are structured around the Virginia standards of learning. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$42 per child. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Animal Feeding

(3-Adult) It's dinner time at the nature center and worms and insects are on the menu. Help our naturalist care for and feed the nature center's animals. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 5 to 6 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call 703-451-9588.

Wednesdays, October 7 & 21

Tots in The Woods

(4-5 yrs.) Join your child for an outdoor adventure. Go on hikes, enjoy activities and meet an animal in every class. The topic in October is "Signs of Autumn." The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 10 to 10:45 a.m. The cost is \$8 per child. One adult only per registered child. Sorry but no siblings allowed. Six-foot distancing and masks required for everyone. Meet at the program shelter behind the nature center. For more information, call 703-941-1065.

Wednesday, October 7

Nature Tots-Fall

(1-3 yrs.) Bring your toddler to explore nature through sight, sound, smell and touch. Monthly programs include indoor and outdoor activities. The topic in October is migration. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 11 to 11:45 a.m. The cost is \$8 per child. An adult must be able to participate with children. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Wednesday, October 7

Hot Dog, S'mores! Wagon Ride & Campfire

(4-Adult) Enjoy a turkey hot dog supper roasted over the campfire and a brisk wagon ride through the Rocky Run stream valley. Discover who Ellanor C. Lawrence was and learn about the area's local and natural history. We provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, and s'mores. Feel free to bring your own drinks and sides. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Meet at Campbell's Mill. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Thursdays, October 8 and 22

Hidden in Your Backyard: The History of Cain's Branch

(All ages) Come to Sully Historic Site to hike the trails and learn about the history of abandoned sites hidden from most visitors' views. Follow trails of forested areas and Cain's Branch waterway to learn about other families along with the Lees who made Sully their home. This outdoor guided event runs from 11 a.m. to noon and does involve some walking over uneven terrain and along trails. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-437-1794.

Thursdays, beginning October 8

Homeschool Naturalist

(6-12 yrs.) Explore Fairfax County's natural world with hands-on activities in this four-week course. Week 1: Help our land heal through how we live our lives. Week 2: Hike to the pond, and discover an underwater world. Week 3: Explore the world of reptiles and amphibians. Week 4: Creepy crawlies in the park. All sessions have a take-home craft. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$42 per child. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Thursday, October 8

Homeschool at the Lake-Fall

(6-12 yrs.) This program focuses on the natural and historical world with a new topic and hands-on activity each month. The topic in October is mammals. The program at Lake Accotink Park runs from 1 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-569-3464.

Fridays, October 9, 23 & 30

Campfire Fridays

(3-Adult) Join us for a campfire and explore the wonders of our natural world. Our programs may include nature walks, interactive activities and animal presentations the whole family can enjoy. S'mores are included. Topics vary. The program at Lake Accotink Park runs from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. Call 703-569-3464.

Get behind-the-scenes info and dig deeper into parks by reading our blog:

<https://ourstoriesandperspectives.com>





Fridays, October 9 & 23

Twilight by Kayak

(12-Adult) Watch the sun set on Burke Lake as wildlife settles in for the night, and return to the dock by the light of the moon. Single kayaks and all equipment provided. The program runs from 6 to 8 p.m. and costs \$22 per person. Call 703-323-6600.

Nature at Night

(5-Adult) No plans on Friday night? Learn what happens in nature at night — in the forest, on the river, in the pond, or at the meadow. Enjoy hikes, get a peek at nocturnal critters, make an awesome craft, and learn how these animals wake up when we go to sleep. The program at Riverbend Park runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-759-9018.

Friday, October 9

Growing and Protecting a Park Forest

(4-Adult) Walk with the Resource Manager at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park as you are given insights into how this 650-acre county park of forests, meadows and streams is kept healthy and thriving. Learn about native plants and invasive species that make up the park's wildlife habitat. The walk is seasonally based and runs from 1 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-631-0013.

Birding by Kayak-Single

(13-Adult) Lake Accotink is home to more than 100 species of birds and holds many unique habitats. See how kayaks can provide a closer look into the world of birds. Travel in a one-person kayak. The naturalist-led program at Lake Accotink Park runs from 7 to 9 a.m. The cost is \$42 per person. Call 703-569-3464.

