



WINTER 2024 PROGRAMS

Calvert Nature Society and

Calvert County Natural Resources Division

See a full listing of all the upcoming programs at www.calvertparks.org.

Online registration is recommended.

Join or renew today

The schedule of events is subject to changed based on the status of the coronavirus response, weather, staffing and other situations that may arise. If Calvert Nature Society or Calvert County Natural Resources Division cancels a program, a full refund will be issued.

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.

December Programs

Registration Opens for Members October 7

Nonmembers October 21

Animal Stories Campfire

All ages

Friday, December 1, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Come get cozy around the campfire and roast marshmallows while the naturalist shares some traditional animal folk stories. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.

Where'd the Animals Go?

Ages 3-5 years old

Tuesday, December 12, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Paige Stevens

Come learn about how animals survive the winter, read a book and enjoy a craft.

Winter Nature Play

Ages 3-5 years old

Monday, December 18, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Pods Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Come spend the morning outdoors with your preschooler. We will explore the weather and how it impacts the residents of the park in the winter.

Candy Canes and Compasses

Ages 5 years and older

Saturday, December 23, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

Naturalist: Kim Curren

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

Winter Woods Adventure

Ages 6-9 years old

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

\$10 for members, \$20 for nonmembers

What is happening in the woods right now - early winter? How are animals and plants dealing with the changes in the seasons? We will have both indoor and outdoor activities as we explore the park and these changes.

Adult participation is NOT required.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

See page 7 for registration opening dates.

January Programs

Registration Opens for Members on November 7

Nonmembers November 21

First Day Hike

All ages

Monday, January 1, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Section A: Flag Ponds Nature Park

Section B: Gatewood Preserve

Naturalist: Kim Curren & Amy Werking

Ring in the new year with a guided hike. A naturalist will share information about the site as the group enjoys being outdoors on the first day of 2024. Hikes will be approximately 2 miles over uneven terrain and are not stroller-friendly.

Animals in Winter

Ages 18 month --5 years old

Section 1: Wednesday, January 24, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Section 2: Wednesday, January 24, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Learn what animals do in winter, whether they hibernate, migrate or stay active. We will go on a walk to search for animals out at the park.

Winter Adventurers Overnight

Grades 3-5

Saturday, January 13.-Sunday, January 14

9:00 a.m -9:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Fee per child: Members: \$25; Nonmembers: \$40

Winter is a great time for outdoor adventures. We will explore the woods and the beach playing games, building forts, and following our sense of adventure. After sunset, we will head out for a night walk, followed by a campfire and s'mores. Don't worry about getting too cold - this camp will include indoor and outdoor activities and plenty of hot chocolate. Dinner, breakfast, and snacks included.

February Programs

Registration Opens for Members on December 7

Nonmembers December 21

SuperbOwl Sunday!

Ages 6-12 years old

Sunday, February 11, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Learn about different species of local owls and what they eat by dissecting owl pellets. You will get to make an edible pellet of your own to take home.

Animal Valentines

Ages 3-5 years old

Wednesday, February 14, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Paige Stevens

How do animals show love? This Valentines Day learn about animals, their loved ones, and leave with a handmade Valentine's Day card.

Winter Hike

Ages 6 and older

Saturday, February 24, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Explore the winter woods and fields of Ward Farm Park. This will be a moderately strenuous hike on uneven surfaces. Not suitable for strollers or younger children.

Lunar Leap

All ages

Thursday, February 29, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Naturalist: Amy Werking

Kings Landing Park

Celebrate the bonus day of Leap Year. We'll leap over a log to start this night hike under the stars.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

See page 7 for registration opening dates.

March Programs

Registration Opens for Members on January 7

Nonmembers January 21

Spring Defeats Winter Hike

Ages 6 years and older

Saturday, March 9, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Take a journey through forest and field to discover nature's reawakening from its winter sleep and celebrate the coming of spring.

What's that Beak for?

Ages 3-5 years old

Monday, March 11, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Paige Stevens

Learn about the diversity of beaks and how they work through hands-on activities. Discover nature's toolkits in action with games and a craft.

Spring Kickoff-Sock Burning!

All ages

Sunday, March 17, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

There is no better way to welcome the Spring than to get rid of your old winter socks and take a barefoot walk on the beach. Join us for this quirky Maryland tradition where we will gather around the campfire to celebrate the coming Spring by burning our socks.

Extraordinary Eggs!

