

A SERVICE OF THE
UNION COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN
FREEHOLDERS



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

Fall At Trailside



2014

**Workshops for Children,
Families & Adults**

Special Events

**TRAILSIDE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER
452 NEW PROVIDENCE ROAD
MOUNTAINSIDE, NEW JERSEY 07092
(908) 789-3670
www.ucnj.org/trailside**

A facility of the Union County Department of Parks & Recreation

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 p.m. daily.

Read on for information about programs that children can take part in with an adult, drop-off workshops for children ages 4 to 6, drop-off workshops for grade school children, family programs, adult workshops, teacher training opportunities and special events.

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

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

**Labor Day, September 1
Columbus Day - October 13
Election Day, November 4
Veteran's Day, November 11**

Trailside will be CLOSED on the following days:

**Thanksgiving Recess - November 27 & 28
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day - December 24 & 25
New Year's Eve & New Year's Day - Dec. 31 & Jan. 1**

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

- Registration is required for all programs except where indicated in the program description. Class sizes are limited.
- Registration is in-person or by mail. In-person registration is done at Trailside daily, from noon-4:45 PM.
- To register, specify classes on the registration form in the center of this brochure and mail it with your check or deliver it to Trailside. Please use a separate registration sheet for each child. Call Trailside for class space availability *prior* to sending a check or making the trip to Trailside, (908) 789-3670.
- Include your check, made payable to “**County of Union,**” for the appropriate amount.
- Trailside accepts Visa, MasterCard, AMEX & Discover in person only. Credit card payments cannot be accepted over the phone or by mail.
- Classes marked rain or shine are held in the rain unless the weather is severe. Please call Trailside at (908) 789-3670 on the program date to find out if a program has been postponed/cancelled due to inclement weather.
- 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. Re-scheduling for a rain date is not considered a cancellation.
- Trailside credit will be issued **ONLY** if the program is cancelled by the registrant at least three (3) days in advance **OR** if we can find a substitute from the waiting list. Please call if your child can not attend a program.
- **No refunds will be given for any program.**
- Please be prompt when dropping off or picking up your child. Due to the brief class period of the workshops, it is important to start and end on time.
- Trailside reserves the right to remove a disruptive or inappropriately aged child from a program. If a disruptive or inappropriately aged child is removed from a program, no credit or refund will be offered.
- Each class will spend some time outside (more in nice weather and less in wet or cold weather), so please, dress your child appropriately in boots and a raincoat when necessary. Long pants tucked into socks offer protection from ticks.
- For programs that meet off-site, see the enclosed map or call Trailside for directions.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

TODDLER TIME

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

- 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: Tuesdays or Fridays, 9:30-10:30 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

**Oct. 7
or 10** **Senses of the Season** - The sights, smells, and sounds of nature change with the seasons. Take a hike to find out what the fall season is all about by using four of your five senses! Make a craft out of natural materials collected on the hike to take home.

**Oct. 14
or 17** **Art in Nature** – 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. 21
or 24** **Living in the City** – Many animals have adapted to live in and around cities. Finding food, water, shelter and space can often be difficult in these urban habitats. Learn how we can help our wildlife neighbors to survive.

**Oct. 28
or 31** **Jewels of the Forest** – Discover the rocks of the Watchung Reservation. Learn how the mountains were formed and examine rocks made from lava, mud and sand. Go on a treasure hunt to find some “jewels” for your own collection.

**Nov. 4
or 7** **Dine & Dash** - Many plants produce nuts and berries in the fall that are eaten by animals. Compare the different shapes, sizes, colors, and textures of the fall foods and find out who is eating them.

Toddler Time continued...

- Nov. 11 or 14** **Black Bears of NJ** – New Jersey has only one bear, the black bear. Bring your teddy bear (or favorite stuffed animal) on a walk to look for black bear snacks and hiding places. Make a bear mask, compare your foot to a bear track and find out how bears prepare for winter.
- Nov. 18 or 21** **Ways of the Wigwam** - 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 around a campfire.
- Dec. 2 or 5** **Time to Travel** - Do you ever wonder where birds and butterflies slowly disappear as winter comes near? Find out who migrates, where they go and how they find their way. Take a storybook hike to follow the migration journey of Flute, the wood thrush.
- Dec. 9 or 12** **Marvelous Meat-eaters** – Carnivores and omnivores are animals that eat other animals. Learn interesting facts about the special adaptations that help foxes, hawks, owls and raccoons survive in the wild. Feel furs and examine skulls of fox, raccoon and other marvelous meat-eaters.