Saturday, October 10

Sunday, October 18

Intro to Kayaking

(12-Adult) This introductory-level class is perfect for beginners or for those who want to learn how to paddle more efficiently. Learn about different kayaks, paddles, personal flotation devices and safety gear. On the water, learn to move the boat in every direction using forward and reverse strokes, a turning stroke, a slice stroke and stopping maneuvers. The program at Lake Fairfax Park runs from 2 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$42 per person. For more information, call 703-471-5414.

Saturdays, October 10 & 24

Fall Foliage Kayak Expedition

(13-Adult) Enjoy a new perspective on fall colors at Lake Accotink aboard a kayak. Our expedition takes us to the northern part of the lake to see glorious natural tunnels of orange, yellow and red leaves. Previous kayak experience is necessary. The program runs from 8 to 10 a.m. and costs \$42 per person. For information, call 703-569-3464.

Saturday, October 10

Mindfulness in the Garden Workshop

(All ages) What is mindfulness? How would you practice it in the gardens and at home? Discover the benefits of a mindful practice and learn how to explore life with purpose. Through mindful exercises lead by site manager Nicole Conners, practice meditation and walking Green Spring Gardens in a mindful way to reduce stress and increase joy. Practice what you learn at home and whenever you visit the gardens. This program will be conducted outdoors. The program runs from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$18 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Sketch Journaling Workshop

(16-Adult) Artist Marni Maree shows you various ways to see, draw, and simplify a scene, and how to creatively collect information to fill up a sketchbook journal. Then, prepare some of your journal pages and go outside at Green Spring Gardens to draw scenes around the gardens using a pen and watercolors. A supply list will be sent before class. Bring a lunch. The program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$94 per person. Indoor classes will be conducted according to Health Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention safety guidelines. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Growing Gardener

(8-13 yrs.) Go on a tour of Green Spring Gardens and learn about garden design with our experts. Get some experience with planting and experiment with seeds. The program runs from 10 to 11 a.m., and the cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Make a Terrarium

(8-12 yrs.) Join us at Green Spring Gardens to learn about ecosystems and weather. Bring home an experiment that you can teach to your family and friends. The program runs from 1 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Choose Your Nature Walk

(All ages) Book a walk and choose from a variety of topics for a themed tour of Green Spring Gardens. Each tour will include a hands-on element and can be customized to include the science topics your students are learning in school. Choose one of the following topics: Pond Fauna & Flora, Native Virginia Plants & Trees, Watersheds & Geology of Green Spring, Virginia Ecosystems Walk, History of Green Spring as a Farm, or General Garden Tour. You can sign up for this scheduled walk from 2 to 3 p.m. or schedule an on-demand tour. The cost is \$40 per group of up to nine people, including at least one adult. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Saturday October 10

Taux Trek at Huntley

(Grade 4) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees, parents and students, must register to control group size. This program runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

Sunday October 11

Nature Photography at Dawn

(Adults) Learn how to use a DSLR and a tripod to capture images of the natural world around us during an early morning and see what wildlife is awake at Huntley Meadows Park. This class is designed for beginner to intermediate skill levels. Bring your own DSLR camera, and bring your tripod if you have one. The program runs from 6:45 to 8:45 a.m. The cost is \$36 per person. No indoor restrooms will be available. A portable restroom may be available. Call 703-768-2525.

Fungus Among Us

(4-Adult) Get down and dirty with a naturalist and see how another kingdom lives. Investigate how one of our most common decomposers survives and thrives in our woods. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-631-0013.

Geocaching Workshop

(8-Adult) Students learn to use hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) units to locate hidden treasure caches within the park. After learning how to enter latitude and longitude coordinates into a GPS, students follow the coordinates to find a hidden object, container or unique geological feature. Bring your own GPS; a limited number are available to borrow from the instructor at class. The program at Lake Fairfax Park runs from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$22 per person. For more information, call 703-471-5414.

Salamanders Undercover

(7-12 yrs.) Assist a naturalist with a forest salamander survey and help find salamanders in the park's streams. Learn about the secret lives of these important amphibians through hands-on discoveries. The program at Riverbend Park runs from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child. For more information, call 703-759-9018.



Monday, October 12

Clean up the World Field Day!

(4-Adult) Discover how you can help your planet as you play your way through fun games and activities. Beat the clock in Recycling Rendezvous, race against your family in Waste No Water Relay, test your mind in Lifespan of Litter, and more. Bring an old piece of clothing to repurpose into a cool new reusable bag. The program at Turner Farm Park runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call Riverbend Park at 703-759-9018.

