

Visit: [itascaparkdistrict.com/nature](http://itascaparkdistrict.com/nature)



### Junior Naturalist Club

Do you want to learn more about nature and how you can help protect it? Maybe you like to garden, go on creek walks, explore, and roast marshmallows. If this sounds exciting, you should become a Junior Naturalist (JN). The JN club is a group of kids that love to have a good time and help at the Nature Center. The JNs help work special events, participate in restoration projects, take care of the animals in the building, and much more! This club meets once a week, usually on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays at the Nature Center. A newsletter with exact dates, times, activities, and other important information is provided every few months. Spots are limited in this club, so don't miss out on a once in a lifetime opportunity! You can reach Chris at [cclarling@itascaparkdistrict.com](mailto:cclarling@itascaparkdistrict.com) with any questions. (CC)

**AGE:** 8-15yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Varies	Year Round	Varies	Free	531400-01
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Nature Center	<b>MIN/MAX:</b> 8/20	<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b> Ms. Jess	

### Mom & Me Tea Party

Come enjoy an afternoon garden tea party at the Nature Center. We will be painting our own teacup, making pressed flower art and learning how to make loose leaf tea, and finger sandwiches. (CC)

**AGE:** 5yrs and up with an adult. Price is per person.

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Sun	Jun 2	1-3pm	\$28/\$32	121434-01
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Nature Center	<b>MIN/MAX:</b> 6/12	<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b> Ms. Jess	

## Story Walk™

Take a stroll through the Springbrook Nature Center and check out this season's StoryWalk™ featuring The Earth Book by Todd Parr. This project is sponsored by the Itasca Park District, Itasca Library, and Friends of the Itasca Community Library.



### Location

130 Forest Ave., Itasca, IL 60143  
**630.773.5572**

### Nature Center Rentals

Rent the Nature Center! The classroom, picnic shelter and campfire ring are great options for a fun and unique event. All rentals must be reserved no less than 2 weeks in advance, but not more than 3 months in advance. Please fill out a Room Rental Application and turn it in at the Recreation & Fitness Center. We will work with you to schedule a date. For more information please email Chris at [cclarling@itascaparkdistrict.com](mailto:cclarling@itascaparkdistrict.com). (CC)

### Building Hours:

#### Memorial Day-Labor Day

Mon-Fri.....2-7pm  
Sat & Sun.....12-5pm

#### September-October

Tue & Thu.....4-7pm  
Sat & Sun.....11am-5pm  
Mon/Wed/Fri.....Closed

#### November-March

Sat & Sun.....11am-5pm  
Mon-Fri.....Closed

#### April-May

Tue & Thu.....4-7pm  
Sat & Sun.....11am-5pm  
Mon/Wed/Fri.....Closed

### NEW! Into the Woods – Starting a Nature Journal

Our interconnection with nature starts with being knowledgeable, responsible, and creative outdoors! Learn to identify plants, trees, flowers, and birds. Take a short walk at Springbrook Nature Center and start a nature journal with leaf rubbings, ers, grasses, and other found items. Draw pictures, write a poem, or create your own journal voice! (CC)

<b>AGE:</b> 8-14yrs				
<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>FEE</b>	<b>CODE</b>
Sat	Jun 8	10-11am	\$10/\$12	121452-01
Wed	Jun 12	4-5pm	\$10/\$12	121452-02
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Nature Center		<b>MIN/MAX:</b> 6/12	
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Ms. Laura			

### NEW! Rockin' Around the Nature Center

You've got to admit that rocks are cool! They can be hard or even soft; have only one color or many; be easy to identify or tricky. There may not be many to find outside the nature center, but there are plenty of them inside waiting to meet you! Come make a rock collection and begin an adventure that can last a lifetime. (CC)

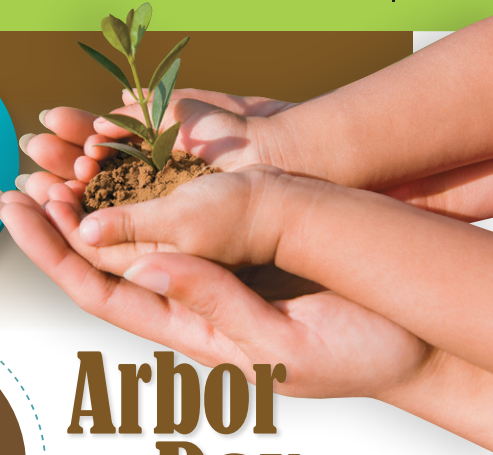
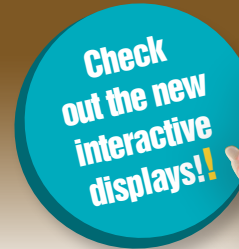
<b>AGE:</b> 8-10yrs				
<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>FEE</b>	<b>CODE</b>
Sun	Jun 9	1-2:30pm	\$15/\$18	121449-01
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Nature Center		<b>MIN/MAX:</b> 6/10	
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Ms. Mary			