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: Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 PM or Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 AM
FEE: Per class: IC - \$10/child & adult **OC** - \$12/child & adult

- Oct. 8 or 9** **What Do You Sense?** - Discover the natural world by using the sense of sight, touch, smell and sound. Participate in fun games like “Bat and Moth” to discover how animals use their ears and eyes to survive. Then take a hike using your sense to explore nature.

Two of Us continued...

- Oct. 15 or 16** **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. 22 or 23** **Have to Have a Habitat** – Every animal needs a home, but sometimes finding one is tough! Learn about our wildlife neighbors and how they have adapted to living in and around our neighborhoods. Investigate Trailside’s forest community in search of animal homes and hideouts. Learn what the local wildlife eats and where they “shop” for food.
- Oct. 29 or 30** **Geo-tykes** – Calling all geologists! Walk down an ancient lava flow and sit beside a boulder left by a glacier. Look for river rocks and discover how they are formed. Start a rock collection of your own.
- Nov. 5 or 6** **Nuts are for Squirrels** - ...and other animals too! Discover the many different kinds of nut trees that provide food for animals. Look for these special trees, try to find their nuts and see if you can tell who’s been eating them.
- Nov. 12 or 13** **Bear Necessities** - Black bear, brown bear, polar bear and grizzly bear. Learn fascinating facts about these powerful animals. Look at a bear skull, feel a bear pelt, then look for “bear tracks” as we take a short hike.
- Nov. 19 or 20** **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 such as corn darts and moccasins.
- Dec. 3 or 4** **Movin’ Out!** - Find out which of our animal neighbors migrate south for the winter. Learn why these animals relocate and how they find their way.
- Dec. 10 or 11** **Carnivorous Creatures** – Discover fascinating facts about the meat-eating animals of the Watchung Reservation. See skulls and feel furs of fox, raccoon and coyote. Investigate the special adaptations that allow these animals to survive.

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: Wednesdays, 9:45 - 11:00 AM or 3:30-4:45 PM
or Thursdays, 1:15-2:30 PM

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

Oct. 8, 9 Explore Your Senses - Discover how animals depend on their senses to survive in the wild. Play "Raccoon Paws" and see if your senses can uncover a raccoon's favorite meal.

Oct. 15, 16 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. 22, 23 Habitat Hunt - All animals need food, water, shelter and space to survive. Learn how animals have adapted to survive in some challenging habitats and take a hike to investigate the animal homes and hideouts in Trailside's backyard.

Oct. 29, 30 Rock Hounds – Discover the rocks of the Watchung Reservation. Learn how the mountains were formed and examine rocks made from lava, mud and sand. Participate in a rock hunting expedition and make a collection to take home

Nov. 5, 6 Getting Nutty – Hike in search of different trees and plants that help to keep the wildlife fat and happy during the winter season. Learn what you can do to help our wildlife friends as the days become shorter and the weather gets colder.



Small Fry Days Continued...

- Nov. 12, 13** **Going on a Bear Hike** - Bring your teddy bear and learn the bear facts. Do black bears live in the Watchung Reservation? What do they eat? Where do they go in winter? Make a special bear craft to take home.
- Nov. 19, 20** **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.
- Dec. 3, 4** **Migration Madness** - Monarch butterflies are off to Mexico for the winter, but they're not the only ones heading south! Learn about the different kinds of animals that take a winter vacation to a warmer location.
- Dec. 10, 11** **Mammal Mania** – Discover why some animals have eyes in the front of their heads and why others have eyes on the side. Examine furs and skulls of some meat-eating mammals and search outside for places where our carnivore/omnivore neighbors may hunt or hide.



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. 9 Nature Detectives - Do you have what it takes to be a nature detective? Test your skills by using your senses to uncover clues on a nature scavenger hunt. Search outdoors for something prickly, something sweet-smelling, a "dinosaur footprint" and much more!

Oct. 16 Goldenrod Jungle – Discover the six-legged creatures that hunt for food among the fall flowers. Use hand lenses, sweep nets and collecting jars to examine some of these predators and their tiny prey.

Oct. 23 The Colors of Fall - Hike through the Watchung Reservation in search of red, yellow, orange and purple fall colors. Collect leaves, rocks and seeds to make a colorful fall craft to take home.



Oct. 30 Creepy Crawlies - Visit the forest and look for the small animals that live under rocks, leaves and logs. Find out how they move, what they eat and how they help the environment.

