



SUMMER 2019

PROGRAMS & SUMMER CAMPS

Calvert Nature Society
Calvert County Natural Resources Division

We have so many wonderful programs, we can't fit them all here.
See a full listing of all the upcoming programs at www.calvertparks.org . Online registration is preferred.

NATURE PARK INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG

Programs for Families

Families experience the fascinating natural world found in our area. These programs incorporate activities to entertain learners of all ages. Most programs spend time outdoors: dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org .

Adult participation required unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Summer Nature Play Day

Ages 3-5

Wednesday, June 5, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

Playing outside is healthy for humans of all ages. Take some time to enjoy the outdoors and meet like-minded families in this semi-structured event. Children and their grown-ups can explore the river's edge by playing games, catching live river animals, and/or creating some nature art. Families may stay for some of the listed program time as activities will be ongoing. Younger siblings are welcome, but for safety, must be supervised by their adults.

Nest Box Monitoring

Ages 6-9

Wednesday, July 3, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

The nest boxes are usually bustling with activity this time of year. Your children will have fun helping the naturalist check some of them for the warbler monitoring project. Wear old shoes or knee boots that can get muddy.

Insect Predators

All ages

Saturday, July 13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park

Learn about the amazing creature features of insects that eat other bugs, then we will look for them in the forest and meadow.

Goldenrod Jungle

All ages

Saturday, August 17, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park

Butterflies, beetles, and spiders are just a few residents of the Goldenrod Jungle. We will explore the different creatures that live, hunt, and hide there.

REGISTRATION & NATURE PARK INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG

The Healing Power of Nature

All Ages

Saturday, August 24, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Come learn what science is saying about how nature can heal our bodies, minds, and spirit. We will talk about the benefits of spending time outdoors, and then we will put our new knowledge into practice with a forest hike.

Help Take Care of the Animals

Ages 6-9

Saturday, August 31,

Session A: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Session B: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Your children will have fun helping the naturalist take care of the nature center's live animals while being able to see them up-close. Wear clothes that can get dirty.

WHOOOray for Owls

Ages 18 months-5 years

Wednesday, September 4

Session A: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Session B: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Come hear a story, make a craft, and meet one of our owls up close!

Paw Paw Party

All ages

Saturday, September 7, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Did you know the Paw Paw tree's extended family lives in the tropics? Come learn all about these special trees--and even get to taste the fruit!

Sense-ational Fun

Ages 6-9

Saturday, September 14, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

There's more to nature than meets the eye! Come engage all of your senses and experience all there is to see, touch, hear, smell, and taste in the park this time of year!

Pond Adventure

Ages 3-5

Wednesday, September 18, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

Put on your rubber boots, grab a net and a bucket, and come on down to the pond! We will use nets and our hands to learn about what lives in that murky water--frogs? bugs? Come find out

Monarch Day

All ages

Saturday, September 21, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Learn how your family can help monarch butterflies. We will venture outdoors to look for some monarchs to net and tag. The 40-minute film Flight of the Monarchs will be shown from 3-3:40 pm.

Kayak Trips

Participants must be at least 9 years old to accompany an adult in a double kayak and at least 12 years old to ride in a single kayak. Those under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org. Fees \$15 for society members. Nonmembers pay \$30 per person. \$10 discount if you bring your own kayak.

Wetland Kayak Trip

Adults only

Session A: Saturday, July, 27

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Session B: Saturday, September 21

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

Enjoy a peaceful morning paddle as we wind slowly along marshy channels looking for flowering plants and animal families.

River Ecology

Ages 9 years old to adult

Saturday, August 3

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Lower Marlboro Wharf

This is a perfect trip for beginners to learn about kayaking and get out on the water. We will focus on basic kayak skills and the ecology of the Patuxent River.

Meteor Shower Kayak Trip

For Ages 9 years to adult

Saturday, August 17

8:30-11:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

We'll set out for a paddle on the Patuxent River to get a perfect seat for the Perseids Meteor Shower! Must have previous kayaking experience.

Homeschool Friday

Homeschool First Fridays is a series of environmental education programs developed especially for homeschoolers ages 4 to 12. These classes are a great way to get hands-on science and nature lessons, receive help on projects and research and network with other homeschooling families. Each two-hour program will consist of indoor and outdoor hands-on learning. Depending on the topic, students may observe live animals, collect aquatic creatures, take measurements of water quality or play games. Students will be grouped by age to allow for age appropriate topic exploration. Parents with younger children will stay with the group; parents of older children have the option to stay and participate as mentors and teachers. Siblings younger than 3 are welcome but must be under the care of a parent/guardian at all times and should not distract other participants.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org.

Adult participation required unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members.
Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Tracks and Trails

Ages 4-12

Friday, September 6,

Session A: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Session B: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Animals live secret lives all around us, though most of us go through our busy days without even noticing what's right under our noses. Nature Observation/ animal tracking is both science and storytelling, requiring us to critically observe and gather data as well as use our imaginations to interpret the signs we find.

Teen Programs

(INCLUDING TEEN HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS)

These programs encourage developing minds to appreciate and protect the nature around them. Programs are designed to create a group of young men and women with a strong, long-term commitment to preserving and protecting the landscapes, waterways, and natural resources of Calvert County. Adult participant is not required at these programs.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members.
Nonmembers pay \$8 per teen.

