



FALL 2019 PROGRAMS



Calvert Nature Society

Calvert County Natural Resources Division

See a full listing of all the upcoming programs at www.calvertparks.org . Online registration is preferred.

Programs for Families

Families experience the fascinating natural world found in our area. These programs incorporate activities for 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.

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.

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.

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!

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 at 3:00 pm.

Leaf Crafts

Ages 3-5

Tuesday, October 22

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

Session B: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Enjoy a short autumn stroll to explore common leaf types and why leaves fall. We will collect freshly fallen leaves and use them to create a variety of easy craft projects. All materials will be provided.

The Great Fall Find

Ages 3-5

Tuesday, October 29, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

What will the fall give us today? Will we find colorful leaves or nuts? Come celebrate fall-we will enjoy playing with whatever we find!

Help Take Care of the Animals

Ages 6-9

Saturday, November 2

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.

The Wonderful World of Trees

Ages 3-5

Thursday, November 7, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Give your trees a big hug and tell them thank you as we learn about all of the ways trees are great!

Beyond S'mores

Ages 8 and up

Friday, November 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

For ages 8 and up, with adult participation

Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and flashlights

Most everyone knows how to make s'mores over a fire, but campfire cooking can be so much more. Come discover some new campfire methods and recipes. Dress for the weather- and bring your appetite.

Turkey Lurkey

Ages 3-5

Thursday, November 21

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

Session B: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Gatewood Preserve

Come and learn all about the amazing turkey! We will have games, a hike, and a craft to help us explore nature the way turkeys do.

Compass Skills: Candy Cane Hunt

Ages 6-9

Saturday, December 7, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

Children will learn some basic compass skills and will use what they have learned to find candy canes hidden in the park.

Keeping Warm

Ages 18 months-5

Wednesday, December 11

Session A: 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Session B: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Brrr! Come learn what different animals are doing now that it's getting cold out!

Animal Footprints: Session A

Ages 3-5

Thursday, December 12

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

Session B: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

What animal left those footprints? A game, crafts, and a hike will help us learn how to identify animals from their footprints and other clues they leave behind.

Evergreen Explorers

Ages 18 months-5

Wednesday, December 18

Session A: 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Session B: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Come learn about the special types of trees that keep their leaves all year: Evergreens!

Winter Nature Play

Ages 3-5

Thursday, December 19, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

The days are short and the animals and plants have been getting ready for winter. Are you ready? We will tell stories, play games, and build forts-best of all-cook some snacks over a campfire.

Wear your warm clothes to this one – it will be outside!

Special Event

Owls of Maryland

Ages 10 and older

Saturday, November 9,

7:00-11:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Ever wondered what owls live in Maryland? Come to our owl banding station and learn about what owls could be living in your backyard as well as the migratory Saw-Whet Owls we are studying. We will have a live owl to see and maybe a chance to see a wild Saw Whet Owl. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Free

Homeschool First Fridays

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.

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. In this fall series, we will practice the skills necessary to become better trackers and observers.

**Reservations required. Children must be the age indicated for each program.
Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.**

Ages 4-12, with adult
Session A: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Session B: 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park

Tracks and Trails: Friday, September 6

We'll learn about the tracks (footprints) and trails animals leave.

Scat Happens: Friday, October 4

Learn about animal scat (poop) and what it can tell us about our animal neighbors.

Talking Bones: Friday, November 1

We will cover animal bones and what they can tell us about the animals.

Animal Clues: Friday, December 6

Our December class will focus on a variety of animal clues and means of communication including scent and sound.

Teen Homeschool Days

Ages 12-16. Adults are not required to attend.

Tracks and Trails Tuesday, September 17

Who Scat Here? Tuesday, October 8

Talking Bones: Tuesday, November 5

Animal Clues: Tuesday, December 10

Flag Ponds Nature Park

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

Free for members. Nonmembers \$8 per teen per program.

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.

Life on the Edge Teen Overnight

Ages 12-16. Adults are not required to attend.

Friday, December 18, 7:00 a.m through

December 19, 4:00 p.m.

Meet at Battle Creek Nature Center to transport to Assateague Island

Assateague Island is poised between the land and the sea - recreated each day by ocean, wind, and waves. Teens will kayak the coastal bay, camp in the sand dunes, cook dinner over a fire, and explore the beach at night. **Mandatory pre-trip meeting for all participants and their families (even those who have gone on the trip before) on Thursday, October 4 at 6:30 pm at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp**

Fee per person: Members: \$40; Nonmembers: \$60

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.

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

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.

Saw Whet Owl Project Work Day

Adults

Tuesday, October 8, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Join us at Flag Ponds to clear net lanes and set up nets for this fall's upcoming Saw-whet Owl Banding Project. We will be clearing paths for which to install the nets and installing net support structures.

Monarch Tagging

Ages 10 and older

Dates and times vary

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Learn how to catch and tag monarch butterflies for Project Monarch Watch's citizen science project. We will travel to a few different parks in Southern Maryland, hoping to catch some of these amazing migrants.. For a complete listing of dates and time visit www.calvertparks.org/MonarchWatch

Animal Care Training

Ages 10 and older

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

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

Monday, October 21, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 3, 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>

Point Lookout Waterbirds

Ages 13 and older

For current Calvert Stewards only

Saturday, November 23, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

meet at Battle Creek

Join us for a winter waterbird adventure! We will travel by van down to Point Lookout to observe and identify the birds that spend the winter on the Chesapeake Bay.

Coming This Fall

We will be launching a new Calvert Stewards Volunteer Portal that will list all the volunteer opportunities available. Volunteers will create their unique profile, become a fan of different programs, and respond to volunteer opportunities. Volunteers will also log and track their own hours. Keep your eye on the Calvert Stewards page for details as they become available. <https://www.calvertparks.org/volunteer.html>