Nov. 6 Rock Collecting - Learn the geologic history of the Watchung Reservation. Take part in a rock collecting expedition and collect lava rocks, glacier rocks and rocks made from sand and clay to take home with you.

Nov. 13 Winter Prep - Fall is a busy season for many animals. Discover what groundhogs, chipmunks, birds, insects and other animal neighbors are doing to get ready for the cold winter months ahead.

Afterschool Explorations continued...

Nov. 20 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.

Dec. 4 Wild Weather - Learn how the sun, air and water affect weather. Use meteorological tools including a barometer, thermometer and anemometer to predict weather. Work cooperatively to create a “storm story” focusing on hurricanes, lightening and thunder.

Dec. 11 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.



FAMILY PROGRAMS

SATURDAY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Families with children of all ages are invited to take part in weekly 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. 4 Goldenrod Meadow - Take a walk to a near-by meadow to see beautiful golden flowers and the diversity of insects that live in this special habitat. Search for rabbit trails, deer beds and spider webs along the way. **2 PM.**

Oct. 18 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.**

Nov. 8 Watchung Woodpeckers - Learn the difference between hairy, downy and red-bellied woodpeckers. Look and listen for these birds as we take a short hike in the woods. Search for dead trees and discover how woodpeckers use them for food and shelter. If we're lucky we may see a pileated woodpecker, the largest woodpecker in the Watchung Reservation. **2 PM.**

Nov. 22 Lenape Lifestyles - Discover who the Lenape Native Americans were and where they lived. Visit Trailside's Lenape exhibit to learn about their lifestyles and take a walk to look for plants and trees the Lenape used to help cure colds, construct wigwams and build canoes. **2 PM.**



ADULT WORKSHOPS

Lecture: Climate Change

Thursday, October 9

7:15-8:15 PM

New Jersey's climate has changed during the past century, and the changes have been more rapid in recent decades. How large are the changes that have been recorded and, more important, what are the prospects for future changes? Prof. Anthony Broccoli, of the Atmospheric Science Department at Rutgers University will discuss the evidence for past changes in climate and explore the directions in which New Jersey's climate may be headed. This talk is made possible by the Rutgers Speakers Bureau. **Fee: \$10/IC, \$12/OC.**

Craft Workshop: Stylish Natural Swags

7:00-9:00 PM

Thursday, October 16

Spend a relaxing and creative evening learning how to weave dried grasses, stems and flowers into a one of a kind masterpiece. Using natural materials, which we provide, participants will create swags with unique functions to enhance picture frames, mantles, tabletops or other focal points in the home. **Bring:** A hot glue gun if you have one. **Fee: \$15/IC, \$20/OC.**

Reenactment: Clara Barton, Civil War Nurse

7:15-8:15 PM

Thursday, October 23



Pat Jordan of the American Historical Theatre interprets the life of Clara Barton, in an engaging and inspiring presentation. Meet the woman who answered Lincoln's call to support the Union efforts during the Civil War. Understand the events that shaped her life, rejecting her teaching career, for a place on the battlefield, and ultimately organizing the American Red Cross. This presentation offers another window into the trauma of the Civil War, through the lens of the life of this remarkable woman. This program is made possible by support from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. **Fee:** Donations appreciated.

Guided Morning Hike

10:00-11:30 AM

Saturday, October 25

Use nature's healing powers to help relieve stress and its symptoms. Soothe your senses and calm your soul on an autumnal morning walk through the glorious Watchung woods. Enjoy the season as a Trailside naturalist points out the notable flora and fauna.

Fee: \$10/IC, \$12/OC.

Adult Workshops continued...

**Photography Workshop
Saturday, November 8**

10:00 AM-1:00 PM

This workshop is ideal for any student who hopes to familiarize themselves with their single lens reflex digital camera or sophisticated “point and shoot” camera with fully manual settings. Professional photographer, Joan Pamboukes will bring clarity to such topics as focal length, aperture, shutter speeds, and white balance. Composition and basic lighting strategies will also be addressed. Please bring your camera system (with a fully charged battery), the manual and a tripod, if possible. Weather permitting, we will walk around the grounds and create beautiful images together. Otherwise we will work indoors. By the end of the class, basic camera functions will no longer be a mystery. **Fee: \$45/IC, \$55/OC.**



**Teacher Training Workshop: Project WET
Thursday, December 4**

9 AM- 3 PM

In today’s society, water is often taken for granted. This workshop will provide the necessary tools, resources and lessons for teachers to utilize in the classroom to teach our future leaders about the importance and value of water in every day life. More than 90 interdisciplinary activities and lessons, teacher-tested and classroom ready for K-12 students, are included in the activity guide. Lessons in the guide are correlated to NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. **Participants receive six (6) NJDOE professional development credits.** Morning refreshments provided. **Bring:** A lunch. **Fee: \$20/IC or OC.** Curriculum guide included. **Please wear attire appropriate for possible outdoor activity.**

Pre-registration is required for all classes. Workshops are for adults, ages 18 & older. Doors open 15 minutes before program.