# Family. Camping

NEW! Our summer Family Campout allows families to try out camping and experience Springbrook Nature Center at night. Enjoy a naturalist led night hike, night experiments, and s'mores around the campfire. You will also have the opportunity to do some after-hour swimming at the Itasca Pool. Dinner and camping equipment are not included. A light breakfast will be served. (CC)

<b>AGE:</b> 5+ yrs with an adult. Price is per family.				
<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>FEE</b>	<b>CODE</b>
Sat-Sun	Jun 22-23	5:30pm-9am	\$50/\$60	121447-01
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Nature Center		<b>MIN/MAX:</b> 15/30	
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Ms. Jess			



# Arbor Day Celebration

**Saturday, April 27**  
**Ceremony at 10am**  
**Springbrook Nature Center**

FREE! Celebrate Arbor Day, a national holiday created to recognize the importance of trees. Mayor Pruyn will kick off the event with the annual Arbor Day Proclamation, followed by any tree dedications. Make a craft and help beautify our forest by planting some native wildflowers. The Davey Tree Expert Company will provide a tree climbing demonstration and some seedlings. Wings & Talons will be displaying their Birds of Prey. (CC)



**SPONSORED BY:**  
Village of Itasca  
Itasca Park District

### Hoo Goes There?

Find out how to identify commonly found raptors such as owls, hawks and falcons by sight and sound. Learn where to look for raptors and how to observe and compare their shape, colors, markings, and movements. Listen to the birds' calls and learn to recognize them. The raptors at Springbrook Nature Center will help us in this class. Anyone 8 and under must be accompanied by a paying adult. (CC)

<b>AGE:</b> 5+yrs				
<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>FEE</b>	<b>CODE</b>
Sun	Jun 16	2-2:45pm	\$10/\$12	121424-01
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Nature Center		<b>MIN/MAX:</b> 6/12	
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Wings & Talons			

### NEW! Summer Story Time and Crafts

Summer story time includes crafts, nature hikes, songs, stories, and fun! (CC)

<b>AGE:</b> 4-7yrs					
<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>FEE</b>	<b>THEME</b>	<b>CODE</b>
Sun	Jun 16	11am - 12:30pm	\$15/\$18	Tree Hole Homes	121437-01
Sat	Aug 17	11am - 12:30pm	\$15/\$18	Forest Bright, Forest Night	121437-02
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Nature Center		<b>MIN/MAX:</b> 6/12		
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Ms. Jess				



**Volunteers Needed!**

# DuPage River Sweep 2024

Saturday, May 4 • 9am-12pm

Registration is now open! • Register at: [theconservationfoundation.org/sweep](https://theconservationfoundation.org/sweep).

For further information contact Amy Phillips at [aphillips@theconservationfoundation.org](mailto:aphillips@theconservationfoundation.org) or 630.428.4500 x113.

Mark your calendar and join a wonderful community tradition. The DuPage County River Sweep is an annual cleanup event that encourages citizens to improve local waterways by removing debris and litter from a section of stream or pond. Restoration projects will also be offered at several sites as an alternative option. Supplies, technical support, snacks, water, and trash pokers will be provided. Come support Springbrook Nature Center by helping clean up our creek!



## Animal Train

**NEW!** All aboard!! We will start our adventure at the Nature Center. Each stop on our journey through the prairie walk, wetlands and arboretum we'll learn about a different animal and play some games on our way. Our final destination will be the Depot Museum where you will pick your child up. Bring a water bottle and snack. We'll be outside so don't forget sunscreen! (CC)

**AGE:** 4-7yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Tue	Jun 25	10:30am-12:30pm	\$20/\$24	121443-01

**LOCATION:** Nature Center/Depot Museum **MIN/MAX:** 6/12

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ms. Jess

## Creek Walk

Use nets and buckets to explore life in the creek. Find out who lives in and around Springbrook Creek before you try your skills at catching fish, crayfish, tadpoles, frogs, and more! Wear clothes that you don't mind getting wet and dirty, and closed-toed shoes (no flip flops or crocs). Limited spaces are available, so register early. (CC)

**AGE:** 6-12yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Wed	Jun 26	2-3pm	\$10/\$12	121405-01
Wed	Jul 10	2-3pm	\$10/\$12	121405-02

