

A SERVICE OF THE
UNION COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN
FREEHOLDERS



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

Spring At Trailside



2015

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 in Mountainside, New Jersey 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

Good Friday, April 3, 12 - 5 p.m.

Easter, April 5 - Trailside will be CLOSED

Memorial Day, May 25, 12 - 5 p.m.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Coming Soon: Online Registration

- 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. Please call if your child can not attend a program.
- **No refunds will be given for any program.**
- 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.
- call Trailside for directions for programs that meet off-site.



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, 9:30-10:30 AM or Thursdays, 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

Apr. 14 or 16 **April Fools!** - Learn what camouflage is and find out how it works. Discover how animals use protective coloring to keep safe. Take a hike to try and find some of crafty critters.



April 21 or 23 **Lorax Lessons** - Celebrate Earth Day with the Lorax. Learn ways to become more Earth friendly, make crafts using recyclable materials and plant a tree for wildlife.

Apr. 28 or 30 **Wondrous White-tailed Deer** - Learn about these magnificent creatures that can leap a tall fences in a single bound. Discover how deer communicate using snorts, stomps and their flashy, white tail. Practice bounding like a deer as we search outside for tracks, rubs and favorite hide outs of the white-tailed deer.

May 5 or 7 **Pajama Party!** - Come to Trailside in your PJ's to learn which animals are waking up as you are getting ready to fall asleep. Visit the night theater to take a close up look at some of our nocturnal neighbors. Walk outside to find where our nighttime friends sleep during the day.

May 12 or 14 **There's No Place Like Home** - Learn what materials our animal neighbors use to construct their homes. Search for apartment houses, underground burrows and treetop suites

Toddler Time continued...

May 19 or 21 Wild Seeds - Discover a new way to plant flowers. Make seed balls for instant summer bouquets that butterflies, bees and hummingbirds will love. Plant some in our meadow and take some home.



May 26 Nifty Nests - Spring has sprung and birds are hard at work. **or 28** Become a nest detective and learn how different birds make their nests. Take a walk and see how many nests we can find. Along the way gather twigs, grass and moss to make a nest of our own!

June 2 Busy Bees - Learn about the secret life of bees; including, **or 4** where they live and what they eat. Find out why these insects are so important to our daily lives and discover what we can do to help them survive.

June 9 or 11 Go Wild With Water - Wear your bathing suit and bring your towel, because it's time to play in the water! Rotate through a series of stations designed to tap into your children's natural curiosity. Have fun using household items like sponges, paint brushes, egg cartons and spray bottles as "tools" for experimenting with water play.

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 Fridays, 10:00-11:00 AM

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

Apr. 15 or 17 Can you be fooled? – Find out how mimicry, camouflage, and protective behaviors help animals to survive. Go out doors to see if we can spot some animals in spite of their tricks.

Two of Us continued...

Apr. 22 or 24 Learning with the Lorax - "The Lorax" is a timeless children's story that teaches environmental awareness. Celebrate Earth Day with the Lorax and plant a tree to give a gift to wildlife.

Apr. 29 or May 1 My Darling Deer - The largest mammal in the Watchung Reservation is the white-tail deer. Hike the trails to find antler rubbings, nibbled plants and deer paths worn through the fields and forest.

May 6 or 8 When I'm Sleepy - When we're getting sleepy some animals are just waking up! Learn about our nocturnal neighbors, and why they prefer moon light to sunlight. Wear your PJ's to class and take a trip to the night theater.

May 13 or 15 Home Sweet Home - Take an up-close look at some animal homes and find out what materials are used to build them. Search outside for animal homes, hideouts and "apartment houses."

May 20 or 22 Sow the Seeds - Discover the importance of seeds and learn which animals depend on them. Get dirty and have fun rolling wildflower seeds into balls of clay. Hike to Trailside's wildflower meadow and take turns spreading seeds.

May 27 or 29 Nesting Time - Find out how those brainy bird parents make their nests and learn how long baby birds stay in them. Walk outside to look for hidden nests and then try building one of your own!