Kayak Mini-Series

Ages 12-16 years, adult participation not required
Tuesday, June 4, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

This is the third, and final, session on kayaking and the ecology of the Patuxent River and its tributaries. We will go out in the kayaks and explore the river, watching for changes that signal the coming of summer. Teens can sign up for individual dates, or the whole series

Teens Behind the Scenes-Animal Care

Ages 12-16

Saturday, September 14, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Come find out what it takes to work with the captive animal collection here at Battle Creek Nature Center. Help take care of the daily maintenance of these animals and spend some time working hands-on with them.

Tracks and Trails

Ages 12-16

Tuesday, September 17, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Animals live secret lives all around us, though most of us go through our busy days without even noticing what's right under our noses. We will critically observe and gather data as well as use our imaginations to interpret the signs we find.

Calvert Stewards

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Assisting at the parks is a rewarding way to raise awareness of the importance of our natural lands. Use your experience to help preserve our future in Calvert County by becoming one of our Calvert Stewards. Some projects are appropriate for families and teens.

Reservations required, <https://www.calvertparks.org/volunteer.html>. Programs are free unless noted.

Nature Center Garden Work Day

Ages 13 and up, under 18 with adult

Saturday, June 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 12, 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 14, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Volunteers are needed to help our staff with the maintenance and upkeep of the trails and gardens around Battle Creek Nature Center. From invasive plant removal, to routine garden care, to maintaining the nature play space and trails-there is always something to be done. Volunteers must be able to perform moderately strenuous physical tasks.

Animal Care Training

Ages 10 and older, under 18 with adult

Thursday, June 13, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, August 20, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 5, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

We are always looking for an extra hand to take care of the nature center's live animals. As you accompany staff, you will learn how to clean cages, feed the animals and handle them. Once you are trained, you will be able to sign up to care for the animals as often as you'd like. For more information and opportunities visit <https://www.calvertparks.org/animal-care>

Dragonfly Research Project

Ages 13 and older, under 18 with adult

Monday, July 1 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 2 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 3 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Location varies

Assistance is needed to catch and identify dragonfly nymphs for part of a national initiative. Volunteers will spend the morning wading Battle Creek with sampling nets to collect young dragonflies from the water. After a lunch break, we will sort and identify the nymphs. The dragonfly project is studying the impact and distribution of mercury in the environment.

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project

All ages, under 18 with adult

Dates and times vary

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Help the naturalist measure milkweed and count monarch caterpillars in the meadow. For a complete listing of dates and time visit www.calvertparks.org/MonarchWatch

Summer Camp

Children should be going into the grade indicated on each camp for the 2019-2020 school year.
Fee is per Camper. Locations and times of the different camp days can be found online, www.calvertparks.org.

Marvelous Mud - Full

Entering grades 3-5
June 24- 28, times vary
Flag Ponds Nature Park

Creature Feature - Full

Entering grades 1-2
June 24-June 27, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Location varies

Mountains to the Bay - Full

Entering grades 6-8
July 15-19, times vary
Location varies

Outdoor Skills - Full

Entering grades 4-6
August 5-August 9, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Location Varies

Where the Wild Things Are

Entering grades 1-2
Monday July 8-Thursday July 11
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Location varies
You don't need to go on safari to see wildlife-there's a ton of wildlife to be seen here in Calvert County, if you know here to look. During this camp, we will take the time to look closely for life under logs, stones, even in the mud! Using tools like nets, buckets, and shovels, we'll search high and low, on land and in the water for bugs, worms, fish and whatever else we can find. In addition to our outdoor explorations, games and journals will help us learn about our "wild things."
Members: \$120; Nonmembers: \$150

Birding Adventures

Entering grades 6-8
Monday, July 8-Friday, July 12
Times & Location varies
Take your interest in birds to the next level with this camp. From hikes to boat trips we will be learning about the many species of birds that call our area home. We will teach you how to identify birds by their song and appearance. You will also get the chance to observe a bird banding research project. Bring your binoculars and your camera for a fun week long adventure ending with an owl prowling on Friday night!
Members: \$150; Nonmembers: \$180

Nature Photography

Entering grades 4-6
Monday, July 22-Friday, July 26
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Photo presentation for families: July 26, 3:00 p.m.
Location varies
Your children will capture the natural wonders of Calvert County Parks on camera. In addition to fun camp activities, they will learn camera basics and picture-taking tips. After camp on Friday, families are invited to a presentation highlighting campers' work. Campers must provide their own digital camera.
Members: \$150; Nonmembers: \$180

Early Explorers

4-5 years old by the week of camp
Monday, July 29-Friday, August 2
AM Session: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
PM Session 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Location varies.
We will set out on mini adventures throughout the park to explore our natural world. From the pond to the fields who knows what we may find. Parents are not required to stay during the camp. No younger or older siblings allowed.
Members: \$60; Nonmembers: \$75

Outdoor Art Adventures

Entering grades 2-3
Monday, August 5-Friday, August 9
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Let nature be your inspiration as we spend the week creating works of art in many different forms! We will draw, paint, photograph, and sculpt our way through the park, and we will end the week with an art gallery exhibition walk-through for the parents to view all of our masterpieces.
Members: \$150; Nonmembers: \$180

Exploring Environmental Careers

Entering grades 6-8
Monday, July 29-Friday, Aug 2
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Location varies
Does getting paid to be outside sound like the career path for you? Come explore the many different types of careers that nature can offer, including animal care, environmental education, and field research. Camp includes a day trip to Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomon's, MD.
Members: \$150; Nonmembers: \$180