

BEAR BRANCH NATURE CENTER

Hashawha and Bear Branch Nature Center are located just north of Westminster, off Rt. 97 at 300 John Owings Road. The Nature Center is open year round with **NEW** hours: Wednesday-Saturday 11am-5pm, and Sunday 12pm-5pm. The Nature Center staff can be contacted by phone at 410-386-3580 or email bbnc@carr.org. All Nature Center programs require pre-registration, unless otherwise noted. Groups MUST schedule programs directly with Nature Center.

Hashawha's trails are open to the public from dawn until dusk 365 days a year. Parking is only available at Lake Hashawha or Bear Branch Nature Center. There is no entrance fee for 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 more information about group rentals of the facility, contact the Hashawha staff at Hashawha@carr.org or 410-386-3560.

In case of inclement weather... should inclement weather be in the forecast, please call the Nature Center before coming to your program to check and see if it has been cancelled or postponed. Note that if Carroll County Government is closed, the Nature Center is also closed.

***** All programs meet at the Bear Branch Nature Center unless otherwise indicated.*****

BEAR CUBS CLUB

Sept 23 OR Oct 14 OR Nov 18

1 session Thursday

Program #10BB53 9/23

Program #10BB54 10/14

Program #10BB55 11/18



Join us for one or all of this series of programs just for the little ones!! Your youngster will learn about the natural world through hikes, games and other hands-on activities, so get your aspiring naturalist started early with our Bear Cubs Club! Age: 4-6.

TIME: 10:30-11:30 am FEE: \$5

ALL ABOUT NATURE FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

Sept 23 OR Oct 14 OR Nov 18

1 session Thursday

Program #10BB56 9/23

Program #10BB57 10/14

Program #10BB58 11/18

Calling all Junior Naturalists! Each month, you can learn "all about" some of your favorite nature topics through hikes, experiments, lessons and other hands-on activities. Children should be mature enough to attend the program on their own. Age: 7-11.

TIME: 2-3:30am FEE: \$5

CANOE & CAMPFIRE AT LAKE HASHAWHA

September 17 1 session Friday

Program #10BB59

Enjoy a relaxing paddle on the calm waters of Lake Hashawha as the sun begins to set. After canoeing, roast hotdogs and make smore's over the campfire! Great for beginners; all gear including required PFD's will be provided. Age: 8-adult (under 16 must be accompanied by a paying adult). Meet at Lake Hashawha.

TIME: 6-8pm FEE: \$10



PLANETARIUM SHOWS

Sept 18 OR Oct 15 OR Nov 13

1 session Friday or Saturday

Program #10BB60 9/18

Program #10BB61 10/15

Program #10BB62 11/13

Join the Westminster Astronomical Society under the star dome to learn the stars and constellations of the night sky. Following each planetarium show, the Westminster Astronomical Society invites you outside for a Star Party to observe the nighttime sights. Age: 8 and up.

TIME: 7:30pm FEE: \$5

Scout groups (or other organized groups) should call the Nature Center to schedule their own planetarium show.



MEET THE BEEKEEPERS

October 16 1 session Saturday

Program #10BB63



Learn all about this amazing insect. Do bees really dance? Are there boy bees? How is honey made? What do beekeepers do? Learn the answers to these questions and more, and meet a real beekeeper! Age: all.

TIME: 10am-12pm FEE: \$5

BUSY BEAVERS

September 10 1 session Friday

Program #10BB64

Are beavers really busy? We'll find out during this nocturnal program as we learn about beavers, and then take a hike to the wetland in search of Hashawha's resident beavers. Wear shoes that you don't mind getting wet or dirty and bring a flashlight. Age: families.

TIME: 7-8:30pm FEE: \$5

CATERPILLAR QUEST

September 11 1 session Saturday

Program #10BB65

Help the Nature Center prepare for the upcoming Monarch Madness Festival by going on a monarch caterpillar hunt! First we'll learn all about this amazing insect, and then we'll head outside to search for caterpillars to display in our Monarch Life Cycle exhibit! Age: all.

