

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT DECEMBER 2022 PROGRAMS –TO REGISTER YOU MAY GO TO WWW.HANCOCKPARKS.COM OR VISIT US AT 1424 E MAIN CROSS M-F 8:00AM - 4:30PM. FOR QUESTIONS CALL 419-425-7275.

1 Thursday

Evergreens for Homeschoolers ✓ *GEP*

With the holidays approaching, many people bring evergreen trees into their homes to decorate. What is an evergreen tree and what makes them special? On our hike we will learn about the differences between evergreen or coniferous and deciduous trees, look for different types evergreen trees in the park, and learn about how animals and people use the trees.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Shelter 3

10 AM

Ages 6-12 with an adult.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

2 Friday

Little Hands Nature Club: Bare Nature ✓ *GEP*

The trees and bushes have dropped their leaves and these leaves have been blown away by the wind. This has left nature bare, with nothing to cover it. Join us for activities including, "Bare Branch Bingo," and "I'm looking for a squirrel's nest" and a leaf pile to jump in. Squirrel furs and mounts will be available for children to look at. This program will take place outside, so please dress accordingly. Adult companions must remain with children for this program.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center porch

2-3 PM

Recommended for ages 3-6, with an adult; other ages siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

4 Sunday

Sewing, Buttons, and other Trinkets: Open House ✓ *GEP*

Now that all the crops have been harvested and winter is here, it is a good time to sit by the fire and mend clothes. Learn about sewing, knitting, buttons, thimbles, needles, and other items used to repair clothes. Children can also learn how to play with button spinner toys.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

McKinnis House

1-4 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

8 Thursday

Winter Painting ✓ *GEP*

Paint a fun winter scene after getting inspiration from our animal mounts, our Window on Wildlife, or from your own imagination. However, we will not be painting with traditional paint brushes. Instead, we will be using fun brushes made from things like pine needles, cotton balls, and marshmallows.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

10 AM

Ages 4 and up with an adult.

Free; but register by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, December 7. Adults do not need to register.

Maximum: 20

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

9 Friday

Compare to a Bear: Open House ✓ *GEP*

While there are no bears in our part of Ohio today, they once freely roamed over all our state back in the early 1800s. Visitors will have the chance to compare themselves to the bear living in Eastern Ohio, the black bear, as well as the grizzly bear, polar bear, and pre-historic short-faced bear. Measure yourself against the height and weight and other bodily features of these enormous mammals. Our black bear fur, skull, scat, and tracks will be on display.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6-8 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

11 Sunday

Winter Days in the Big Woods v GEP

We will be making Pioneer Paper Dolls just as Laura Ingalls Wilder, and her sisters did in the story of, "Winter Days in the Big Woods" that will be read. We will talk about what pioneer children would have played with and how simple things could turn into fun games. Hiding the Thimble was one of those games that we will be playing. Children can use their imagination and create a paper playhouse for their paper dolls to live in.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

2-3:30 PM

Ages 6-12.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Friday, December 9.

Maximum: 16

Chris Allen Callen@hancockparks.com

12 Monday

Wee Ones: Blanket Forts v GEP

Come play with our puppets and with new friends in some fun blanket forts. Pretend that you are exploring an unexplored cave, an ant living in a colony, or anything else that comes to your imagination. We will also have a coloring page to help kids relax after their play time in the forts.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

10 AM & 2 PM

Ages 3 and under with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

13 Tuesday

Fireside Story: The Animals' Santa, v GEP

Christmas is a special time for children, but have you ever thought that animals might celebrate Christmas, too? Join us by the fireside for the Christmas Story, "The Animals' Santa" by Jan Brett. The shelter will be decorated with greens, pinecones, and snowflakes in preparation for the upcoming holiday season. After the story we will stroll along the Loop Trail near Giertz Lake to see if any animals are out and about in the park looking for their Santa.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Shelter 3

10 AM

Ages 3-5 with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; but register everyone attending by 1 PM on Monday, December 12.

