Choose one of our party themes to celebrate your special day!

Nature Detectives | Ages 4-7 and 8-12
There’s so much to explore as kids take part in a scavenger hunt and earn a Nature Detective badge.

Get Your Game On | Ages 4-7 and 8-12
Play our party games all with nature-themed twists.

Letterboxing | Ages 4-7
Simple clues lead to our special birthday letterboxes. This is a great introduction to Geocaching and just as much fun! (not available in winter)

Geocaching | Ages 8-12
Use GPS coordinates to find our birthday caches in this popular treasure hunt adventure. (not available in winter)

Let it Snow | Ages 4-7 and 8-12
Bundle up in your snow suits and boots for a party in a winter wonderland. Activities may include tracking, fort building, snow painting, and other fun, snowy adventures.

Nocturnal Critters | Ages 8-12
Head outdoors for a night hike to discover the critters that are active at night. Take in the sights, sounds and smells of nature at night. We’ll end the hike around a warm, crackling campfire.
**BOOKING A PARTY**

Birthday parties may be booked no more than 60 days in advance. Parties are scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The Nocturnal Critters party is scheduled on Friday or Saturday evenings between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Parties take place at the Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014, (815) 479-5779.

**PARTY FEES**

The birthday party fee is $140.00 for McHenry County residents and $180.00 for non-residents, plus a $50.00 refundable security deposit, for up to 10 children. Additional children are $10.00 per child and we allow a maximum of 15 children including the birthday child and his or her siblings. All children (other than the birthday child’s siblings) must be the appropriate age for the selected party theme. Party activities may not be age-appropriate for siblings and it is the responsibility of the parents to assist and supervise the siblings as needed. There is no charge for adults and all parties require 2-3 adult chaperones.

The party fee and security deposit are due within 5 days of booking the party. Fees for any additional children must be paid in full 14 days prior to the party date, and this is also when a final guest count is due. NOTE: All monetary transactions are subject to a $2.00 non-refundable processing fee. We accept credit card payments online only and a valid email address is required. Payment by cash or check is accepted at the Prairieview Education Center. Make checks payable to McHenry County Conservation District.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS**

We issue refunds for cancellations received at least 14 days prior to the party date minus a $25.00 cancellation fee. No refunds are issued for cancellations made within 14 days of the party date. In addition, refunds are not issued for a decrease in the number of guests made within 14 days of the party date.

Fees that were paid by credit or debit card are refunded back to the same card usually within the same day we process the cancellation. Check refunds are issued for fees that were paid for by cash or check and take 4-6 weeks to process. The McHenry County Conservation District may cancel a party if staff determines it is unsafe due to inclement weather or other hazardous conditions. We will try to reschedule your party or will issue a full refund if rescheduling is not an option. We may also be able to provide an indoor party as long as it is safe for participants to travel. In this case the party theme may need to be adjusted to accommodate an indoor setting.

**PARTY DETAILS**

The 2-hour party includes 1 hour of staff-guided activities (inside or outside depending on the weather) and 1-hour use of the party room on your own. Please note if the party is scheduled during hours when the center is closed, all patrons must vacate the building during the outdoor portion of the party.

We set up tables and chairs for you prior to your arrival. You are responsible for any additional set up, cleaning the room, and returning the room back to the condition it was prior to the party. Garbage and recycling receptacles are available in the room. The birthday family has an additional 30 minutes prior to and after the scheduled party time to set up and clean the room. Failure to vacate the room on time or satisfactorily clean the room will result in the forfeit of the $50.00 security deposit.

**DECORATIONS**

Decorations are allowed on the tables and countertop only. We recommend bringing covers for our tables which are 6’ x 2.5’. Due to safety and maintenance concerns the following items are not allowed: balloons, confetti, glitter, piñatas, bubble solution, thumb tacks, tape, glue or any other type of adhesive. All decorations must be removed at the end of the party and taken with you.

**FOOD AND BEVERAGES**

You can bring your own food and beverages or schedule a delivery. Alcohol is not allowed. There is ample counter space along a wall in the party room that works well for serving. You must also provide the means to keep food hot or cold, and provide all plates, napkins, cups and utensils needed for service. There is an electrical outlet conveniently located by the counter top.

**PARTICIPANT WAIVERS**

We will provide you with participant waivers that must be completed by the parent or guardian of each child attending the birthday party. Children will not be allowed to attend the party without this waiver on file. The participant waivers can be mailed, emailed, faxed, or handed in the day of the party.