Field Trip for All: Green and Growing Gardens

(Kindergarten) Discover the world of the garden at Green Spring Gardens. Learn about plants, explore seasonal changes and investigate living and non-living things in the soil. Use the senses to explore our gardens. Dig in the dirt and plant some seeds to take home, too. (SOL: Science K.4, K.6, K.7, K.9). The program runs from 11 a.m. to noon, and the cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Field Trip for All: Peanuts, Popcorn & Pipe Tobacco

(Grade 4) Visit Green Spring Gardens, the site of a former colonial tobacco plantation, to discover the four most important colonial cash crops: peanuts, tobacco, cotton, and corn. Enjoy our gardens and visit the Historic House to learn the fascinating botany and origins of these plants. Discover how their cultivation changed the course of history here in Virginia and throughout the world (SOL: Science 4.4, 4.8; VS 1e, VS 2b, VS 2c, VS 3a, VS 4a). The program runs from 1 to 2 p.m., and the cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Tuesday, October 13

Birding on the Boat

(8-Adult) Enjoy a naturalist-led bird program aboard a tour boat. This voyage gives you a closer look at some of the birds and animals that call Burke Lake home. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. The program at Burke Lake Park runs from 8 to 10 a.m. The cost is \$15 per person. Children age 12 and younger must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-323-6600.

Wednesday, October 14

Colors of the Fall

(16-Adult) Learn about some of Sully Historic Site's hidden ruins and view the colorful spectacle of fall. Bring your own medium/supplies and create your masterpiece. Chairs are provided upon request or you can bring your own blanket/chair to sit upon. This outdoor program runs from 10 a.m. to noon and involves some walking over uneven terrain and long trails. The cost is \$20 per person. For information, call 703-437-1794.

Thursday, October 15

Fall Garden Tour & Tea

(Adults) Tour the lush demonstration gardens at Green Spring Gardens with a Master Gardener docent who will highlight the standout plants of fall. Pending a return to normal service in the 1784 Historic House, afternoon teas will be provided in individual tea boxes to go. Full tea includes finger sandwiches, pastries and scone. The program runs from 1 to 3 p.m., and the cost is \$36 per person. Call 703-941-7987.

Friday, October 16

Night Flyers Campfire

(4-Adult) Come mothing with a naturalist. Then, gather around the campfire, make s'mores, discover why moths are drawn to light and learn how to conserve them. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 6 to 7 p.m. and supports Earth Day's theme, "Protect Our Species." The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-631-0013.

Wonderful Wildflowers

(7-Adult) Wander with a naturalist to discover wonderful fall wildflowers at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. The program runs from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$7 per person. Call 703-631-0013.

Garden Talk:

Composting Made Simple

(16-Adult) Instead of dragging your kitchen, garden and yard waste out to the curb, learn how to use it to make your own valuable compost to use in your yard and garden. Extension Master Gardeners show what you need to do to have your own compost pile. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

Saturday, October 17

Junior Historian

(9-Adult) Join us on an outdoor tour of our Historic House and other Green Spring Gardens staples to learn about the history of our gorgeous garden. Take home a peanut plant to take care of and show off to your family and friends. The program runs from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173

Saturday, October 17

Colorful Pumpkins

(All ages) Come to Sully Historic Site and learn about the history of how pumpkins became associated with Halloween. Pick your pumpkin and paint a face or design on it. Small pumpkins and paint supplies will be available. Family or pod groups will be provided their own table put at a socially-distant area and given their own supplies. There will be six family groups per 45-minute session with up to six people in each group. Reserve a time from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$20 per family group. Reservations up to two days before the event are required. This is an outdoor event. The rain date is October 18. For more information, please phone 703-437-1794.

Campfire Saturdays-Stargazing

(3-Adult) Enjoy a stroll along the lakeshore at Burke Lake Park and learn about the constellations, their stories and other night-sky features. Our astronomical naturalist identifies the stars for you and will have some telescopes for you to use. The program concludes with a campfire. S'mores ingredients are provided; hot dogs are welcome. The program runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-323-6600.