Star Parties

Saturday, October 18 and/or November 15

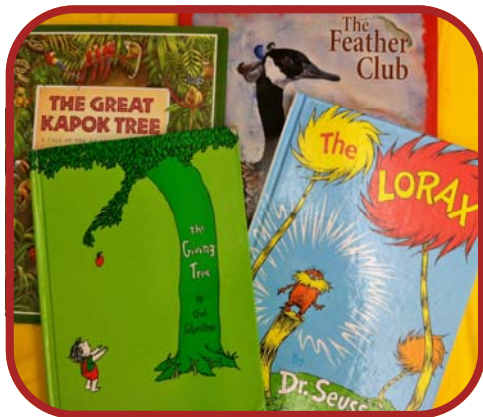
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Join Members of Amateur Astronomers, Inc. (AAI) from Sperry Observatory in Cranford for an evening of star-gazing and presentations on the night sky. Enjoy information on astronomy topics and constellations in easy-to-understand language in Trailside's auditorium. Afterwards go outside (weather permitting) to view celestial objects and nebulas. Pre-registration is preferred, but walk-ins will be accommodated as space permits. Call Trailside 908-789-3670. Donations welcomed. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Story Time

Saturdays & Sundays

3:00 PM



Meet:

Trailside Visitor Center

Donations appreciated.

SPECIAL EVENTS

33rd ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 28th , 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

Admission: Free

Saturday, October 18, 10 AM - 5 PM

Sunday, October 19, Noon - 5 PM

Guided tours: 2 PM each day with "The Ghost of David Felt"



Take a self guided walking tour of the historic Deserted 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, play 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.



ROCK, MINERAL & GEM SHOW

Saturday & Sunday

November 1 & 2, Noon - 5p.m.

- 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.



- *SUNDAY* children's activities include fossil rubbings, puzzles, touch table, free face painting.



HOLIDAY NATURE CRAFT SHOW

Featuring Charity Drive, Menorah & Tree Lighting
& Tree Decorating Contest

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

11 AM - 5 PM

Admission: An item of dry or canned food or a new, unwrapped toy for local charities.



Usher in this festive season at **Union County's Tree & Menorah Lighting Ceremony**. Enjoy a visit from Santa, caroling and more.

The Trailside Visitor Center will be packed with wonderful, unique, handmade crafts and gift items for sale. All crafts are made of natural materials or have a nature theme.

TICKET SALES IN THREE LOCATIONS!



- **HAYRIDES & CAMPFIRES**
- **HAUNTED HAYRIDES**
- **GREAT PUMPKIN SAIL**

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 - W & Fri: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Th: 12:00 - 7:00 PM
- or
- Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside, (908)789-3670
Daily (including weekends), Noon-4:45 PM.

Tickets generally sell out very quickly, are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. No group sales please.

HAYRIDES & CAMPFIRES
Fridays, Beginning at 6:30 PM
September 26, October 3, 10, & 17
(participants must check in by 8 pm)

Special Day & Time: Sunday, October 5; 3:30 - 6:30 pm
(participants must check in by 5 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 2nd*.

No tickets will be sold at the rides. See Ticket Sale information about ticket sale locations/times.

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.



Special Events continued...

HAUNTED HAYRIDES OF THE DESERTED VILLAGE

October 24, 25 & 26

Rides are scheduled every half hour Friday, Saturday & Sunday beginning at 6:30 pm.

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

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

Tickets go on sale September 15th.



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

Special Events continued...



THE GREAT PUMPKIN SAIL

Saturday, November 1

(Rain Date: Sunday, November 2)

At Echo Lake Park in Mountainside/Westfield

- lower lake off Springfield Avenue. Tickets must be purchased in advance. See ticket sale information on previous page for sale locations.

Tickets go on sale October 1st.

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*****

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.***





Call Trailside at 908-789-3670 for additional information on these exciting programs and upcoming events or visit us online at www.ucnj.org/trailside.



**UNION COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

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