

Youth without Adult *Drop-off program only. Adult waiting area depends on the site.*

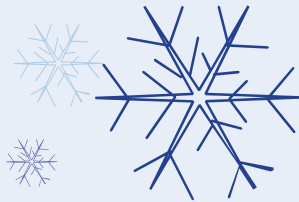
Winter Nature Night **Ages 7–13**

This open house style program is designed to provide a wide variety of fun and educational activities for a range of ages, with the added benefit of providing free time for parents during the busy holiday season. Children may drop in for all or any part of the evening, but pre-registration is required. There will be activities and a quiet reading area set up throughout the evening. We'll go out on a winter night hike at 7:00 p.m. Dress for the weather with appropriate footwear to participate.

NOTE: Due to the drop-off nature of this program parents will be required to come inside to sign their children in and out. Written authorization must be presented at sign-in if someone other than the parent will be picking up a child.

Monday, December 19, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center
Code: 211201-01, \$3 R/ \$3.75 NR



Squirreling Around in Winter **Ages 8–10**

Winter is just getting started, and the animals have surely noticed. Come find out what the squirrels are up to at this time of year. We'll learn more about these acrobatic mammals and then we'll head outside for a walk to see if we can spot them in action. Dress for the weather.

Wednesday, December 21, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Living Land Farm
716 E. Crystal Lake Rd., Cary
Code: 211365-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

Owl Prowl **Ages 7–13**

Winter is an ideal time to observe owls and owl behavior. Learn more about these elusive creatures of the night. Meet live owls, share stories and folklore, view an owl movie, examine owl diets by dissecting an owl pellet, and go for a short hike in search of owls. Please be on time and dress for the weather.

NOTE: There is a separate but simultaneous "Owls of McHenry County" program for adults.

Friday, January 13, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center
Code: 212154-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

C.S.I. : Critter Scene Investigation

Ages 9–12

Put your nature detective skills to the test! There are many puzzles in nature waiting to be solved. Join us as we explore the natural world, and crack the code to some of its mysteries. Please be prepared to go for a hike.

Monday, January 16, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Glacial Park, Lost Valley Visitor Center
Code: 212313-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

Prairie Pioneers **Ages 6–13**

Join us as we learn what it was like to be an early settler in McHenry County. We'll do chores, crafts, and otherwise experience life in Illinois from the perspective of prairie pioneers. This program will be held indoors. Parents, there is a separate but simultaneous program for adults called "Winter on the Frontier".

Friday, February 3, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center
Code: 212269-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

Snow Ventures **Ages 10–12**

Is this your favorite time of year with all that snow on the ground? Join us for a snow venture where we will discover all kinds of facts about snow. There will be snow piles and paths for us to explore, so dress for getting "down and snowy"!

Saturday, February 4, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

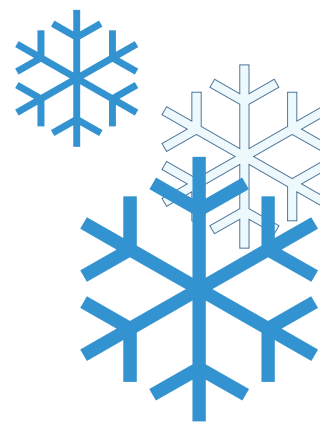
Pleasant Valley, Shelter #1,
Code: 212371-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

Fantastic Fur **Ages 6–12**

Come learn all about the fur bearing animals of Illinois. How does their fur help them survive, and are there different types of fur? Discover the answers to these questions and much more. Program will include an outdoor hike, so dress for the weather!

Monday, February 20, 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Prairieview Education Center
Code: 212208-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR



Teen Scene

Cross-Country Skiing **Ages 13–18**

Learn the basics of cross-country skiing and enjoy the afternoon on the beautiful woodland loops at the Hollows in Cary. Cost includes ski and boot rental—height and shoe size required with registration. Registration and payment deadline: Jan. 18.

Saturday, January 21, 1:00–3:30 p.m.

The Hollows, Picnic Grove #2, Code: 212270-01, \$8 R/ \$10 NR

Hideout at Powers-Walker House **Ages 13–18**

The early settlement Powers-Walker house will provide the backdrop as we reenact a late winter homestead at twilight. Early settlement had its challenges. Learn what it takes to carry out the duties of a pioneer teen. There are chores to be done, harnesses to mend for spring plowing, woodworking projects for spring house repairs to complete and food preparation for the family table.

Saturday, February 18, 3:30–6:00 p.m.

