



McHenry County  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# Education and Recreation Opportunities for Youth Groups

## Take a look at what we have to offer!

There are a wide variety of learning and service opportunities appropriate for youth groups of all ages. Browse through this brochure or give us a call.

### Volunteering and Community Service

815.338.6223 x 229

[volunteers@MCCDistrict.org](mailto:volunteers@MCCDistrict.org)

### Camping, Shelter, & Day Use Permits

815.338.6223

[mccd@mccdistrct.org](mailto:mccd@mccdistrct.org)

### Educational Loan Materials

815.479.5779

[education@mccdistrct.org](mailto:education@mccdistrct.org)

### Staff-Guided Programs

*Prairieview Education Center* 815.479.5779

*Lost Valley Visitor Center* 815.678.4532 x 8116

*Living Land Farm* 815.479.5779

[education@mccdistrct.org](mailto:education@mccdistrct.org)

*Wildlife Resource Center* 815.728.8307

[wildlife@mccdistrct.org](mailto:wildlife@mccdistrct.org)

*Conservation District Police* 815.338.6223 x 210

[police@mccdistrct.org](mailto:police@mccdistrct.org)

## Volunteering and Community Service

Do you like to work and play outdoors?

Your volunteer commitment can contribute to the preservation and restoration of McHenry County's beautiful natural areas. Community groups, families, individuals and Eagle Scout candidates can assist at the Trail of History; help to keep District trails litter-free; or team up with a staff member or volunteer Site Steward on special projects.

**Habitat restoration** sessions led by volunteer Site Stewards are held regularly at Conservation Areas throughout McHenry County. Volunteers are needed to help clear brush, remove invasive vegetation and sow native seed. Dates, locations and contact information are listed in *Landscapes* for individuals and families. Call the Volunteer Coordinator to arrange for a group workday.

The flexible time commitment of the **Adopt-a-Trail** program makes it perfect for families, scout groups and clubs. Volunteers "adopt" a Conservation Area Trail or segment of the Prairie Trail and pick up litter at least once per month.

Fascinated by local history? Individuals over age 14 are needed to volunteer at the **Trail of History**. Children under age 14 are welcome to assist with their adult guardian or family. Step back in time and help to bring local history from 1670–1850 to life at this living history reenactment held each October at Glacial Park. Volunteer orientation and training begins in August.

Interested? Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 815.338.6223 x 229 for more information on volunteer opportunities or to request the list of Community Service and Eagle Scout projects.



# Staff-Guided Program Opportunities

## After School and Evening Programs

We require a minimum of 12 children and two adults per program. We offer a variety of programs designed for youth groups. Several Girl and Boy Scout badge and patch requirements can be met. Programs are geared toward specific ages and are not appropriate for families or siblings of participating children. Alternative topics may be available and can be discussed with the program leaders when scheduling your program.

### Programs at Our Facilities

Call the facility you wish to visit.

- Prairieview Education Center 815.479.5779
- Lost Valley Visitor Center 815.678.4532 x 8116
- Living Land Farm 815.479.5779
- Other Conservation Areas: Call the Outreach Program Coordinator 815.678.4532 x 8117

Programs are geared toward grades one through eight and last about one hour. They are offered weekdays beginning between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. depending on staff availability. Choose from one of the following programs.

#### **Watchable Wildlife**

Learn about wildlife behavior, endangered species, and food webs. The focus is specifically on animals of McHenry County.

#### **The Power of Plants**

Discover the importance of soils, poisonous plants, and plants as food.

#### **Winged Wonders**

Identify birds that reside in McHenry County and learn about their adaptations, communication, and migration.

#### **Native American History** (available only at Living Land Farm)

Groups gather in the wigwam to learn survival skills, fire making, and how Native Americans utilize the resources around them.

#### **Restoration** (available only at Living Land Farm)

Help restore the oak-hickory woodland of Hickory Grove Conservation Area. Through hands-on activities and exploration, groups learn about forest management, restoration techniques, and the importance of restoration in McHenry County.

Groups based in McHenry County or groups with members residing in McHenry County receive priority registration. We begin booking programs for in-county groups on the following dates. Out-of-county groups are welcome to call for availability two weeks after these dates.

**September 7, 2011 for Winter 2011-2012**  
**January 11, 2011 for Spring/Summer 2012**  
**May 9, 2012 for Fall 2012**

### Programs at Your Meeting Space

Call 815.728.8307

The Wildlife Resource Center staff offer programs for grades one through eight at your meeting space, weekday evenings and after school, depending on staff availability. Choose from one of the following programs.