Ages 18 months-5 years old

Session1: Wednesday, March 27, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Session2: Wednesday, March 27, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Bunnies don't lay eggs, but lots of other animals do. Come learn about all the different types of eggs animals lay, go on an egg hunt, and then dye some eggs to take home.

Mud Monsters Spring Adventure

Grades 3-5

Monday, March 25, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 26, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Fee per child: Members: \$25; Nonmembers: \$40

Feel like you've been stuck inside all winter? Get outdoors and enjoy the spring! Each day will be full of adventures--we will wade into the swamp, use nets to look for amphibians, and, of course, play in the mud. We expect children to attend both days.

**Join or renew today to support
your nature parks...and get
member pricing on programs.**

Your donations directly support our programs and activities

- \$500 supports our efforts to preserve and protect land in Calvert County
- \$250 supports participation of at-need children in summer camps
- \$150 supports research projects at our parks (including the Adopt an Owl program)
- \$100 provides materials for volunteer projects in the parks
- \$50 builds a strong community for our nature parks

Any amount directly funds the excellent nature education programs for Calvert County's nature parks

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

See page 7 for registration opening dates.

Events for Teens

<https://www.calvertparks.org/programs/teens.html>

Adult participation is not required.

Fees are listed with each program.

Teen Birding: Blackwater Wildlife Refuge Trip

Ages 12-18 years old

Saturday, December 9, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Gene Groshon

Fee is Per Teen Per Program

\$25 for members, \$40 for nonmembers

Join us for a trip to Blackwater Wildlife Refuge on the eastern shore of Maryland. This park is an important wintering ground for many waterfowl species. We will get the chance to see Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, and many species of ducks. We will meet at Kings Landing Park and take the county van to the refuge. Please bring a packed lunch, snacks, binoculars and a water bottle.

Teen Birding: Winter Raptor Survey

Ages 12-18 years old

Thursday, December 28, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Monday, January 15, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Monday, February 19, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Naturalist: Gene Groshon

Fee is Per Teen Per Program

Free for members, \$8 per person for nonmembers

As part of our raptor research, staff are conducting surveys of wintering hawks and falcons to better understand their survivability. Join us as we conduct roadside raptor banding surveys throughout Calvert County to collect more data for this study. We will meet at Battle Creek and travel in the county van to various areas.

Teen Birding: Duck Hike

Ages 12-18 years old

Saturday, March 16, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Gene Groshon

Fee per teen: Free for members, \$8 for nonmembers

We'll scan the Chesapeake Bay, wetlands and ponds to see what duck species are spending the winter before they head off on their spring migration. We may even catch a glimpse of our resident Bald Eagle nest.

Teen Amphibian Bioblitz Overnight

Grades 6-8

Thursday March 28, 9:00 a.m.-Friday, March 29, 9:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Fee per teen: Members: \$25; Nonmembers: \$55

Spend part of spring break with friends searching the woods, ponds and swamps for animals big and small. If you're an adventurer at heart, ready to embrace the thrill of the unexpected, and you don't mind getting dirty in the process, come on down. This is an overnight program.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

See page 7 for registration opening dates.

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

<https://www.calvertparks.org/homeschool/>

Teen Homeschool: Fire Building

Ages 12-16 years old

Wednesday, December 6, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Free for members, \$8 for nonmembers

Come practice a variety of ways to build fires – from some of the oldest to modern ways and learn basic fire safety.

We'll end by cooking a snack in the fire we make together.

Teen Homeschool: Trail School

Ages 12-16 years old

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

January 10, February 7, & March 6

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Fee per teen: Members: \$10; Nonmembers: \$20

In this winter 3-part series we will meet outside and spend the class out hiking the trails. We will explore the park, learn to identify the common plants and animals, build shelters and discover whatever the season has to offer. We expect teens to attend all three programs.

For Families with children 4-12 years old, with adult

This homeschool series is centered around on animal classification. Each month we will focus on a different animal group to discover what makes them special. There will be both indoor activities and out - so please come prepared to be outside (adults too).

Friday, January 5: Mammals

Friday, February 9: Birds

Friday, March 1: Reptiles & Amphibians

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

Session B: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Reservations required.

Fee is per program per family

Free for society members.

Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Homeschool Programs are environmental education programs developed especially for homeschoolers ages 4 to 12 years. 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 years are welcome but must be under the care of a parent/guardian at all times and should not distract other participants.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

See page 7 for registration opening dates.

