

A SERVICE OF THE
UNION COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN
FREEHOLDERS



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

Winter at Trailside



**Register
Online!**

February - March 2016

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, after-school 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

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 18

Lincoln's Birthday - February 12

President's Day - February 15

Good Friday - March 25

Trailside will be CLOSED on the following days:

New Year's Day - January 1

Easter Sunday - March 27

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

- Three ways to register for workshops:
 - Register online at www.ucnj.org/trailside and click the **Online Registration** tab.
 - Register in-person 12:00 - 4:45 PM daily at Trailside.
 - Register by mail.
 - 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 space availability *prior* to sending payment.
 - Checks made payable to “**County of Union.**”
 - Trailside can accept Visa, MasterCard, AMEX & Discover in person. Credit card payments cannot be accepted over the phone or by mail.
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- In the event of inclement weather, call Trailside for cancellations.
- 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 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 offered.
- 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.

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: Wednesdays or Fridays 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**

Feb. 3 or 5 **Under the Sea** - Use your imagination on a journey through the mysterious ocean world. Learn which creatures make seashells, where "Nemo" lives and who is the largest animal living in the sea.

Feb. 10 or 12 **Crafty Critter Valentines** - Do worms, bats and jellyfish deserve a Valentine? Learn about the "often unlovable" and find out what makes them special. Make a valentine with a clever sayings such as, "Please *bee* mine" or "*Bear* with me." Try matching animals with their sweethearts.

Feb. 17 or 19 **Arctic Explorations** - Think it's cold in New Jersey this time of year? Learn about a place that is even colder...the arctic tundra! Discover what types of animals live in this icy habitat, and find out fascinating facts about how animals survive in the extreme cold.

Feb. 24 or 26 **Wigwam Ways** - Have fun learning all about the Lenape Native Americans who lived here long ago. Touch real tools and animal skins, visit a wigwam and make a bear claw necklace to take home.

Mar. 2 or 4 **Winter Snacks for Wildlife** - During the winter food is limited for animals. Learn where they find food and how they manage to keep full bellies through this long season. Make a craft to display and give to the wild animals that live in your backyard.

Toddler Time continued...

Mar. 9 or 11 **Starry-Night** - Wear your pajamas and have fun learning about the night sky! Discover secrets of the stars, and what instruments we can use to study them. Find out what constellations are and how they have been used to tell stories. Use magical "moon dust" to make a picture to take home!

Mar.16 or 18 **Evergreens** - Use your eyes to search for trees that stay green all year. Feel pine needles that are prickly and others that are tickly. Match pine cones and look for clues from animals that make evergreens their home.

Mar. 23 or 25 **Cool Caves** - Learn what a cave is and how it is formed. Discover which animals live in this dark, *cool*, hidden habitat and how they can use their super senses to survive.

Mar. 30 or Apr. 1 **Camping 101** - Have fun learning about the necessities for a successful camping trip. Find out which items you need to bring along and discover what you might see and hear in the woods at night! Finish your camper training by visiting a real camp site and relaxing around a campfire as we listen to a story.

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 Thursday, 10:00-11:00 AM

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

Feb. 2 or 4 **Swell Shells** - Did you know that a seashell was once an animal home? Sift through our sand table to find shells that match. Learn about the animals that once lived in them and use shells to create a beach scene.

Feb. 9 or 11 **Valentines for Everyone** - Say Happy Valentine's Day to vultures, spiders, frogs and more. Discover how these "often unlovable" animals help the environment. Have fun making a Valentine's Day card to celebrate your loved one.

Two of Us continued...

Feb. 16 or 18 All About the Arctic - The arctic tundra is cold, snowy, and icy. Learn about this amazing habitat and discover how animals such as polar bears, arctic fox and wolves survive in one of the coldest places on earth.

Feb. 23 or 25 Native American Life - Discover the way of life of the original people, the Lenape. Listen to stories and learn how they survived in the wilderness. Play games that Lenape children once played.

Mar. 1 or 3 Winter Survival - When winter approaches discover why monarchs and birds migrate. Find out why deciduous trees drop their leaves to survive the winter and investigate the winter woods.

Mar. 8 or 10 Twinkle, Twinkle - What are those “diamonds” in the night sky? Learn the secrets of the stars and how they can be used to tell stories. Take an imaginary journey through our solar system, and make a special star craft to take home.

Mar. 15 or 17 Perfect Pines - Discover why pine trees stay green all year round. Learn about pine trees that are tickly, spruce trees that are prickly and a fir tree named Doug. Make a “tree”mendous craft to take home.

Mar. 22 or 24 Cave Dwellers - Crickets, bats and bears, oh my! Use your imagination to explore a cave. Learn about the different animals that live in a cave and discover how their senses of smell and hearing help them survive.

Mar. 29 or 31 A Camping We Will Go! - Learn about the different items you need to bring when you go on a camping trip. Find out what sights and sounds you might encounter in the woods at night! Take a nature walk to visit a camp site, go inside a tent and listen to a story around a campfire!



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 or Thursdays, 1:15-2:30 PM

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

Feb. 2 or 4 Shell Search - Leave winter behind and take an imaginary vacation to a seaside resort. Use your imagination to look along the sandy beaches for shells and dive under the water to learn about the creatures who lurk below. Use the shells you collect to create a seashore scene to take home.

Feb. 9 or 11 Bee My Valentine - Slimy, stinky, scaly and small. Have fun learning about bees, skunks, toads and other animals that are often overlooked as lovable. Find out how they help the environment, and create a Valentine's Day card with a special message.

