

A Service of the Union County
Board of Chosen Freeholders



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!



Experience Nature

AT

Trailside

FALL 2017

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites you to visit Trailside Nature and Science Center to experience over 4,500 square feet of interactive environmental exhibits. Take part in one of the many unique and educational programs designed to spark an appreciation of nature for both you and your child! Trailside's location in the scenic Watchung Reservation provides the perfect classroom for fun while learning about the environment and the natural world around us.

Hours of operation are 12 - 5^{PM} daily.

Classes fill quickly, so please register soon, before the programs you want are filled!



In order to accommodate everyone, please let us know in advance if you or a member of your group has any special needs.

A note about the program fees:

IC = Union County Resident OC = Out of County Resident

TRAILSIDE HOLIDAY HOURS

Operating Hours 12 - 5 p.m. on the following holidays:

Labor Day, September 4

Columbus Day, October 9

Election Day, November 7

Veteran's Day, November 11

Trailside will be CLOSED on the following days:

Thanksgiving Recess, November 23 & 24

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day, December 24, 25

New Year's Eve & New Year's Day, Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

- **Register online at www.ucnj.org/trailside click the Online Registration tab.**
- **Register in-person 12:00 - 4:45^{PM} daily at Trailside.**

Trailside can accept Visa, MasterCard, AMEX & Discover in person. Credit card payments cannot be accepted over the phone.

Trailside reserves the right to cancel a program due to low enrollment or severe weather. In the event of cancellation, a Trailside credit will be issued.

Trailside credit will be issued **ONLY** if the program is cancelled by the registrant at least three (3) days in advance. Please call if your child cannot attend a program.

No refunds will be given for any program.

Please be prompt when dropping off or picking up your child.

Trailside reserves the right to remove a disruptive or inappropriately aged child from a program. If a child is removed from a program, no credit or refund will be given.

Each class will spend some time outside, so please, dress your child appropriately for the weather. Long pants tucked into socks offer protection from ticks.

TODDLER TIME

Sensory hikes, stories, crafts and activities to acquaint adults and children with the natural world. **Dress for outdoors.**

Please register for this class using the adult's name.

- BRING:** A baby carrier or sling; strollers are **not** recommended
WHO: **Adult with child/children up to three years of age.** Older children will not be permitted to attend. Maximum 4/family per class. **Pre register.**
- WHEN:** **Thursdays, Fridays or Saturdays 10:00-11:00^{AM}**
MEET: Trailside Visitor Center
DRESS: Appropriately for the weather; if possible, we will go outside.
FEE: **Per class: IC \$10/family OC \$12/family**
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- Oct. 5, 6, 7 **Bubbles, Bubbles** – Enjoy a bubble filled morning as we make, chase and pop bubbles of all sizes. Use berry baskets to make bubble towers and use bubble wands to make bubble bunches. Wear clothes that can get wet.
- Oct. 12, 13, 14 **Raccoon Rambles** - Search for raccoon homes and tracks along the water's edge. Play "Raccoon Paws" and discover why the raccoon is sometimes called the bandit.
- Oct. 19, 20, 21 **Naturally Artistic** – Everything in nature has a unique color, shape and pattern. Discover nature's beauty on our hike as we search for mitten-shaped leaves, "popcorn" berries, camouflaged tree bark and much more. Make leaf rubbings and clay impressions using materials we collect.
- Oct. 26, 27, 28 **Pajama Party!** - Come to Trailside in your PJ's to learn what happens in the forest while we're asleep. Visit the night theater to get an up close look at some nocturnal neighbors, and listen to a bedtime story.
- Nov. 2, 3, 4 **Halloween Howl** – Celebrate bats, spiders, snakes and other creepy crawly critters that made Halloween fantastically fun! Discover fun facts about these creatures while exploring the Reservation.

Toddler Time continued...