Adults & Older Teens

Senior Strides

Ages 60 years old and older

Wednesday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

Naturalist: Amy Werking

Free for members, \$8 per person for nonmembers

Join us on a guided hike of our nature parks. We'll be walking for about two hours on moderately hilly and somewhat uneven terrain, enjoying nature and all the nature preserve has to offer.

Patuxent River Water Quality: Issues and Solutions

Adults and older teens

Thursday, February 1, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Patuxent Research Refuge

Fee: \$55 per person, discounts available

PAXCON 2024 will feature presentations, posters, panel discussions, and networking on water quality of the Patuxent River. Four pillars will be addressed throughout the day: Activism/Citizen Participation; Science and Research; Policy and Legislation; and Communication, Engagement, and Education <http://www.paxcon.org/>
Lunch is included in the fee.

Nature Trivia: The Animal Mating Game

Adults

Saturday, February 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Fee: \$60 per team

Celebrate Valentine's Day this year in a new way. Teams will try to figure out which animals have the weirdest and wildest mating habits in this trivia-style event. Prizes will be awarded, so see just how WILD nature can get. Make it a date night or form a team of friends and compete to win fun prizes. Don't know who will be on your team? Not a problem. Register anyway, and we can add team members later. Drinks, chips, cookies and snacks will be available. When you register, you will have the option to purchase a large cheese pizza or two for your team.

Location: Kings Landing Park

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. Explore our Calvert Steward web site

<https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com>

Calvert County Biodiversity via iNaturalist

Document the distribution and abundance of plants, animals, fungi and other species found throughout Calvert County. Use iNaturalist to photograph and map your observations in a few easy steps.

Service Projects for Groups

We have a wide variety of opportunities suitable for an organized group (ex: scout, church, school group, etc.) looking to perform a service project in the park.

Trail Monitoring & Park Maintenance

Volunteer assists park staff in maintaining trails at all of our nature parks. Duties include removing debris and obstacles from trails and reporting unusual conditions, such as items too large or dangerous for volunteers.

Volunteer Appreciation Event

For current volunteers

Blackwater Wildlife Refuge Trip

Blackwater Wildlife Refuge provides a winter home for many species of waterfowl including Snow Geese, Tundra Swans and Northern Shovelers. We will meet at Kings Landing Park and take the van on the wildlife drive and do a small hike. Please bring a packed lunch, binoculars and a camera. We will have some binoculars we can provide.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

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CANCELATIONS

Many of our programs fill quickly and have waitlists. If you need to cancel your registration, please call 410-535-5327 or email info@calvertparks.org

Weather Policy. Most programs are held rain or shine. If Calvert County schools or government are closed due to weather, programs are canceled. If there is a delayed opening, morning programs are canceled. We try to post cancellations as timely as possible.

Cancellations Due to Illness. In most cases, full refunds will be issued when participants must cancel due to illness. For summer camps we reserve the right to withhold a portion of the registration fees for non-recoverable fees.

REFUND POLICY

Refunds are available only for transactions involving the purchase of goods and services. Dues payments are not refundable.

If Calvert Nature Society or Calvert County cancels the program, a full refund will be given.

When a cancellation occurs at least a month before the program, the Society will refund payments for program fees over \$10, less a \$5 administrative fee; Program fees of \$10 or less will not be refunded.

For Programs at Flag Ponds Nature Park: Program participants do not need to pay the entrance fee on the day of the program. The entrance fee will be required on any other visit to the park.

For general questions: info@calvertparks.org (will receive a response during business hours). Most programs do not allow for email registrations.

Join or Renew Today

Calvert Nature Society is dedicated to the protection and preservation of Calvert County's natural heritage and the creation of an environmentally literate and aware community. We provide opportunities for appreciation and understanding of our natural world through our outreach initiatives and in support of the mission of the Calvert County Natural Resources Division. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization.

- Access to early program registration
- Free, or reduced fees, for programs

PARTICIPANT WAIVER

The safety, health, and well-being of all participants in our programs is paramount and if the participant(s) or anyone in the immediate household is ill they should stay home. Prior to participation in any Society sponsored program, each individual, if under 18 a parent or guardian, is required to read and agree to the participant waiver. The waiver agreement needs to be completed for each in-person program during the registration process. [Read the full waiver](#)

Staggered Registration Opening for Most Programs

December Programs

Registration Opens for Members October 7

Nonmembers October 21

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Nonmembers November 21

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