#### **Feathers, Fur, or Scales**

Take a closer look at wildlife of McHenry County. Learn about special adaptations that animals possess to help them survive. Participants have the opportunity to see a live wildlife resident.

#### **Raptors**

Raptors (hawks, falcons, owls, and eagles) are an important part of the ecosystem. Discover the characteristics that distinguish raptors from other birds. Program includes a visit from a live raptor.

**[www.MCCDistrict.org](http://www.MCCDistrict.org)**

# Looking For Something a Little Bit Different?

## Schedule one of these unique programs for your group!

### Wetland Discovery

*This program can be scheduled at various sites in the county. Call the Outreach Program Coordinator at Lost Valley Visitor Center, 815.678.4532 x 8117.*

Youth in grades five through 12 investigate why wetlands are unique and explore watersheds, ponds, and streams. Find out who lives in these natural areas and uncover the environmental quality of the ecosystem. Be willing to devote two hours to this program and wear clothes and shoes that can get wet! Equipment is provided.

### Conservation Police

*This program can be scheduled at various sites throughout the county, or at your site. Call the MCCD Police Department at 815.338.6223 x 210. The program accommodates a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 30 children.*

Youth in grades one through 12 visit with an MCCD Police Officer during this interactive program about outdoor safety. The program runs approximately one hour and can focus on several topics including parks, water, fire, boats, plants, animals, biking, or other topics to meet your needs.

## Educational Loan Materials

We offer a variety of materials you can borrow for use offsite or while you visit. We are also a lending site for the resource trunks available through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Materials are free to use however a \$2.00 per day late fee is assessed on materials returned after their due date.

**Note: Materials are checked out from and returned to the Prairieview Education Center in Crystal Lake, except for the Lost Valley Visitor Center Family Exploration Packs. Reservations are recommended.**



• **Naturalist in a Box Trunks, Backyard Buddies Kits, and Illinois Department of Natural Resources Trunks Reservations: 815.479.5779**

Borrow two kits at a time for up to two weeks. They include a variety of books, games, activity guides, videos, DVDs, CDs, and other hands-on materials.

**Naturalist in a Box Trunks** (grades 1-8) topics include: Bats, Mammals, Birds, Native Americans, Creepy Crawlies, Plants, Endangered Species, Prairies, Explore Your World, Trees, Geology, Wetlands, and Out of This World Astronomy.

**Backyard Buddies Kits** (grades PreK-2) topics include: Chipmunk, Ladybug, Otter, Cottontail Rabbit, Raccoon, Squirrel, and Groundhog.

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources Trunks** (grades PreK-10) topics include: Illinois Birds, Illinois Fossils, Illinois Trees, Aquatic Illinois, Illinois Mammals, Illinois Prairies, Illinois Insects and Spiders, Illinois State Symbols, and People and Animals from Illinois' Past.