Radical Raptors

(5-Adult) Look to the skies. Is anything circling above? Join a naturalist on the trail as we search for signs of raptors and explore what makes raptors different from other birds. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Garden Tour:

Green Spring Up and Down

(Adults) Master Gardener docents lead a special "Grand Tour" of Green Spring Gardens. View some upper demonstration gardens and then take the garden path less travelled to explore the naturalistic lower garden areas -- the Virginia Native Plant Garden, woodland stream valley, and Ponds. Complete the extended tour with refreshments at the Ponds gazebo. The program runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$15 per person. Please note that the tour involves a steep slope with loose gravel. Call 703-642-5173.

Colors of the Forest

(7-Adult) Fall foliage is a sight to behold, but why do leaves turn colors? Get into the science of it. Hike through the park with a naturalist to find out what else is falling from the trees. The program at Lake Fairfax Park runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-471-5414.



Share your love of parks with a Park Authority gift card.

Get details at:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gift-cards>



Saturday, October 17

Color Me Autumn

(2-Adult) Join us at Lake Accotink to celebrate fall and wrap up our 2020 marina season. Participate in the Pet Costume Contest, wear your favorite costume to the photo station, and let kids hunt for buried pirate treasure on the beach. Additional activities include: hayrides, kayak tours, face painting, live bird exhibit, carnival style games, mini golf, carousel rides, history talk, food trucks, campfire bat talk and s'mores. The program at Lake Accotink Park runs from 2 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person. Some activities require an additional fee. Call 703-569-3464.

Native American Campfire Cookout

(5-Adult) Do you harvest and cook your own food? Discover how native people used the resources where they lived to survive, and learn some easy recipes. Discover some native recipes and cooking techniques as you help prepare some native dishes to taste. The program at Riverbend Park runs from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-759-9018.

Sunday, October 18

Virtual Tea Program: Fifty Years in Women's Lives

(Adults) Consider how the past 50 years have transformed women's lives. Discover things that women could not do before 1970 and reflect on an astonishingly fast-paced liberation that continues today. During this tea program at Historic Green Spring, hear about the remarkable woman whose donation 50 years ago made Green Spring Gardens possible. The virtual program runs from 1 to 3 p.m. You may purchase an individual tea box to enjoy at home along with the lecture. The tea boxes include savory finger sandwiches, cakes and pastries, scone, and tea bag. Tea boxes will be available for same-day pick up at Green Spring Gardens between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. All registrants will be sent a link by e-mail to attend the lecture on Zoom. The cost of the program and tea box is \$24; program only is \$10. For more information, call 703-941-7987.

Stream Life

(4-Adult) Freshwater ecosystems are full of fascinating creatures. Search for stoneflies, hellgrammites, water pennies and crayfish. Explore Big Rocky Run with a naturalist, use dip nets and kick nets to catch and release these creatures, and learn about their role in the environment. Learn stream monitoring techniques and the impact humans have on these fragile ecosystems. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 6 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person. Wear shoes that can get wet. Call 703-631-0013.

Sunday, October 18

Family Outdoor Exploration

(All ages) Get your family into the great outdoors with a personalized naturalist- or historian-led program. This choose-your-own exploration can investigate topics such as Stream Life, Pond Life, Historic Ice Cream and more. Once you register, we will reach out to you to plan your family exploration. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 2 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$40 per family. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Mondays, beginning October 19

Nature Quest

(3-6 yrs.) Be a part of the long-running naturalist program designed for preschool-age explorer. From field to stream and everything in between, children learn about many of our local animal species hands-on and in the field. Program topics vary each week. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 11 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$28 per child for four classes. For more information, call 703-451-9588.

Nature Drawing

(Adults) Join local naturalist and artist Margaret Wohler on the trails to learn about and draw the plants and animals that live in Huntley Meadows Park. The class focuses on basic drawing skills, color theory, perspective, shading, gesture, contour and realistic rendering. The emphasis is on experience over product. All supplies are included. The program runs from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for five weeks. The cost is \$82. Dress comfortably for spending time outdoors. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Monday, October 19

Adaptations and Ecosystem Relationships

(Grade 3) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees, parents and students, must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 11 to 11:45 a.m. The cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call 703-451-9588.

Monday, October 19

Habitat Systems

(Grade 2) Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 10 to 10:45 a.m. The cost is \$6 per person. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Rock Cycle

(Grade 5) Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-451-9588.

Astronomy: The Solar System

(Grade 6) Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-451-9588.