**LOCATION:** Nature Center **MIN/MAX:** 6/12

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ms. Jess

## Summer Science

**NEW!** Spend the morning with some awesome (and messy) science experiments. Create fizzy sidewalk paint, fireworks in jars, soda rockets, strawberry DNA and end your STEM adventure with a watermelon volcano. Wear clothes you don't mind getting messy. (CC)

**AGE:** 7-11yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Sun	Jun 30	9-11am	\$28/\$32	121445-01

**LOCATION:** Nature Center **MIN/MAX:** 6/12

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ms. Jess

## Prairie Palette

**NEW!** Illinois is the Land of Lincoln; however, the prairie was here first, and Abraham Lincoln grew up on the prairie. A prairie is the most magnificent landscape anywhere, with beauty that changes about every two weeks from early spring to late fall. Its colors are vibrant, its insects amazing, its birds singing and breezes blowing make music for those who pay close attention. Spend some quality time in our prairie. We'll draw, write, and listen to poetry, sing a bit, look at what's growing, chirping, flying, or crawling, measure plant heights, figure out root depth, and come away having made friends with Illinois' original plants. (CC)

**AGE:** 8-10yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Mon	Jul 8	6-7:30pm	\$15/\$18	121450-01

**LOCATION:** Nature Center **MIN/MAX:** 6/10 **INSTRUCTOR:** Ms. Mary

### Sip & Create

Each month join us to create a seasonal decor piece while enjoying the night out with your friends. We supply everything you need to make the perfect piece. You supply the BYOB. Please drink responsibly. (CC)

AGE: 21+yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	THEME	CODE
Fri	Jul 12	7-9pm	\$35/\$37	Sunflower Canvas	121439-01
Fri	Aug 16	7-9pm	\$35/\$37	Dragonfly Night Canvas	121439-02

LOCATION: Nature Center      MIN/MAX: 6/12      INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Jess

### Unplug Illinois

July 13 is Unplug Illinois Day, a day we encourage you to ditch your electronic devices and "unplug"! The Junior Naturalist Club will be hosting a day of good old fashion fun at Springbrook Nature Center. Visit our birds of prey up close and personal, participate in fun games and crafts, and go on a nature hike. (CC)

AGE: 6-12yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Sat	Jul 13	10-11:30am	\$5	121440-01

LOCATION: Nature Center      MIN/MAX: 6/12      INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Jess

### Full Moon Family Craft and Hike

We will go on a hike and explore Springbrook after dusk. After our hike we'll head back to the Nature Center to create a craft as a family to take home. Each hike will have a different craft and is designed for parents and kids to create together. Price is per person. (CC)

AGE: 5+yrs with an adult. Price is per person.

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	THEME	CODE
Sun	Jul 21	6:30-8:30pm	\$20/\$24	Buck Moon/Stars	121446-01
Mon	Aug 19	6:30-8:30pm	\$20/\$24	Sturgeon Moon/ Upcycled Crescent Art	121446-02

LOCATION: Nature Center      MIN/MAX: 10/15      INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Jess

## Scout Programs



### Bring your Troop to Springbrook!

Enjoy educational Boy & Girl Scout classes throughout the year. Programs are interactive and designed to teach an awareness and appreciation for the environment while fulfilling requirements for the achievements, electives, and badges listed on our website at [itascaparkdistrict.com/nature](http://itascaparkdistrict.com/nature). Don't see what you are looking for? We are more than happy to work with you to create a custom program that works for you! Call Chris at 630.773.2257 for more information. (CC)

# Christmas in July

CRAFT FAIR, MARKET & ENTERTAINMENT EXTRAVAGANZA!

Celebrate Christmas in July with us! Enjoy our festive event where you can shop early at our Arts and Crafts Fair by Artisan Markets featuring local artisans and tasty treats from food vendors.

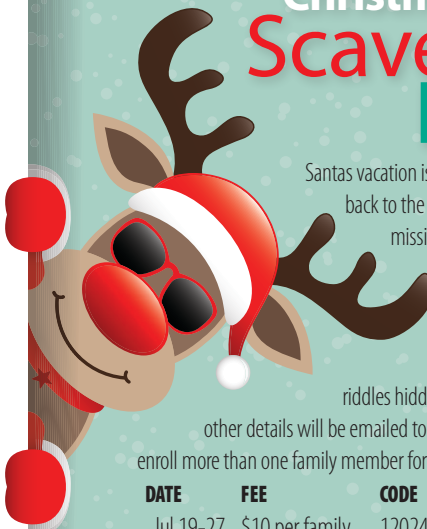
Take photos with Santa, sing carols, and join in the fun with games and activities for all ages. Support the Friends of Springbrook Nature Center with a donation for a wineglass and enjoy a free wine tasting.