Glacial Park, Powers-Walker House, Code: 212106-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

Cooperative Conservation: Volunteer Opportunities for Teens **Ages 13–19**

Are you a teen looking to earn some volunteer hours for your college applications or wanting to explore the conservation field? Are you looking for a scholarship to help broaden your environmental experiences? Learn about volunteer opportunities within the Education Department. Note: Since some positions will require an adult to participate as well, we are asking that they attend the program with the teen.

Sunday, December 4, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center, Code: 211200-01, \$0 R/ \$3 NR

Nature Tales Ages 3–5

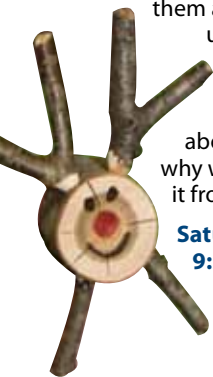
Come enjoy nature stories, themed activities and a winter walk. Dress for the weather.

Saturday, December 3, 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
Prairieview Education Center
Code: 211350-01, \$0 R/ \$3 NR

Make Your Own Wooden Toys Ages 8–13

Learn how to make your own wooden toys. You can keep them for yourself or give them as a gift. The wood being used for these projects comes from a non-native, invasive plant called European Buckthorn. We will learn about this invasive plant and why we work so hard to remove it from our natural areas.

Saturday, December 10, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
Glacial Park,
Lost Valley Visitor Center
Code: 211311-01, \$0 R/ \$3 NR



Squirrel Survivor Ages 7–12

If you were a squirrel, would you be able to survive winter? Take this fun challenge and see how a squirrel survives our coldest season! Dress for the weather as we will be outside for the whole program.

Sunday, December 11, 1:00–2:30 p.m.
Coral Woods, Picnic Shelter
Code: 211111-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

Preparing for Winter Ages 3–10

Join us for some fun activities as we learn what different local animals do to prepare for winter. Afterwards we will head outside for a hike to look for signs of animals as they get ready for the long cold season ahead. Dress for the weather.

Saturday, December 17, 10:00–11:30 a.m.
Glacial Park, Lost Valley Visitor Center
Code: 211312-01, \$0 R/ \$3 NR

Nature Play Open House Ages Infant–5

Parents and tots are invited to experience the fun and learning available at Prairieview Education Center. Play with nature puzzles, games, puppets and more. A craft table will be set up throughout the program. There will be a guided hike at 11:00 a.m. If you plan to join the hike, dress for the weather, and think “Snow!”

Thursday, December 29, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Prairieview Education Center
Code: 211202-01, \$0 R/ \$3 NR

That’s Gross Ages Infant–13

Did you know that some animals eat their own poop? Join us at the Lost Valley Visitor Center to learn about the gross things animals do and why they do them.

Wednesday, January 18, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
Glacial Park, Lost Valley Visitor Center
Code: 212314-01, \$0 R/ \$3 NR

Bundle Up Ages 7–12

Bundle up in your warmest clothes, wear your boots and wander with us through the wonderful woodland morning. Look for frosty patterns, search for nests that were hidden all summer, and enjoy the crisp winter air. We will spend all of our time outside searching for the secrets only the winter season reveals.

Saturday, January 28, 10:00–11:30 a.m.
Stickney Run
Code: 212103-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

Groundhog Day! Ages 3–5

Groundhog Day is celebrated in some interesting ways in our area, but we think it is a great time to get outside to find out what these mammals are really doing on February 2nd! We’ll start out inside and then head out for a winter hike. Dress for the weather.

Thursday, February 2, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Prairieview Education Center
Code: 212370-01, \$0 R/ \$3 NR

Discovery Days Ages 2–6

Come out and enjoy an hour of fun including a game, craft, snack and other educational activities based around the special theme of the day.
Fee: \$0 R/ \$3 NR

Friday, December 9, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
Glacial Park, Lost Valley Visitor Center
Code: 211310-01

Monday, January 9, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Prairieview Education Center
Code: 212366-01

Tuesday, February 7, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
Prairieview Education Center
Code: 212156-01

The Better to Eat With Ages 8–12

My, what big teeth you have! It is all about eating! Some teeth are small, some are big, while others are pointed or flat. They can come in all shapes and sizes. Join us as we investigate a variety of teeth and figure out who they could belong to and what they could be used for. This will be an indoor, hands-on program.

Friday, February 17, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
Prairieview Education Center
Code: 212105-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUT AND HAVE FUN THIS WINTER, see pages 14–16.

- * Sign up for Candlelight Ski & Snow Day notifications
- * Hike or Cross-Country Ski after dark on solar lit trails
- * Camp * Ice Skate * Fish * Snowmobile * Sled