Field Trip for All:

Fantastic Flora & Fauna

(Grade 1) Learn about flowering plants and edible plant parts, and then play a fun game. Examine turtle shells and deer antlers as we look at animal characteristics in our interactive animal station. Explore trees and their seasonal changes in our woodland trail hike (SOL: Science 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 1.8). The program runs from 11 a.m. to noon, and the cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

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Monday, October 19

Seasons and Weather

(Grade 1) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources.

This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 9 to 9:45 a.m. The cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-451-9588.

Watershed Science

(Grade 7) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources.

This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-451-9588.

Natural Resources, Rocks and Minerals

(Grade 4) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources.

This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees, parents and students, must register to control group size.

- The program runs at Hidden Oaks Nature Center from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$6 per person. For information, call 703-941-1065.
- The program runs at Huntley Meadows Park from 11:30 to 1 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For information, call 703-768-2525.

Monday, October 19

Field Trip for All: Predator & Prey

(Grade 3) Producer or consumer, carnivore, or herbivore. Which are you? Discover how animals and plants adapt when survival is the name of the game. Explore the food web, search for signs of wildlife, and discover one of the smallest predators in the Ladybug Lab (SOL: Science 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8). The program runs from 1 to 2 p.m., and the cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Tuesday, October 20

Super Snakes

(5-Adult) Join a naturalist to meet live snakes and learn why snakes are important. Then, head out on a hike to search for snakes and learn about their habitat and habits. The program at Burke Lake Park runs from 10 to 10:55 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. Meet at the campground office. For more information, call 703-323-6600.

Wednesdays, beginning October 21

Wild Critters

(3-6 yrs.) Want to know more about wildlife near your house or school? Find out more about the plants, animals, and habitats near you through hands-on activities, crafts, songs, and games during our five-week class. Parents/guardians will be required to be present during the program and hopefully learn something new, too. The program at Lewinsville House runs from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$40 per child. For more information, call Riverbend Park at 703-759-9018.

Wednesday, October 21

History Tots-Fall

(2-3 yrs.) Bring your toddler to explore history through sight, sound, smell and touch. The monthly program includes indoor and outdoor activities, and topics vary with the season. The topic in October is pumpkins. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 10 to 10:45 a.m. The cost is \$8 per child. Adults must be able to participate with children. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Friday, October 23

Campfire Night Hike-Predators at Night

(4-Adult) Enjoy a night hike to learn about nocturnal hunters. Listen to taped calls of owls and coyotes and try to catch a glimpse of them in the forest. End the evening with s'mores round the campfire. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered in the program. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Friday, October 23

Campfire Fridays

(3-Adult) Join us for an evening campfire the whole family can enjoy. During the program we will explore the wonders of our natural world. Our programs may include nature walks, interactive activities, animal presentations or other opportunities to learn about nature and our place in it. S'mores are included. Topics vary by date. The program at Lake Fairfax Park runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-471-5414.

Saturday, October 24

Make a Mosaic Garden Tile

(8-12 yrs.) Take a tour of Green Spring Gardens to learn more about garden art and design to encourage wildlife. Take home a craft to show off to your family and friends. The program runs from 10 to 11 a.m., and the cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Big Trees & Bees

(7-12 yrs.) Join us on a Big Tree tour to explore beehives and big trees at Green Spring Gardens. Learn about the roles of pollination and trees in our ecosystem. Bring home a craft to show off to your friends and family. The program runs from noon to 1 p.m., and the cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Making a Scarecrow

(All ages) Come out and enjoy the season by creating your own fall friend at Sully Historic Site. Bring old clothing to stuff with hay, and afterwards, pose with your new friend and take a picture in front of our 1794 Federal style home. Family or pod groups will have their own area outside for creating their friend. There will be six family groups per 45-minute session with up to six people in each group. Reserve a time from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per family. Reservations up to two days before the event are required. The rain date is October 25. For more information, please phone 703-437-1794.

Fall Family Campout

(5-Adult) Bring the family out to the Burke Lake Park Campground. Camping with your family promotes bonding, increases self-confidence and gives you a better appreciation of nature all while having fun. Your family will enjoy a naturalist-led night hike, a family movie in the campground and a live animal talk. Wake up and head to the marina for a tour boat ride and fishing from the banks. The program starts at 2 p.m. on Saturday and ends at 11 a.m. on Sunday. The cost is \$78 per family. One registration per family. For more information, call 703-323-6600.