- Nov. 9, 10, 11** **Fall Fun** – The woods are a colorful place in the fall. Walk outside in search of bright, seasonal fruits and fungi. Collect leaves and practice sorting them by color, size and shape.
- Nov. 16, 17, 18** **Wigwam Ways** - The Lenape Indians of this area were part of a clan known as the Turtle (Unami) Clan. Visit a life-sized wigwam before going outside to look for artifacts and natural items the Lenape used to survive. Play Native American games like corn darts and moccasins and have fun listening to stories.
- Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 2** **Scaly Tails** - Slither like a snake, crawl like a turtle and hide in a “shell” as you learn about reptiles. Meet live snakes and turtles from Trailside’s reptile collection.
- Dec. 7, 8, 9** **Evergreens** - Use your senses and learn to match evergreen trees with their cones. Search for prickly spruce and soft white pine. Feel sticky sap and smell pine needles. Look for clues from animals that make evergreens their home.

TWO OF US

An interactive program encouraging nature discovery through hikes and other indoor/outdoor activities.

- WHO:** 3 or 4 year old child with an adult. Pre-register. Younger and older children will not be permitted to attend this program. Please see Saturday Outdoor Adventures.
- WHEN:** **Tuesday, 1:30-2:30 PM** or **Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 AM**
- FEE:** **Per class: IC - \$10/child & adult OC - \$12/child & adult**
- Oct. 3 or 4** **What’s All the Hub-Bub, Bub?** - Have fun making all sorts of bubbles! Learn how to make big bubbles, little bubbles and bubble bunches. Wear clothes that can get wet.
- Oct. 10 or 11** **Masked Bandit** - Become a raccoon and use your “paws” to capture your food. Follow a trail of raccoon tracks to learn about their habits and habitats.

Two of Us continued...

- Oct. 17, 18** **The Art of Nature** - Nature is art that is all around us. Learn how the natural world inspires art and discover the different kinds of natural materials that can be used to make an artistic piece of work. Take a hike to collect natural items such as leaves, sticks and rocks and learn how to use them as tools to create a masterpiece to decorate your house.
- Oct. 24, 25** **When I'm Sleepy** - When we're getting sleepy some animals are just waking up! Learn about our nocturnal neighbors and why they are active at night. Wear your PJ's to class and visit the night theater to learn about raccoons, opossum, toads and other animals of the night.
- Oct. 31, Nov. 1** **Halloween Hike** – Investigate slithering snakes, spinning spiders, acrobatic bats and other critters that make Halloween exciting. Find out where these animals live and discover what kind of tricks and treats they have for us
- Nov. 7, 8** **Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf** - Investigate the colorful leaves of autumn. Hike to collect leaves of all shapes, sizes and colors. See if you and your partner can "sort them out."
- Nov. 14, 15** **Growing up Lenape** - Use your imagination to see what it was like to live as a Native American child. Discover where Lenape toys came from and how they were made. Play games and listen to stories.
- Nov. 28, 29** **Snakes and Turtles** - Discover what snakes and turtles have in common and find out where they sleep for the winter. Practice slithering like a snake and crawling like a turtle. Meet live reptiles from Trailside's collection.
- Dec. 5, 6** **Perfect Pines** - Winter is almost here and only the hardiest of trees still have green leaves. Learn about pine trees that are tickly, spruce trees that are prickly and a fir tree named Douglas. Make a "tree"mendous craft to take home.

SMALL FRY DAYS

A drop off program to foster awareness and appreciation of the natural world through nature hikes, exploration and activities. Dress for outdoors.

WHO: 4-6 year olds. Pre-register. Younger and older children will not be permitted to attend this program.

Please see Saturday Outdoor Adventures.

WHEN: Tuesdays, 9:45-11:00^{AM}

FEE: Per class: IC-\$10/child OC-\$12/child

Oct. 3 Bubble-Mania - Big Bubbles! Square Bubbles! Bubble Towers! Bubbles within Bubbles! Participants can bubble to their hearts' content. Wear clothes that can get wet.

Oct. 10 Ring-Tailed Rascals - Find out about the masked bandits that come out at night and leave tracks by the water. Make a mask to wear and hunt for raccoon tracks on the trail.

Oct. 17 Nature Artists - Nature has inspired artists for centuries. Learn about the wonders of nature and how it influences different kinds of art. Take a hike to collect natural objects that we will use to make beautiful masterpieces to take home.

