

Bear Branch Nature Center

410-386-3580

300 John Owings Rd, Westminster

****Pre-registration is needed so that we can be fully prepared for you to enjoy our programs!****

The Nature Center is open year round and hours of operation are Wednesday-Saturday 11am-5pm, Sunday 12-5pm. All Nature Center programs require pre-registration with Recreation & Parks (see form in back). For "All Ages" and "youth age-Adult" programs, youth must be accompanied by a paying adult. Organized groups MUST schedule a separate program directly with the Nature Center; email bearbranch@ccg.carr.org, or phone.

Hashawha's trails are open to the public from dawn until dusk 365 days a year. Parking is only available at Lake Hashawha or the Bear Branch Nature Center. There is no entrance fee to the park.

PLEASE NOTE: *The Hashawha Environmental Facility is not open to the public except through reservation. Please do not enter the Hashawha gates or the posted restricted areas. For information about group rentals of this facility, phone 410-386-3560 or email Hashawha@ccg.carr.org.*

In case of inclement weather... should inclement weather be in the forecast, please call the Nature Center before coming to your program to see if it has been canceled or postponed. We follow school weather closings - please see the full Inclement Weather Policy at the back of this brochure for complete details. Please note the Nature Center is closed whenever Carroll County Government offices are closed.

~All programs meet at the Nature Center unless otherwise noted in description~

BEAR CUB EXPLORERS

Thursday, 10:30am-12pm

#168868 Dec 8 - Winter Survival

#168869 Jan 12 - Junior Astronomy

#168870 Feb 9 - Maple Magic

Looking to explore the outdoors beyond the boundaries of the backyard? Participate in exciting outdoor experiences led by a naturalist, then jump into engaging workshop-style activities designed so that kids of varying ages can work at a pace that's best for them. Each session explores a different theme. Activities for this program are planned for ages 3-9; tag-alongs/siblings must also register if attending.

3-9 years / 1 session / \$6 child



JUNIOR PLANETARIUM SHOW

Saturday, 11-11:45am

#168871 Dec 10 - Orion the Hunter

#168872 Jan 21 - The Seven Sisters

Join the naturalist for a kid-friendly, indoor planetarium show! Each session, the show focuses on a different constellation and the story behind it. Afterwards, get more familiar with an animal related to the story! Great for younger children and first-time planetarium-goers.

3-Adult / 1 session / \$5 person



PLANETARIUM SHOW

#168873 Sat, December 17, 7:30-8:30pm

#168874 Sat, January 14, 7:30-8:30pm

#168875 Sat, February 11, 7:30-8:30pm

Join a member of the Westminster Astronomical Society, Inc. (WASI) for an indoor planetarium show highlighting what's happening in the night sky at this time of year. Head outdoors to take a look through the new observatory (weather dependent). All are welcome to register, but program is best for age group listed.

8-Adult / 1 session / \$5 person



JINGLE BELL JUMP

#168876 Saturday, December 17, 1-2:30pm

Let's get moving! Meet a few animals up close and learn about the different ways they jump, hop, crawl, and slither. Then participate in various races and challenges that will put your best inner animal to the test! Participants take home a prize for their efforts!

5-11 years / 1 session / \$6 child

HASHAWHA HOLIDAY HUNT

#168877 Sunday, December 18, 1-2:30pm

Participate in a guided scavenger hunt for natural materials that can be used to create holiday-themed crafts and decorations. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies while piecing together what's been found into beautiful holiday masterpieces.

5-10 years / 1 session / \$7 child

LITTLE LEGS WINTER HIKE

#168878 Wednesday, December 21, 9:30-10:30am

Take a stroll with a naturalist around the Nature Center to see what's happening on the first day of Winter! We will return to the Center to make a winter-themed craft to take home. This program is best for young children who walk at a "little legs" pace.

2-5 years / 1 session / \$6 child



WINTER BREAK DAY CAMP

#168879 Tuesday-Friday, Dec 27-30, 8:30am-4:30pm

Looking for something to do over winter break? Look no further than Bear Branch! Campers will spend the week learning about what wild animals do during winter months; where they go; what they eat; and how they stay warm. We will enjoy the winter season through hikes games, and hands-on projects. We will even roast marshmallows over the wood stove. Bring a peanut-free bag lunch each day and a change of clothes; wear closed-toe shoes and be sure to dress for the weather.

6-8 years / 4 sessions / \$160 child

PROJECT WILD TRAINING

#168880 Saturday, January 7, 10am-4pm

A K-12 award-winning wildlife conservation education program available to formal and informal educators and parents. Participants will take part in hands-on activities, discuss ways to adapt programs to their needs, learn more about Maryland's resident wildlife, and receive copies of the Project WILD Curriculum and Activity Guide. Bring a lunch and be prepared to go outdoors. Light snacks and refreshments provided.

14-Adult / 1 session / \$5 person

CREATURE FEATURE

#168881 Saturday, January 14, 1-2pm

Have you ever looked a hawk in the eye? ...or been tickled by a beetle? Meet some of the captive animals that call Bear Branch home, including hawks, owls, snakes, turtles, frogs, salamanders, and insects! What do these animals have in common? What makes them different? And what are their wild counterparts doing at this time of year?

All Ages / 1 session / \$5 person

SNOW MUCH FUN!