Saturday, October 24

House of Reptiles and Night Ride

(4-Adult) Amazing reptiles call our park home. Play games, test your courage with a touch table, and see these wonderful creatures up close. Calm your nerves by roasting s'mores at a campfire while listening to stories. Then, join us for a refreshing wagon ride through the autumn woods. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 5 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Haunted Pond

(6-12 yrs.) This nocturnal wildlife and local lore program features a craft, a twilight walk into the forest, a campfire with spell-binding stories, s'mores and more. Scary stories are told in the last 30 minutes. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 8 to 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child. Call 703-451-9588.

Haunted Pond Jr.

(3-6 yrs.) This nocturnal wildlife and local lore program features a craft, a twilight walk into the forest, a campfire with spell-binding stories, s'mores and more. Not-so-scary stories are told in the last 30 minutes. We don't want to frighten you. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child. For more information, call 703-451-9588.

Twilight Boardwalk Stroll

(6-Adult) Join a park naturalist for a guided walk along the forested paths to the wetland and experience the park as it transitions from day into night. Watch and listen for beavers, owls and other nocturnal residents. The program at Huntley Meadows runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$9 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

Birding for Beginners

(12-Adult) Interested in birding? We can get you started. Learn about the birds at Lake Fairfax Park and gain some basic identification skills. The program runs from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$12 per person. Children age 12 to 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-471-5414.

Halloween Mystery at the Cabin

(5-Adult) Can you solve our history mystery at Riverbend Park? Meet people of the past and discover their secrets to uncover the mysteries along the Potomac as we walk through the woods. A sweet treat will reward your success. The program at Riverbend Park runs from 4 to 5:15 p.m. and from 6 to 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-759-9018.

Sunday, October 25

Colors of the Forest

(7-Adult) Fall foliage is a sight to behold, but why do leaves turn colors? Get into the science of it. Hike through Ellanor C. Lawrence Park with a naturalist to find out what else is falling from the trees. The program runs from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Halloween Adventure

(3-Adult) Join us at Riverbend Park for a Halloween Adventure. A festive wagon ride, complete with scarecrows, sweets and stories is followed by more stories and s'mores around the campfire. The program runs from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. For more information, call 703-759-9018.

Monday, October 26

Field Trip for All: Metamorphosis & More

(Grade 2) Explore the diverse pond ecosystem and learn the life cycle of the frog. Follow butterfly and moth caterpillars on their journey through metamorphosis and migration and discover insect survival adaptations. Examine the life cycle of plants from seed to flower, and then dissect a flower in our plant lab (SOL: Science 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8, 3.4, 3.8). The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 11 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Field Trip for All: Virginia Ecosystems

(Grade 4) Explore Virginia's rich flora and fauna and the human impact on these ecosystems at Green Spring Gardens. Learn about the fascinating adaptations plants and animals have developed to survive. Take a close-up look at our watershed outdoors and with our watershed model. Discover plant adaptations as we walk through our native plant trail. Learn about our local food web and the many cooperative relationships that plants and animals share (SOL: Science 3.8, 3.10, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.5, 5.7). The program runs from 1 to 2 p.m., and the cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Monday, October 26

Astronomy: The Solar System

(Grade 6) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia standards of learning. Experiences vary by park resources. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. Groups of more than eight should consider booking a field trip directly with a park by visiting the park's web site. All attendees, parents and students, must register to control group size. The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call 703-941-1065.

Tuesday, October 27

Exploring the Moon Webinar

(8-Adult) The moon is as old as Earth, and its surface is marked by craters and lava flows billions of years old. Explore these lunar features through pictures from high-powered telescopes and learn about their origins. See where the Apollo lunar landings occurred and discuss what the astronauts found. This virtual program is hosted in an online Zoom meeting by staff and volunteers of the Analemma Society. The program runs from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call Riverbend Park at 703-759-9018.


Thursday, October 29

Introduction to Astronomy Webinar


(8-Adult) This course provides a general introduction to some fundamentals of astronomy and the universe we see around us. We will discuss the basic types of astronomical objects from the small to the large, the motions of the planets and stars, and interesting phenomena in the night sky. This virtual program is hosted in an online Zoom meeting by staff and volunteers of the Analemma Society. The program runs from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call Riverbend Park at 703-759-9018.




Get Farmers Market details at:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets>



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