



BEAR BRANCH NATURE CENTER



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

Youth **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED** by a **PAYING ADULT** for any of our "All Ages" programs **AND** those listed as "age # - ADULT"

410-386-3580
300 John Owings Road
Westminster

The Nature Center is open year round and hours of operation are Wednesday-Saturday 11am-5pm, and Sunday 12-5pm. All Nature Center programs require pre-registration with Recreation & Parks (see form in back). Organized groups **MUST** schedule a separate program directly with the Nature Center; email bearbranch@carrollcountymd.gov, 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 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 regarding group rentals for Hashawha, call 410-386-3560, or email Hashawha@carrollcountymd.gov.

In case of inclement weather: should inclement weather be in the forecast, please call the Nature Center before heading to your program to see if it has been canceled or postponed. We follow school weather closings - please see our 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.

HIKE & LEARN

#18BB62 **Sat, Dec 1 – 9:30-11am - Winter Birds**
#18BB63 **Sat, Jan 19 – 9:30-11am - Tracks and Traces**
#18BB64 **Sun, Feb 3 – 9:30-11am – Maple Sugarin'**
Cure your winter blues before they hit by joining the park naturalist in a guided nature hike. Each program focuses on a different topic as we explore the park. Upon returning, we'll record what we've observed to share with others. Don't forget your binoculars and water bottles!
9-Adult / 1 session / \$5 person



JUNIOR PLANETARIUM SHOW

Saturday, 11-11:45am
#18BB65 **December 8 – Orion**
#18BB66 **January 12 – The Seven Sisters**
#18BB67 **February 16 - Gemini**
Join the naturalist for a kid-friendly, indoor planetarium show! The brief show will review the basics of sky watching and talk about what can be seen in the current night sky. We'll focus on a different topic each month and end with a craft to help you remember it! Great for young children and first-time planetarium-goers.
3-Adult / 1 session / \$5 person

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CRAFT HUNT

#18BB68 **Sunday, December 9, 10 – 11:30am**
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 a beautiful holiday masterpiece!
3-10 years (w/ an adult) / 1 session / \$8 child

BEAR CUB EXPLORERS

Thursday, 2-3pm
#18BB69 **December 13 – Tracks & Traces**
#18BB70 **January 10 – Junior Astronomy**
#18BB71 **February 14 – Maple Magic**
Each program you will learn about a different nature-related theme indoors before heading outside to put our new knowledge to the test! Finish up with an interactive craft to remind you of your day. All are welcome to register, but activities are planned for ages 3-9; tag-along siblings must register.
3-9 years (w/ an adult) / 1 session / \$6 child

METEOR SHOWER HIKE

#18BB72 **Friday, December 14, 6:30 – 8pm**
Join us for this exciting event that only happens once a year! Hike with the naturalist to a high spot in the park to view the Geminids meteor shower, the moon, and winter constellations!
All Ages / 1 session / \$5 person



PLANETARIUM SHOW

Saturday, 7:30-8:30pm
#18BB73 **December 15**
#18BB74 **January 12**
#18BB75 **February 16**
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. Then head outdoors to take a look through the new observatory (weather dependent)! Best for older children and adults.
8-Adult / 1 session / \$5 person

TAKE FLIGHT!

#18BB76 **Sunday, December 16, 11am-12pm**
Tomorrow is the Wright Brother's Day so let's talk flying. After a video in the planetarium on airplanes, we'll discuss flight in birds with the help of our resident birds of prey! Afterwards, you have the option of making a bird feeder from natural materials to help feed our year-round residents.
All Ages / 1 session / \$5 person

WHERE HAVE ALL THE GROUND HOGS GONE?

#18BB77 **Saturday, January 5, 10-11am**
We'll explore what the different types of hibernation are and meet some of the nature center's resident animals that should be sleeping. Afterwards, head outside to find some hibernation habitats!
3-9 years (w/ an adult) / 1 session / \$5 child

SNOW MUCH FUN!