TIME: 3-4:30pm FEE: \$5



MONARCH MADNESS

Sunday, September 19, 12-4pm

See page 26 for details (no registration required).

GOING BATTY

September 25 1 session Saturday

Program #10BB66

Join us as we search the night sky and learn all about the amazing world of bats. This will be a great evening to learn some fascinating facts about our backyard bug-zappers. Age: families.

TIME: 6:30-8pm FEE: \$5



BUTTERFLY FLUTTERBY

September 26 1 session Sunday

Program #10BB67

Fall may be just around the corner, but butterflies are still everywhere! Join us as we head out to the fields and meadows of the park in search of some of these flying beauties! Age: 7 and up.

TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5



WORMS, BUGS & SLUGS

October 3 1 session Sunday

Program #10BB68

We'll wander through the forest and talk about the importance of leaf litter. We'll also look at some rotting logs for spiders, centipedes, millipedes and various fungi. Age: all.

TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5



CRICKET CAMP-OUT

Oct 9-Oct 10 1 session Saturday-Sunday

Program #10BB69

Spend an autumn night camping out under the stars with the crickets and your family! We'll set up camp, build a campfire, and then enjoy hotdogs, s'mores and a night hike. This program is for families who have young children and limited camping experience. Tents will be provided, but you should bring your own sleeping bags. Age: families.

TIME: 5pm-8am FEE: \$50

HAWK MOUNTAIN RAPTOR MIGRATION TRIP

October 15 1 session Friday

Program #10BB70

Over 15,000 migrating birds pass by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's North Lookout each year! Join us to see the amazing fall migration of hawks, eagles, falcons, osprey, harriers and vultures along the Kittatinny Ridge in nearby Kempton, Pennsylvania. Bring binoculars, bagged lunch, water, seat cushion and spending money. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and dress for the weather. Fee includes van transportation and entrance to Hawk Mountain. Age: 14-adult.

TIME: 8am-6pm FEE: \$18

LEAF ART

October 16 1 session Saturday

Program #10BB71

Fall is here! Find out why leaves change color and fall off, and then collect some leaves to make a cool piece of art to wear. Bring a new white or light colored shirt to use. Age: 7 and up.

TIME: 2-3pm FEE: \$9

HOMESCHOOL NATURE DAY

October 20 1 session Wednesday

Program #10BB72

Attention all homeschoolers! Join us for a day of outdoor exploration, hiking and other nature fun. Bring a water bottle, a lunch and your sense of adventure! Age: 7-11.

TIME: 10am-2pm FEE: \$15

FULL MOON OWL PROWL

October 23 1 session Saturday

Program #10BB73

Get eye to eye with a live owl before heading out into the woods under the full moon as we try our luck in calling in some of the park's wilder residents! Age: families.

TIME: 6:30-8pm FEE: \$5



PRESCHOOL CREEPY CRITTER PARTY

October 29 1 session Thursday

Program #10BB74

Join us for some spooky fun as we meet some creepy critters, make a spooky craft, enjoy some treats, and don't forget to wear your Halloween costume! Age: preschool.

TIME: 10:30am-12pm FEE: \$7

NUTTY ABOUT NUTS

October 30 1 session Saturday

Program #10BB75

Learn about a few of nature's nut lovers who depend on nature's bounty of nuts to help them survive through the winter! Age: all.

TIME: 11am-12:30pm FEE: \$5



RAPTOR PHOTO SHOOT

November 6 1 session Saturday

Program #10BB76 9-10am (adults only)

Program #10BB77 10-11am (all ages - under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult)

Calling all photographers! Here is your chance to get up close and personal with Hashawha's birds of prey.



Take advantage of the morning light and fall colors to photograph these birds in a natural setting. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult. Meet at Raptor Mews (parking available at BBNC and outside the Hashawha gates).