June 3 or 5 The Secret life of Bees - Investigate the importance of bee neighbors. Discover the places where they live and learn about their lifecycle. Find out what's happening to these important insects and learn what we can do to help.

June 10 or 12 Wet - n- Wild - Come to Trailside for some splish-splashin' fun! Travel through Trailside's water wonders stations and enjoy as we get wet-n-wild investigating the properties of water and why it is important for every living thing.

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 Thursdays, 3:30-4:45 PM
or Fridays, 1:15-2:30 PM

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

Apr. 15, 16 or 17 Camouflaged Critters - Can you find the wild animals when they play hide and seek? Discover how and why they can hide so well. Search outside for some camouflaged critters and create a disguise of your own.

Apr. 22, 23 or 24 What a Wonderful World - Say "Thank You" to the Earth for good food, fresh air and clean water. Take a nature appreciation hike and make a recycled craft to take home.

Apr. 29, the 30 or May 1 White-tail Trail - Learn about the graceful deer living in Watchung Reservation. Feel deer fur and look at antlers up close. Hike the trails to discover their preferred paths and favorite foods.

May 6, 7 or 8 Nature at Night - When we are 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.



May 13, 14 or 15 Everybody Needs a Home - Wild animals take care of themselves by finding special places to live, hide and raise their young. Get a close-up look at some animal homes and walk through the reservation to discover where local wildlife hide-out.

Small Fry Days continued...

May 20, 21 or 22 **Seed Sling** - Seeds come in different shapes, sizes and colors. Learn why seeds are important to people and animals. Have fun making clay balls filled with wildflower seeds and help re-seed Trailside's wildflower meadow by throwing these treasures into the meadow habitat.



May 27, 28 or 29 **Nest Detectives** - Visit the woods to look for nests made by robins, cardinals and catbirds. Learn when birds build nests and why they don't use them in winter. Walk through Trailside's exhibits in search of nests made by the red-shouldered hawk, ovenbird and black and white warbler.



June 3, 4 or 5 **Bee Basics** - Honeybees are hard at work pollinating flowers, collecting nectar and making honey. Investigate the life cycle of the bee and find out why they are so important to plants, animals and people.

June 10, 11 or 12 **Water Wonders** - Wear your bathing suit and bring your towel to Trailside as we explore all the different ways we can have fun with water! Learn about the journey a droplet of water takes through the water cycle, and take a journey of your own as we travel through our water wonders stations.



GRADE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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

Apr. 16 Orange Trail Hike - Take a hike along the orange trail to enjoy all that spring has to offer. Search for wildflowers, nests, song birds and other seasonal delights. **Wear shoes that can get wet.**

Apr. 23 Earth Day Every Day! - Help wildlife by building brush piles and protect native plants and trees by removing invasives. Participate in a litter pick up and help keep our trails neat and tidy. **Dress to get dirty.**

Apr. 30 Who's Under That Rock? - You'll be amazed at how many animals call a rock their *home sweet home*. Inspect a rocky place for potato bugs, millipedes, slugs and ants. Examine these animals with a magnifying glass and discover how they help the environment.

May 7 Crazy Camouflage - Blending in with your surroundings is an important adaptation that allows animals to survive in the wild. Discover all the different ways that animals "fool" others. Play a camouflage game and see how well you blend in.

May 14 Salamander Search - Search the reservation for a very special amphibian, the salamander. Turn over rocks and logs to see if you can find northern redbacks, slimy and northern red salamanders. **Wear shoes that can get wet.**

May 21 Natural Wonders – Find out about the tallest, largest and oldest living organisms to ever inhabit the earth. Build a pyramid of plants, herbivores, carnivores and omnivores and discover how plants and animals depend on each other to survive.

May 7 Insect Investigation - Visit Trailside's meadow habitat exhibit to learn about its inhabitants. Walk to a near-by meadow and use sweep nets to capture, identify and release some common meadow insects.

Afterschool Explorations continued...

June 4 Learn to Lead - Discover the preparations, precautions and the do's and don'ts of hiking. Learn to use a trail map, read trail blazes and lead the group down a marked trail.