Oct. 24 Nature at Night – Discover the world of flying squirrels, raccoons and opossum. Learn why these animals wake up while we are sleeping. Find out what they eat and where they rest. Wear your pj's to class and have fun investigating the world at night.

Oct. 31 Trick or Treat – It's that Halloween time of year! Enjoy a fun filled scavenger hunt in search of slugs, bugs, bats and all things "halloweeny." Learn interesting facts about these often misunderstood animals.

GRADE SCHOOL PROGRAM AFTERSCHOOL EXPLORATIONS

A drop-off program designed to acquaint your child with nature explorations, hikes and outdoor activities.

WHO: 1st - 3rd graders. Pre-register.

WHEN: Thursdays, 3:30-4:45^{PM}

FEE: Per class: IC - \$10/child OC - \$12/child

Oct. 5 Salamander Search – These elusive amphibians usually hide in wet areas, under rocks and logs. Learn how to safely and carefully catch, identify and release our little local friends. Wear shoes that can get wet.

Oct. 12 Animals in Danger - Many animals are becoming endangered. Learn why these magnificent creatures are disappearing and what you can do to help. Meet an endangered species from Trailside's reptile collection and visit Trailside's Backyard Wildlife Habitat to discover how you can help local wildlife.

Oct. 19 Coyote Tracks - Learn about one of the more elusive residents of the Watchung Reservation, the eastern coyote. Find out how it lives and what it eats. Hike outside in search of coyote signs and take part in a big group howl.

Oct. 26 Spiders - Halloween time is the perfect time to learn about these crawly, 8-legged creatures. Search for spiders and their wonderful webs and find out why they are so helpful to the environment.

Nov. 2 Skulls & Crossbones - The skulls and bones of animals can often be found in the woods of the reservation. Learn to identify some common animals by their skull shapes & teeth patterns.

Small Fry Days Continued...

- Nov. 7** **“Leaf It” To Us** - Go on a leaf hunt to gather a rainbow of color. Collect your favorite leaves to for a craft and use them to make leaf rubbings.
- Nov. 14** **Living Lenape** - Discover the way of life of the original people, the Lenape. Learn how they survived in the wilderness and play games the Lenape children once played.
- Nov. 28** **Radical Reptiles** - Feel real turtle shells and a shed snake skin as you learn what all reptiles have in common. Practice smelling like a snake and hiding like a turtle. Meet some live reptiles from Trailside’s collection.
- Dec. 5** **For-ever-green** – Find out which trees stay green all year and why. Match trees to their cones and have fun exploring the reservation for evergreen trees. Search for the many animals that use pine trees for food and shelter.



Afterschool Explorations continued...

- Nov. 9 Fabulous Fish** - Discover fascinating facts about these cool creatures that breathe using gills. Visit Trailside's exhibits to learn about the diversity of fish living in the wetland areas around Trailside, what they do to survive the winter months and how they use their different kinds of fins to swim. Make a fish craft to take home.
- Nov. 16 Three Sisters Thanksgiving** – The Lenape Native Americans grew beans, corn and squash to help them survive the long winter. Celebrate their harvest time by playing Native American Games like corn darts and mamandican. Have your face painted for the celebration.
- Nov. 30 Turkey Tracks** - Learn all about turkeys and discover why this bird was almost chosen as our national bird. Go on a hike to look for turkey tracks and their favorite things to eat.
- Dec. 7 Mammal Mania** – Discover why some mammals have eyes in the front of their heads and others have eyes on the side. Examine furs and skulls of some marvelous mammals and look for tracks and other mammal clues on the trails.



FAMILY PROGRAMS

SATURDAY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Families with children of all ages are invited to take part in theme hikes/nature related talks. Programs last about 45 minutes. Dress appropriately for the program and the weather. For scout programs, please see our group brochure. **Donations appreciated.**