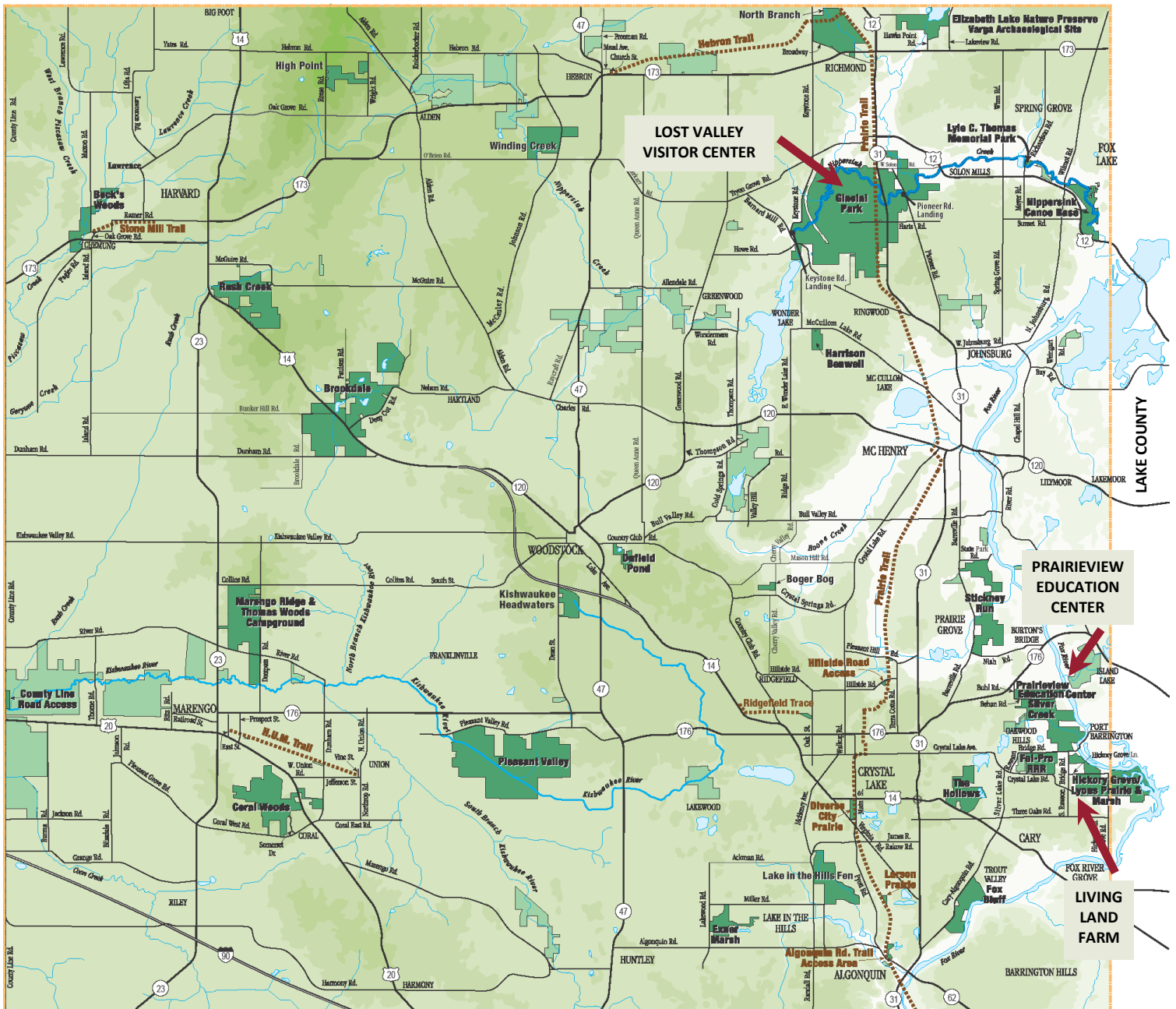
• **Family Exploration Packs Reservations:**

**Prairieview Education Center 815.479.5779**  
**Lost Valley Visitor Center: 815.678.4532**

These packs are for use onsite and contain seasonal activities designed to enhance your outdoor exploration. The packs include games, activities, field guides, and storybooks. Adult supervision is required. A driver's license must be left at the center and the pack returned one half hour prior to closing. Packs are available at Prairieview Education Center and Lost Valley Visitor Center.

• **Map and Compass Packs Reservations: 815.479.5779**

We have two Map and Compass Packs that contain materials for up to 24 participants. One adult per four children is recommended. The pack includes maps, compasses, and map reading activities for use on the outdoor map and compass trail at Prairieview Education Center. A driver's license must be left at the center and the pack returned one half hour prior to closing.



**Prairieview Education Center**

2112 Behan Rd. Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
815.479.5779 / Fax 815.479.5766

April–October: Monday–Saturday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00–5:00 p.m.  
November–March: Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00–4:00 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center is located in Silver Creek Conservation Area and offers indoor programming space, washroom facilities, hands-on activities, exhibits, and a nature library. Three miles of hiking trails travel through woodlands, oak savannas, and a prairie-in-progress.

**Lost Valley Visitor Center**

7210 Keystone Rd. Richmond, IL 60071  
815.678.4532 / Fax 815.678.4795

April–October: Monday–Sunday 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
November–March: Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Saturday–Sunday 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Lost Valley Visitor Center is located in Glacial Park Conservation Area a few miles north of McHenry. The center has an information desk, indoor and outdoor programming space, washroom facilities, exhibits, and a nature library. Glacial Park encompasses over 3,000 acres and is home to unique ecosystems. Hiking trails allow visitors to view prairies, oak savannas, marshes, a bog, creek and glacial kames.

**Living Land Farm**

716 E. Crystal Lake Ave. Cary, IL 60013  
815.479.5779 / Fax 815.479.5766

Living Land Farm provides programs on the interdependence of humans and the natural world, and is part of the Hickory Grove Conservation Area. The site includes a classroom, outdoor latrine, and wigwam for Native American programming. Living Land Farm is only open for programming.