June 11 Seeley's Pond Search - Discover the variety of animal life that lives in our ponds. See how many fish, frogs and insects you can catch, identify and release. **Wear old sneakers or water shoes. Drop off and pick up at Seeley's Pond parking lot.**

Dusk to Dark Evening Family Programs

Pre-registration is required, walk-ins will be accommodated as space permits. Programs are recommended for adults with children ages 5 and older. **Fee:** IC - \$6/person, OC - \$7/person

NIGHT OWLS - Friday, May 8

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Find out *whooo* is waking up as you are getting ready for sleep. Learn about the owls that inhabit New Jersey, what they eat and where they live. Practice the calls of the barred, great horned and eastern screech owls.



DUSK HIKE - Friday, May 29

7:30 - 8:30 PM

Use your "owl eyes" to look for homes and hideouts of the local wildlife. Search for tree houses, burrows and nests as we explore fields and forests. If we're lucky, we may see some crepuscular or nocturnal animal neighbors.

THE SILENT MAJORITY - MOTHS OF NJ

Thursday, May 14

7:00-8:30 PM For adults & families with children ages 8 and older

With 110,000 species of moth worldwide and approximately 2,000 in the Garden State, moths can indicate whether a habitat is healthy or compromised. Join naturalist/biologist Blaine Rothauer as he shares his extensive knowledge and enthusiasm for these winged beauties through an indoor photo-rich presentation followed by an outdoor hands-on demonstration. **FREE.**



Sponsored by the **Trailside Museum Association**. For information on Union County's 11th Annual Bio-Blitz visit <http://ucnj.org/bio-blitz/>

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.**

Programs meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Trailside Visitor Center

Apr. 18 **Make Every Day Earth Day** - We know about recycling, now learn about *reducing and reusing*. See how you can make a difference for the environment. Enjoy the day and enhance the park by participating in a trash pick up to beautify the Watchung Reservation. Gloves provided.

May 9
by **Spring Hike** - Take advantage of the beauty of spring hiking one of our nature trails. Along the way look for wildflowers, bird nests and animal babies.

May 16
ing **Trees of Trailside** - Discover the variety of trees grow in the Watchung Reservation. Find out how to use leaves, bark and branches to identify some common trees. Learn which trees Native Americans used for food, shelter and medicines.



May 23
suc- **Backyard Habitats** - Discover the components of a successful backyard wildlife habitat. Take a walk to look for animals using near-by wildlife management areas and visit Trailside's Backyard Habitat exhibit to learn simple steps to make your home more wildlife friendly.

May 30 **Salamander Search** - Hike to near-by wetland areas to search for these elusive amphibians under rocks and logs. Learn how to catch, identify and release northern two-lined, redback and slimy salamanders.

Family Programs Continued...

June 6 National Trails Day - Trail users across the country will be celebrating **National Trails Day** on June 6 and so can you! Take a guided nature walk along a hiking trail and/or work on a trail maintenance or repair project. A continental breakfast and beverage will be provided. **Pre-registration required.** To register or for more information, please email bkelly@ucnj.org. **8:30 AM - 12:30 PM. FREE.**



June 12-13 11th Annual Union County Bio-Blitz

Beginning **Friday, June 12 at 5 PM through Saturday, June 13 to 5 PM**, naturalists, nature enthusiasts and scientists are invited to take part in this 24-hour survey for plants and animals living in the **Watchung Reservation**. The results of this study will provide a “snapshot” of the parks’ biodiversity. Enjoy **FREE** interactive activities, live animal and plant displays and nature-related programs. Join a team and help sample, sort and identify species. For more information or to register as a team scientist/naturalist go to: ucnj.org/bio-blitz.

Solar Watches

Saturdays - 1 PM

By popular demand, AAI will return for weekly (weather permitting) Solar Watches beginning on Saturday, April 18 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. and continuing into the fall. The solar observing sessions will involve a discussion on the safety issues about looking at the Sun.