- Oct. 7 Fall Seasonal Walk** - Hike a colored coded trail to explore the rainbow of fall colors. Search the forest for shades of red, orange, yellow, gold, rust and purple. Learn to identify trees by leaf shapes and colors. **2^{PM}**
- Oct. 14 Orange Trail Hike** - Discover the bounty of food available to wildlife at this time of year. Look for berries, nuts, mushrooms and seeds. Along the way search for animal homes, tracks, hideouts and other signs our animal neighbors leave behind. **2^{PM}**
- Nov. 18 Lenape Lifestyles** - Discover the Lenape Native American lifestyle and where they lived. Visit Trailside's Lenape exhibit and take a walk to look for plants and trees the Lenape used to help cure colds, construct wigwams and build canoes. **2^{PM}**
- Dec. 9 Birding Basics** - Observe the birds that visit Trailside's Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Learn what kinds of food they eat and how to identify common birds by sight and sound. Find out which birds will stay here through the cold winter months and which ones will migrate south for the winter. **2^{PM}**



ADULT WORKSHOPS

What's Next for Human Space Travel

Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 2:00 -3:00^{pm}

Join NASA Solar Ambassador Paul Cirillo for another fascinating lecture about the future for human space programs, planned by the United States, China and Russia. The lecture also includes the projects of the four U.S. commercial companies, Space X, Boeing, Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic. Space tourism, space stations, moon bases and a journey to Mars are the inspiring and thrilling topics discussed. Learn about these exciting projects and others as we prepare for these upcoming new voyages. This program is free.

Donations are welcomed.

Theodore Roosevelt: American in the Arena

Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 to 8:00^{pm}

When President McKinley was assassinated in 1901, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt bounded into Washington, D.C. as the youngest President in American history. Bringing his vigorous persona (and his boisterous family) to the White House, "TR" helped catapult the U.S. into a new century. His accomplishments were plentiful and diverse: War hero to Nobel peace Prize winner, naturalist to imperialist. The 26th President promoted progressive reform and stronger government control of business. Believing that the security of the American People would be achieved through leadership on the World State, President Roosevelt expanded U.S. influence around the globe. The American Historical Theatre offers a compelling theatrical re-enactment, made possible in part by the generosity of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. This program is free.

Donations are welcomed.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

STAR PARTY

Saturday, October 28th at 7:00 PM - 9:00^{PM}

Join Members of Amateur Astronomers, Inc. (AAI) from Sperry Observatory in Cranford for an evening of stargazing and presentations on the night sky and the moon.

Weather permitting.

Pre-registration is preferred.

Fee: Free. Donations welcomed.

Dress appropriately for the weather.

STORY TIME

Saturdays at 3:00^{PM}

Meet: Trailside Visitor Center. Lower Level.

Donations appreciated.

SPECIAL EVENT

36th ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 24th at 11^{AM} - 5^{PM}

Admission: \$4/person, children ages 7 & under free
Fees are charged for some activities

Celebrate America's heritage at the County's annual Harvest Festival. Visitors will see demonstrations of how early Americans lived and performed daily tasks. Activities planned for the entire family include: Live Music • Colonial & Native American



Crafts • Farmer's Market • Revolutionary War Encampment • Children's Crafts • Pumpkin Patch • Sales & Demonstrations • Petting Zoo • Pony Rides • Build a Scarecrow • Entertainment & Exhibits and more...

FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND AT THE DESERTED VILLAGE

Saturday, October 21, 10^{AM} - 5^{PM}

Sunday, October 22, Noon - 5^{PM}

Guided tours: 2 PM each day with

“The Ghost of David Felt”



Take a self guided walking tour of the historic Desereted Village of Feltville at any time during the two day period. Learn the history of this local treasure, take a hayride, see a demonstration of apple cider pressing, old-fashioned games, talk to an archaeologist, see a display of various artifacts recovered during excavations around the site and wander through the renovated Masker’s Barn carriage house. Meet the ghost of David Felt in his general store and hear from him how he built and ran his quasi-Utopian mill town of Feltville in the mid-1800’s. **Admission: Free**

MINERAL, GEM & JEWELRY SHOW

Saturday & Sunday

November 4 & 5, Noon - 5^{PM}

Over 20 vendors selling minerals, rocks, gems, jewelry and fossils from around the world! Demonstrations of gemstone cutting & polishing. Bring your collectibles from home to have a geologist identify your minerals, rocks and fossils. Educational rock and mineral displays. Children’s activities fossil rubbings, puzzles, touch table.