TIME: Choose above **FEE:** \$10

NATIVE AMERICAN CAMPFIRE

November 13 1 session Saturday

Program #10BB78

Join us for an enjoyable fall evening around the campfire as we share Native American legends and lore while enjoying a warm fireside snack. Age: families.

TIME: 6-7pm **FEE:** \$7



MARTIN CABIN HISTORY HIKE

November 14 1 session Sunday

Program #10BB79

No TVs! No cell phones! Take a trip back into time and see what life was like in the 1800's as we hike to the Martin Family Cabin. See inside of the log cabin as we learn what life was like on this land before Hashawha! Age: families.

TIME: 2-3:30pm **FEE:** \$5



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Numerous volunteer opportunities exist at the Nature Center. For more information about these and other upcoming volunteer opportunities call Bear Branch at 410-386-3580 or email bearbranch@ccg.carr.org.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY TAGGING VOLUNTEER TRAINING

September 5 OR September 12 1-3pm

Ages: 12 and up

Learn all about Monarch Watch, safely catch, tag and release butterflies, and record crucial data that is very rewarding. Participants are required to volunteer at the Monarch Madness Festival on Sunday, September 19.

SEED SEARCH

October 24 1-3pm

Ages: 8-adult

Help us, in conjunction with the Potomac Conservancy, collect seeds, acorns and nuts from trees in the park for planting and reforestation efforts across the state!

OUTDOOR EXPLORERS

September 25, October 23, November 27 2:30-4:30 pm

Ages: 4th-12th grade

Help us with conservation projects around the park while earning service learning hours for school!

RAPTOR RENDEZVOUS

November 20 1 session Saturday

Program #10BB80

If you've ever wanted to get up close and personal with some of Hashawha's resident raptors, now is your chance! Come and meet a few of our birds of prey and learn about what makes these magnificent birds so special. Age: families.

TIME: 3-4:30pm **FEE:** \$7



TURKEY TIME!

November 21 1 session Sunday

Program #10BB81

It's almost Thanksgiving, and that means it's time for turkey! Learn all about this big bird and make a cool turkey craft to take home. Age: 6 and up.

TIME: 1-2:30pm **FEE:** \$7

THE BIG SLEEP

November 27 1 session Saturday

Program #10BB82

What does it mean to hibernate? Why do some animals do it, but others don't? Now is the perfect time of year to talk about who will be snoozing the winter away. Dress for the weather, we will be going on a short hike! Age: all.

TIME: 11am-12:30pm **FEE:** \$5

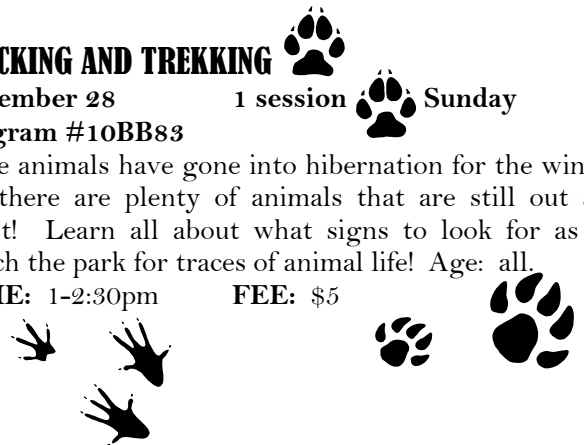
TRACKING AND TREKKING

November 28 1 session Sunday

Program #10BB83

Some animals have gone into hibernation for the winter, but there are plenty of animals that are still out and about! Learn all about what signs to look for as we search the park for traces of animal life! Age: all.

TIME: 1-2:30pm **FEE:** \$5



SCOUT DAY at BBNC!

Sunday, November 7 1-3pm \$10/scout

Attention all scouts and scout leaders! Join us for this three part program on three different nature topics. Registration is through the Nature Center only - CALL (410) 386-3580 for information regarding topics, ages and requirements for this special program.