Maximum: 30

Chris Allen

callen@hancockparks.com

17 Saturday

Almost Winter Hike v GEP

Hike the frosty trails as we explore the park. We will talk about what the plants and animals do during winter. We will search for local wildlife, like birds and squirrels, and see if we can find tracks or scat that they left behind.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Gatehouse

2 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

18 Sunday

Coloring Pages at the Discovery Center ✓ GEP

One way to take care of your mental health is to sit down and work on a coloring page. Coloring pages can help you to relax, improve brain function, reduces stress and anxiety, and improves your focus and motor skills. We will have a wide variety of nature-themed coloring pages from simple children coloring pages to intricate adult coloring pages. Come by to color, sit by the fire, watch the birds through the Window on Wildlife, or enjoy the displays.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

2-4 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

19 Monday

Discovery Stories: Getting Ready for Winter ✓ GEP

What do animals that live in our parks do when it starts to snow? Most of them will be ready when the cold weather comes and the snow falls. Learn how the woodchuck, weasel, raccoon, frog, and sparrow get ready for winter. Furs will be available for children to touch and look at.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

10 AM & 1 PM

Recommended for ages 3-5 with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

19 Monday

Constellations of the Southern Hemisphere ✓ GEP

Look up in the sky and you will see many beautiful constellations. There are 88 modern day constellations, but we cannot see them all from here in Ohio. Come view and learn about the 32 constellations that can only be found in the Southern Hemisphere. We will also view other objects in space from the view of the night sky from below the equator. Participants are required to sit on the floor.

Ask about accommodations.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

7-8 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Monday, December 19.

Maximum: 25

Tim Kleman

tkleman@hancockparks.com

20 Tuesday

Project Feeder Watch for Families

Families are invited to watch birds that are visiting the Oakwoods' feeders and help the park district staff count them as part of our 16th season participating in Project Feeder Watch. You will also have the chance to create a pine cone bird feeder and take-home information about setting up your own bird feeding area. We will have binoculars available for use if you do not have your own.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

9:30-11:30 AM

Families with children ages 5 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

20 Tuesday

Old Fashion Holiday Cookies ✓ *GEP*

There is no better time than the Christmas Holiday season to be baking on the old cast iron stove. Kids will learn about the different holiday cookies that were baked in the 1800s, some which were used to decorate the Christmas tree. Each child will help bake gingerbread and sugar cookies. Kids will also receive a Holiday Cookies recipe book, so they can bake more cookies at home for the family.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods.

McKinnis House

2-3:30 PM

Ages 11-15.

Register with \$5 per child by 1 PM on Monday, December 19.

Maximum: 12

Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

21 Wednesday

McKinnis House Tea and Cookies Day ✓ *GEP*

Sarah Fishel will be demonstrating how cookies are baked in the oven of the 1847 wood stove. Guests will enjoy tea and freshly baked cookies while sitting by the fire in the family sitting room. Perhaps a holiday story can be shared while enjoying the cozy fire.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

McKinnis House

2-3:30 PM.

Ages 18 and up.

Register with \$5 per person by 1 PM on Tuesday, December, 20.

Maximum: 12

Chris Allen

callen@hancockparks.com

22 Thursday

Holiday Floor Cloth Workshop for Youth ✓ *GEP*

Start your holiday break off right by making your very own holiday floor cloth. We will have examples of how to paint popular holiday icons, but your painting will be your own design. Jazz up any floor space in your room, or use it as a wall hanging. The Discovery Center will be in the spirit of the season with a fire in the fireplace, Christmas music, and hot chocolate. Floor cloths will measure 2' x 3'. All supplies will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

9:30-10:30 AM for ages 11-15.

11 AM-12 PM for ages 5-10 with an adult. Adults do not need to register.

Register with \$10 per person by 1 PM on Wednesday, December 21.

Maximum: 12 per workshop

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

22 Thursday

Winter Exploration Hike ✓ *GEP*

Now that school is out for the holiday break, it is a great time to explore the trails and get a little sunshine and exercise. There are so many things that can be seen once the fall leaves have dropped and you can see through the trees and bushes to what was once hiding or living there. Maybe they are still there but just hibernating for the winter. The animals leave lots of signs that they have been there and we can follow them to see where they lead us.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Area

Shelter 3

1 PM

All ages are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

27 Tuesday

Snowflake Cutouts v GEP

Today is Make a Cutout Snowflake Day! To celebrate, we will talk about what snow is and how it forms, and look at the different shapes of a snowflake. Then we will make our own paper cutout snowflakes that can be used to decorate your home. If we are lucky, we will go outside and play in the snow.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

10-11 AM

Ages 5-12 with an adult.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

29 Thursday

Tracks in the Park v GEP

Winter is an excellent time to search for animal tracks in the parks. We will learn how to identify tracks and scat of local wildlife, like raccoons and squirrels. We will then create our own plaster of Paris casts of an animal track. As we wait for our casts to dry, we will go on a hike to look for fresh tracks and signs of animals and return to the Discovery Center to play a fun tracking game.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

2 PM

Families with children ages 6 and up.

Register with \$2 per plaster track by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, December 28.

Maximum: 20

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com