#168882 Saturday, January 21, 1-2pm

Do you have the winter blues? Well we've got the cure for you! Join us for hot chocolate and marshmallows toasted over the wood stove, and have some fun making snow-themed crafts to brighten your days and shake those winter blues!

All Ages / 1 session / \$7 person



SCHOOL'S OUT CAMP DAY

#168883 Friday, January 27, 8:30am-4:30pm

#168884 Monday, February 20, 8:30am-4:30pm

What better way to enjoy time off school than to spend a winter day at the Nature Center? Join the naturalist for a day filled with hands-on activities and nature-themed games. We will take a hike, create an art project to take home, enjoy a planetarium program, meet a few of the captive animals, and make some new friends! Bring a peanut-free lunch and a change of clothes; wear closed-toe shoes and dress for the weather.

5-11 years / 1 session / \$50 child

TRACKS AND TRACES

#168885 Saturday, January 28, 1-2:30pm

Wild animals can be elusive, especially in winter!

Sometimes all they leave behind are tracks and traces.

Learn what to search for that can clue you in to an animal's presence. Make your very own "track scarf" to take home that will help you remember what you have learned.

All Ages / 1 session / \$6 person



LOVE BIRDS

#168886 Sunday, February 12, 1-2:30pm

Long before other birds begin building nests; owls have chosen their mates and laid eggs by Valentine's Day! To celebrate, we will meet a few captive owls up close, learn what their wild counterparts are busy doing at this time of year, and investigate owl pellets to learn more about these amazing creatures.

All Ages / 1 session / \$6 person



WOODPECKER WALK

#168887 Saturday, February 18, 11am-12:30pm



As year-round residents, woodpeckers can be seen all winter long! Bare trees and branches provide perfect viewing conditions. We will search the tree tops as we walk through the woods, then return to the Nature Center to construct a simple feeder made of recycled materials that can be hung in your own backyard. Learn about Project FeederWatch and ways that you can participate in this cool project at home!

All Ages / 1 session / \$6 person

MAPLE MAGIC

#168888 Saturday, February 25, 1-2:30pm

#168889 Sunday, February 26, 1-2:30pm



The sap is flowing and we are making syrup! Join us for a short hike to the maple stand where we will tap a tree and hang a collection bucket. Then return to the Nature Center to enjoy sweet maple treats and learn how to make syrup from sap! By the end of this program, you will know all you need to make syrup of your own! (This program is weather dependent - you will be notified if we need to cancel, and refunds will be processed.)

All Ages / 1 session / \$6 person

BEAR BRANCH BULLETIN BOARD

410-386-3580

bearbranch@cag.carr.org

Contact us about these or other upcoming opportunities or events

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Looking for something fun to do on your birthday? Book it at Bear Branch! Packages include a 3-hour use of the auditorium, a 45-minute naturalist-led program, and time to explore the Nature Center. Six themes to choose from.

FEE: \$175

OUTREACH & PRIVATE PROGRAMS

Interested in organizing a hike, planetarium show, or nature-themed program for your group at Bear Branch? In-county \$4/person / out-of-county \$5/person. We can even come to you (+\$25 traveling fee)!

FIELD TRIPS

Are you an elementary school teacher looking for a fun, educational field trip for your class? Our field trips include a 45-minute naturalist-led presentation and hands-on, outdoor activities based on grade level (aligned with the Carroll County science curriculum).

FEE: \$4/student or chaperon (in-county); \$5 (out-of-county)

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BLUEBIRD TRAIL

MONITORING TRAINING

February 19th 1-3pm

Help monitor Hashawha's Bluebird Trail this spring and summer. Learn about bluebirds, how to identify nests, and how to correctly log data. Service hours are available for the training and weekly monitoring shifts! Dress for the weather as we will be hiking to the boxes. Age: 7 and up (age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

BEAR BRANCH AIDE (age 14+)

Contact us to receive an application...

- NATURE CENTER: Wednesdays-Sundays 1-4pm
- GIFT SHOP: Saturdays and Sundays 1-4pm
- GARDEN: Wednesdays thru Sundays-flexible times

SPECIAL EVENTS

WINTER ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Saturday, December 3rd

11am-3pm

Get an early start on holiday shopping! Visit the Nature Center to browse nature-inspired booths. Vendors will be selling handcrafted items that utilize natural materials or were inspired by the great outdoors. Food and beverage will be available for purchase.

METEOR SHOWER HIKE — Members Only

Wednesday, December 14th

6:30-8pm

Join us for this exciting event open to Bear Branch Nature Center members only! Hike with the naturalist to a high spot in the park to view the Geminid meteor shower, the moon, and winter constellations! It's free, but PRE-registration is needed, so please call or email no later than December 11th!

MAPLE SUGARIN' FESTIVAL

Sunday, March 5th

& PANCAKE BREAKFAST

10:30am-3pm

Do you love the taste of real maple syrup served over warm pancakes? Have you ever tapped a maple tree and watched the sap flow? Hiked past the Martin Cabin and wondered what's inside? Come out to Hashawha Environmental Center to enjoy pancakes with real maple syrup, learn how to tap a maple tree and make syrup of your own, create a few crafts to take home, enjoy living history demonstrations, and so much more!

\$5 parking fee; breakfast available until 2pm at \$4 per plate