Stay tuned for more details on the schedule of events!

AGE: All ages

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	LOCATION
Sat	Jul 27	10am-4pm	Free	Nature Center

## Christmas in July Scavenger Hunt



Santas vacation is almost over, and he needs to report back to the North Pole, but Rudolph has gone missing! Santa needs your help to find Rudolph in time to make it back to the North Pole to start preparing for Christmas. Participants will find and solve clues, puzzles, and riddles hidden around Itasca. The first clue and other details will be emailed to you on July 19 at 12pm. You may enroll more than one family member for more chances to win a prize! (ER)

DATE	FEE	CODE	DEADLINE	MIN/MAX
Jul 19-27	\$10 per family	120249-01	Mon Jul 22	10/50

### Color an Owl

Owls are very unique and fascinating birds of prey. Meet our resident owls and learn about their special abilities and adaptations. You will get to color and take home your own picture of an owl. Supplies will be provided. Anyone 8 and under must be accompanied by a paying adult. (CC)

**AGE:** 5+yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Sun	Jul 21	2-2:45pm	\$10/\$12	121432-01

**LOCATION:** Nature Center **MIN/MAX:** 6/12 **INSTRUCTOR:** Wings & Talons

### Tie Dye Fun

Learn how to make a one-of-a-kind fashion statement!! We will be tie dying fuzzy socks and you can bring your own item of clothing that you want to tie dye as well. Wear clothing that can get messy!! (CC)

**AGE:** 6-12yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Sun	Jul 28	11am-12:30pm	\$20/\$24	121438-01

**LOCATION:** Nature Center **MIN/MAX:** 6/12 **INSTRUCTOR:** Ms. Jess



### Classy Bugs

**NEW!** All bugs are insects but not all insects are bugs! That's right. We use the word "bugs" all the time, but if those insects could talk, they'd have a thing or two to say about using their real names. Discover the differences between them and at least call them by their class. You might even come away having made a few friends. Guaranteed to make you less afraid of these tiny, flying dynamos! (CC)

**AGE:** 8-10yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Mon	Aug 12	10-11:30am	\$15/\$18	121451-01

**LOCATION:** Nature Center **MIN/MAX:** 6/10 **INSTRUCTOR:** Ms. Mary

### Tree-rif-fic Trees

**NEW!** Everywhere you look, trees are growing. Some are tall and pointy; others are short and wide. Some make dangly seeds; others make cones. All of them are homes for animals; some make food for us. And all of them have names! Find out some of their names, figure out how to identify them, do some simple experiments with them, and maybe even have a tree snack. (CC)

**AGE:** 7-11yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Sun	Aug 25	1-2:30pm	\$15/\$18	121448-01

**LOCATION:** Nature Center **MIN/MAX:** 6/10 **INSTRUCTOR:** Ms. Mary

### Birding Tour of Springbrook

**NEW!** Bird watching is a fun and educational activity that can be enjoyed by all ages. Join us for a walk to learn about the different types of birds that live in the area, their behaviors, and how to identify them by sight and sound. We will also learn about the importance of bird conservation and how we can help protect these extraordinary creatures. (CC)

**AGE:** 8+yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Sun	Aug 18	2-2:45pm	\$10/\$12	121453-01

**LOCATION:** Nature Center **MIN/MAX:** 6/12 **INSTRUCTOR:** Wings & Talons



### Raptors in Your Neighborhood!

Did you know that many birds of prey (also known as raptors) can be found in our area? Join us to see our resident owls, hawks, and falcons up close. Learn fascinating facts like how they hunt, their special senses and characteristics, how to recognize them by sight and sound, and much more. Explore predator/prey relationships and the important role they have in our ecosystem. You will have a new understanding and appreciation of these truly wild creatures that live among us. Anyone 8 and under must be accompanied by a paying adult. (CC)

**AGE:** 5+yrs

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Sun	Sep 22	2-2:45pm	\$10/\$12	121410-01

**LOCATION:** Nature Center **MIN/MAX:** 6/12 **INSTRUCTOR:** Wings & Talons



*For more information about...*  
**Nature Programming and Preschool**  
*Please contact:*  
**Chris Carling (CC), CPRP**  
*Nature & Recreation Supervisor*  
**E-mail:** ccarling@itascaparkdistrict.com  
**Phone:** 630.773.2257, ext. 125