TICKET SALES IN THREE LOCATIONS

HAYRIDES & CAMPFIRES HAUNTED HAYRIDES & GREAT PUMPKIN SAIL

Buy tickets online at www.ucnj.org/tickets

Or visit one of our three Union County
Parks & Recreation locations:

- 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, (908) 527-4900
M-F: 8:30^{AM} - 4:00^{PM}
- 300 North Avenue East in Westfield, (908) 654-9805
M-F: 8:30^{AM} - 4:00^{PM} / Th: 8:30^{AM} - 6:30^{PM}
- Trailside Nature and Science Center, (908) 789-3670
452 New Providence Road in Mountainside,
Daily (including weekends), Noon 4:45^{PM}

**Tickets generally sell out very quickly, are nonrefundable
and nonexchangeable. No group sales please.**

HAYRIDES & CAMPFIRES

September 29, Friday, 6:30 - 9:30^{PM} (hayride #1) @ Trailside

October 1, Sunday, 3:30 - 6:30^{PM} (hayride #2) @ Trailside

October 6, Friday, 6:30 - 9:30^{PM} (hayride #3) @ Warinanco

October 13, Friday, 6:30 - 9:30^{PM} (hayride #4) @ Trailside

October 20, Friday, 6:30 - 9:30^{PM} (hayride #5) @ Trailside

Hayride rain date - November 3, Friday, 6:30 ^{PM}

Fee: IC-\$6/person OC-\$12/person

Enjoy a hayride, roast marshmallows and sip hot chocolate
around a campfire to the sound of a folk singer.

Tickets go on sale September 5

No tickets will be sold at the rides.

Limit of 15 tickets per person.

For information on booking a private
hayride for scouts or groups exceeding
15 people, please call (908) 527 - 4900.



HAUNTED HAYRIDES OF THE DESERTED VILLAGE

October 27, 28, 29

Rain date: Oct. 30

Rides are scheduled every half hour Friday,
Saturday & Sunday: starting at 6:30^{PM}

****Limit 8 tickets per person****

Fee: \$8 per person for Union County residents
\$16 per person for non

Tickets go on sale September 19 at 8:30^{am}

Buy tickets online at www.ucnj.org/tickets

See ticket sale information on previous page for sale locations.



For ages 6 & up with adult.

****Strollers cannot be accommodated.****

Experience an entire village of haunted houses filled with ghosts who actually lived and died there. Fifty visitors at a time will take a 25 minute hayride around the 130 acre grounds of this National Register listed historic

site. The ghost of David Felt, who built this former mill town in 1845, will briefly explain the history of the site. As Mr. Felt tells stories of mystery and tragedy from the Deserted Village's past, the stories come to life. Visitors will then take a short walk on a footpath in the darkened forest to the village's Revolutionary War era cemetery and learn of those buried there.

The total program length is about one hour.



Tickets are sold for rides at specific times as noted on your ticket.

Ticket holders arriving late may not be accommodated.
Late arrivals may be placed on later rides if space allows.
Please bring a flashlight and dress accordingly.

THE GREAT PUMPKIN SAIL

Wednesday, November 1

(Rain Date: Thursday, November 2)



Tickets go on sale October 3 at 8:30^{AM}

Buy tickets online at www.ucnj.org/tickets

At Echo Lake Park in Mountainside/Westfield - lower lake off Springfield Avenue. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

On the night after Halloween, join us as we illuminate Echo Lake Park with a sea of jack-o-lanterns. We will provide candles, pumpkin floats, hot chocolate, marshmallows and entertainment around a campfire.

****Please note: Each family is limited to one jack-o-lantern with a lid. Weight after carving may not exceed 8 pounds.****

Tickets will be sold for 3 time sessions:

Session I: 5:15-6:30^{PM}

Session II: 6:45-8:00^{PM}

Session III: 8:15-9:30^{PM}

Admission: IC - \$12 per family up to six (6) people
OC - \$16 per family up to six (6) people

****Limit 2 tickets/person****



Trailside

Nature & Science
Center



www.ucnj.org / trailside

(908) 789 - 3670

452 NEW PROVIDENCE ROAD
MOUNTAINSIDE, NEW JERSEY 07092

A facility of the Union County Department of Parks & Recreation

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