#18BB78 **Sunday, January 20, 2-3pm**
Do you have the winter blues? We've got the cure! Join us for hot chocolate and marshmallows toasted over the wood-stove while you make some fun snow-themed crafts to brighten your days and shake those winter blues!
All ages / 1 session / \$7 person

MARYLAND MAMMALS

#18BB79 **Saturday, January 26, 1-2pm**
There are so many mammals that you can see all year round in Maryland but how much do you really know about them? Join the naturalist in learning all about Maryland's mammals! Play some mammal games to mimic their behavior and interact with artifacts like furs and skulls before making a mammal craft to take home!
5-9 years / 1 session / \$7 child

WINTER TRACKS

#18BB80 **Saturday, February 2, 9:30-11am**
Wild animals can be elusive, especially in winter! Sometimes all they leave behind are their prints on the ground. Learn how to identify animal tracks and what they mean before heading outside to see if you can find any tracks. Make your very own "track sheet" to tell an animal's story through the tracks they leave behind!
3-10 years (w/ an adult) / 1 session / \$8 child



BEAR BRANCH NATURE CENTER



MAPLE MAGIC

#18BB81 Saturday, February 16, 1-3pm

The sap is flowing and we're 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 the program, you'll know all you need to make syrup of your own!

This program is weather-dependent.

All ages / 1 session / \$6 person

MOONLIT MAPLE SUGARIN'

#18BB82 Friday, February 22, 6:30-8pm

The moon is full this week so we'll use its light to aid us in some maple sugarin'! We'll take a short hike to the maple stand to 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 the program, you'll know all you need to make syrup of your own!

This program is weather-dependent.

All ages / 1 session / \$6 person

INCREDIBLE INSECTS!

#18BB83 Sunday, February 24, 2-3pm

You might not be missing the mosquitoes but perhaps you're wondering when the butterflies will return. Come learn all about insects including why they can't be found in the cold. We'll start with games, meet an insect up close and personal then finish with a craft!

5-9 years / 1 session / \$6 child

NO EARLY BIRD or SENIOR DISCOUNTS for Bear Branch Nature Center programs.

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

BEAR BRANCH BULLETIN BOARD

410-386-3580 / bearbranch@carrollcountymd.gov

Contact us about these or other upcoming opportunities or events.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Looking for a fun way to celebrate your birthday? Come to Bear Branch! Packages include 3-hour use of the auditorium, a 45-minute naturalist-led program, and time to explore the Nature Center. We have five themes to choose from and can do goody bags for an additional fee!

PACKAGE FEE: \$175

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 and chaperon (in-county), \$5 (out-of-county); + optional \$50 pavilion rental fee

OUTREACH & PRIVATE PROGRAMS

Interested in organizing a hike, planetarium show, or nature-themed program for your group at Bear Branch? Ask us for topic ideas or request your own! We can even come to you (+\$25 traveling fee)!

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

Wednesday, December 5, 1-3pm

Saturday, January 5, 1-3pm

Wednesday, January 16, 1-3pm

Friday, February 1, 1-3pm

Help us to maintain a healthy environment by removing harmful invasive plants. This activity will be guided by staff or volunteers to help with plant identification. Service hours are available; please call 410-386-3580 to register!

BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING TRAINING

Sunday, February 24, 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! Please dress for the weather as we will be hiking to the boxes.

Age: 7 and up (12 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

BEAR BRANCH GARDEN AID

Interested in volunteering and getting outdoors more? Come to Bear Branch Nature Center and help us in maintaining our various gardens, no experience necessary! Scheduling is flexible based on your availability Wednesday - Sunday.

Stop by the nature center or contact the naturalist to fill out an application.

SPECIAL EVENTS

METEOR SHOWER HIKE

MEMBERS ONLY

Friday, December 14, 6:30 - 8pm

Join us for this exciting event that only happens once a year! Learn about meteors in the planetarium then hike with the naturalist to a high spot in the park to view the Geminids meteor shower, the moon, and winter constellations! It's free to members, but space is limited so **PRE-registration is required, please call no later than December 10th to reserve your spot!**

MAPLE SUGARIN' FESTIVAL & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 3, 10:30am - 3pm

Come out to Hashawha Environmental Center for our annual Maple Sugarin' Festival and enjoy pancakes with real maple syrup, learn how to tap a maple tree, create a few crafts to take home, enjoy living history demonstrations, and so much more!

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