Story Time

Saturdays & Sundays - 3 PM



WEDNESDAY MATINEES

Trailside's summer matinee entertainment series will feature a variety of kid-friendly, nature, science and earth-friendly entertainment. Live animals, magicians, music and more may take the stage in Trailside's auditorium beginning July 1st through August 12th.



**Wednesday afternoons at
1:30 p.m.
For families with children
ages 4 & up**

**Admission: \$5.00/person
\$4.00/senior citizen**

**Tickets go on sale at
1 p.m. on the day of the
presentation.**

For additional information
call 908-789-3670
or visit
www.ucnj.org/trailside



ADULT WORKSHOPS

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

Workshop: Three Ways to Arrange Flowers

Tuesday, April 28

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Flowers bring life, color and joy to our homes. Watch as Kurt Christoffer, floral designer and owner of the innovative Christoffer's Flowers of Mountainside, demonstrates how to arrange three different floral arrangements. Using flowers from the garden, along with foliage from trees and shrubs, participants will learn to create distinctive personal arrangements using a large container, a square container and a single flower vase. Take home a single beauty after artfully arranging it in class. Flowers and single flower vases will be provided. **Fee:** \$25/ IC, \$30/OC. *Sponsored by the Trailside Museum Association.*

Lecture: A Naturalist's Diary

Wednesday, May 6

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Audubon Naturalist Pete Bacinski offers a program complete with all those natural history facts and questions you never thought to ask, as well as images of Mother Nature's oddities. This PowerPoint presentation will touch on birds, wildflowers, ferns, mammals, reptiles and amphibians as well as many unusual natural history events. After you take this class you will want to sign up for *Nature Journaling* on **Thursday, May 21** Free. Donations welcomed.



Workshop: Dried Flower Collage

Saturday, May 9

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join the acclaimed artist Beth Murphy as she demonstrates the process of flower pressing, while identifying the materials required and the proper preparation and techniques. Participants will work with pressed botanical materials supplied by the instructor. Basic collage design elements will be demonstrated. Participants will create a small collage on a card or bookmark to take with them. **Fee:** \$25/IC, \$30/OC. Light refreshments will be served.

Beth Murphy's artwork will be on display at Trailside from April to August.

Adult Workshops continued....

Workshop: Nature Journaling
Thursday, May 21
7:00 - 8:15 PM

Learn to keep a nature journal and enjoy the satisfaction of recording your observations and perceptions of the natural world through writing and sketching. The workshop will highlight various techniques and ideas, while examining some examples

of nature journals. A short hike followed by an opportunity to put into practice some of the techniques discussed. A small nature journal will be provided. Please bring any other materials you would like to use.

Fee: \$20/IC, \$25/OC.



Cooking with Wild Edibles
Thursday, June 11
7:00 - 9:00 PM

You'll never look at a weed the same way. Learn to identify some common plants of the Watchung Reservation. Trailside Senior Park Naturalist Joe Filo will teach you how to collect, prepare and cook these familiar, backyard plants. Sample delicious foods including "cossack asparagus," wild salad and mint tea. **Fee:** \$15/IC, \$20/OC.



Butterfly Gardening
Saturday, June 20
1:00 - 2:30 PM

Butterflies are beautiful and their life-styles are amazing. Find out which butterflies are most common in this area and learn how you can attract them to your backyard. Take a brief tour of our butterfly garden and meadow habitat and return to the Visitor Center to learn more about these incredible lepidopterons. Wear comfortable shoes.

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

WILD EARTH FEST

at Trailside Nature & Science Center



SUNDAY,
APRIL 26, 2015
11 AM - 5 PM
RAIN or SHINE

An entertaining family event to celebrate the Earth. Learn ways to become eco-friendly & increase your awareness of wildlife conservation.



- Live Animal Demonstrations & Educational Displays
- Fun Family Activities For All Ages
- Music, Face Painting, Recycling Olympics, Eco-Art, Giveaways and Vendors
- Wildlife Photography Contest and Environmental Hero Award Winners Announced

Please, No Pets Permitted.

“Get Your Green On...”

ADMISSION: \$4 per person,
Ages 6 & under **FREE**
Includes admission to Touch A Truck Event

Trailside Nature & Science Center
452 New Providence Road
Mountainside, NJ 07092
(908)789-3670
www.ucnj.org/trailside



Touch A Truck

at Watchung Reservation Lower Loop Parking Lot

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015

11 AM - 5 PM

RAIN or SHINE

Admission: \$4/person, ages 6 & under FREE.

Includes admission to Wild Earth Fest Event



Youngsters are invited to climb aboard dump trucks, bulldozers, police cars, HAZMAT response units and "The Bear" used by the Union County SWAT team in emergencies.

For more information visit www.ucnj.org.

Please, No Pets Permitted.

ASTRONOMY DAY

Saturday, May 2, 2015



1:00 - 4:00 PM

Presentations on astronomy suitable for the entire family. Children's activities at Trailside Nature & Science Center. *Pre-registration recommended, walk-ins welcome. Visit the Amateur Astronomers, Inc. at www.asterism.org.*

7:00-10:30 PM

Visit the William Miller Sperry Observatory located at 1033 Springfield Avenue on the Union County College Cranford Campus for an evening of night sky gazing. For additional information please email info@asterism.org.



NOMINATE AN ENVIRONMENTAL HERO

Small steps can lead to big changes for our planet. From recycling and litter pick-ups to planting trees and living greener, people are taking strides and inspiring others to help the planet. Union County and the Trailside Museum Association (TMA) would like to recognize and honor the environmental heroes in our community!

1. Each entry must include:

- An **essay** describing why your nominee or group is qualified to receive the award.
- **Contact information** for the nominator and nominee (name, age, address, telephone number, e-mail).
- Photograph(s) which accompany the essay.

2. Participants may nominate individuals or groups who have taken action for environmental change in their community.

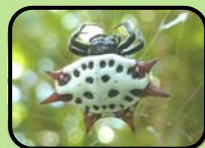
3. Entries must be received or postmarked by **April 10, 2015**.

Nominations can be emailed to bnovorro@ucnj.org or mailed to Trailside. TMA board members will award prizes to the winners at:

WILD EARTH FEST on April 26, 2015.



Wildlife Photography Contest



Grab your camera and head outside!

Photography is a fun hobby and wildlife makes a challenging subject. Learn more about nature by observing animals in their natural habitat while you strive to compose the perfect photograph.

Twelve winners will have their photographs published in the Trailside 2016 calendar. Winners will be announced on **Sunday, April 26** at **WILD EARTH FEST**.

For additional information on how to enter this contest, call Trailside at 908-789-3670 or visit us on line at www.ucnj.org/trailside for a complete brochure with rules, regulations and a registration form.



SPRING GARDEN FAIR & PLANT SALE

Sunday, May 17

Noon - 4 p.m. Rain or Shine

at Trailside Nature & Science Center, Mountainside, NJ
(on the corner of New Providence Rd. & Coles Ave.)



- Free admission
- Free Parking
- Large Variety of Plants for sale
- Free expert gardening advice
- Gardening book sale
- Café and bake sale
- Children's activities
- Plant & insect problems clinic
- 4-H tree and horticulture therapy displays
- Demonstration, Vegetable and Herb Garden tours
- Soil test kits for sale
- Free Rutgers Fact Sheets
- No Credit Cards accepted



Bring your own wagon
if you have one!

NO PETS PLEASE

For general information and a list of plants offered
visit the Union County Master Gardeners' website online at
<http://mastergardeners-uc.org/>
or call the Master Gardeners at (908) 654-9852

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Department of Parks & Community Renewal.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.



RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Mark Your Calendars!



Harvest Festival
September 27
11 AM - 5 PM
Admission: \$4/person,
ages 7 & under free.

**Mineral, Gem &
Jewelry Show**
November 7 & 8
Noon - 5 PM
Free Admission



Nature Craft Show
December 6
11 AM - 5 PM
Admission: Canned
goods or unwrapped toy

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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