Feb. 16 or 18 Arctic Adventures - Think New Jersey winters are too cold? Maybe you'll feel a little warmer after we learn about one of the coldest places on earth, the arctic tundra! Find out fascinating facts about this frosty habitat and the animals that call this place home.

Feb. 23 or 25 Growing Up Lenape - Use your imagination to see what it was like to live as a Native American child. Discover how Lenape toys are made. Play games and practice the fox walk.

Mar. 1 or 3 Animal Adaptations - Discover the special adaptations many animals have developed to cope with cold winter months. Take a walk to look for wildlife in winter. Try to find a squirrel using it's tail to stay warm, a bird with its feathers puffed up or a chipmunk gathering food.

Mar. 8 or 10 The Night Sky - *Star light, star bright.* Learn about the stars twinkling in the night sky. Find out how stars have been used to tell stories and make an *out of this world* star craft to take home.

Small Fry Days Continued...

- Mar. 15 or 17** **Looking for Green** - Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by searching for trees that are *evergreen*. Find out which animals may be hiding in them and what type of food they give to wildlife. Have fun counting how many green trees you can find!
- Mar. 22 or 24** **Creatures of the Cave** - Discover which animals call caves their home. Learn how these mysterious habitats are formed and find out what adaptations animals need to survive in these cool, dark places.
- Mar. 29 or 31** **Be Prepared!** - Camping is a fun way to spend time in nature. Discover the different items you should bring with you to ensure your camping trip is a success! Visit a campsite, and see what it's like to go inside a real tent! Finish our class in true camping fashion by hearing a story around a campfire.



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

Feb. 4 Winter Survival- These cold months can be harsh on the plants and animals. Find out ways animals have adapted to these long cold days and what they do to protect themselves from the cold. Go on a hike and search for some animal homes and hideouts.

Feb. 11 Animal Valentines - Heart shaped candies and Valentine's cards are nothing compared to the show that nature puts on in the name of love! Find out how animals send out their "valentines" and make a special holiday craft for someone you love.

Feb. 18 February Festivities - Sweetest Fish - Fish for facts about different types of fish that inhabit the lakes and ponds of the Watchung Reservation. Take an up close look at Trailside's resident fish, and learn how fins help them swim up, down, side to side and even backwards. Help to feed the fish in the wetland habitat exhibits.

Feb. 25 Tracking 101 - Learn to identify tracks of different animals that live in the Watchung Reservation. Discover the best places to look for tracks. Take a walk to find out which wildlife species have been visiting the area.



Mar. 3 Radical Reptiles - Snakes, turtles, lizards, crocodiles and alligators look very different, but because they are reptiles, they share many common traits. Meet live snakes and turtles from Trailside's reptile collection to learn about these very special animals.

Mar. 10 Mammals - Mammals are found throughout the world. They live in a variety of habitats and are different sizes, shapes and colors. Discover the characteristics that make them mammals and investigate the elaborate ways some mammals communicate with each other.

Afterschool Explorations continued...

- Mar. 17 In Search of Green** - With spring almost here, our scavenger hunt theme is green. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by searching for budding leaves, evergreen trees, ferns, moss and other greenery. Find out how many different types of green you can find!
- Mar. 24 Insects Are Important** - Where do all the bugs go during the winter? Find out how butterflies, ladybugs, praying mantids and other insects have adapted to survive the cold winter months. Have fun using Trailside's new Smart Board Technology to create an insect.
- Mar. 31 Amphibian Adventures** - The word "amphibian" means double life. Learn who these animals are and what traits they have in common. Find out where they over-winter and discover which ones wake up first.



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.**

Feb. 6 Winter Seasonal - Explore the Watchung Reservation in winter. Learn how to identify trees without their leaves. Hike the nursery trails to search for deer paths, rabbit tracks and other animal signs. **2:00 PM.**

Feb. 20 Owls - Learn about different species of owls. Listen to calls of the screech, great horned, snowy and barred owls. Take a walk to known owl prowling sites in search of some owl pellets. **2:00 PM.**



Mar. 12 Scatology - Scat is the scientific name for animal poop! Learn to identify some local animal neighbors by the scat they leave behind. Take a close up look at (rubber) scat and hike one of our trails in search of many different types of animal signs. **2:00 PM.**

Mar. 26 Early Spring Hike - As spring arrives, plants, trees and animals are becoming active. Explore the Reservation for young leaves, spring peeper frogs, groundhogs and other signs of spring. **2:00 PM.**

TRAILSIDE TALKS

**Programs for adults with high school students.
Walk-ins welcome.**

Guided Nature Hike

Saturday, February 27

10:00 - 11:30 AM

This will be an opportunity to walk deeper into the trail system and experience the beauty of the Watchung Reservation. Join a Trailside naturalist for a guided hike along one of the bucolic trails. You will learn to identify some of the winter trees and observe signs of animal activity. Stop off at a sugar maple tree tapped to collect sap to make syrup. You will also learn the ways in which plants and animals adapt to the winter. Please dress appropriately for the weather. **Fee: \$10/IC, \$12/OC.**

The Lenape-Delaware Indian Heritage

Saturday, March 19

2:00 - 3:00 PM



John Kraft, Director of Lenape Lifeways, Inc. is an archeologist and educator who will present an engaging lecture on the 12,000 year old history of the Native peoples with a focus on the formation of the Lenape culture, including later European contact and Native displacement. The program examines legends, customs and traditions, as well as the daily life and economy of the Lenape. Participants will have an opportunity to handle authentic and re-created artifacts such as masks, clothing, musical instruments and tools. This program is made possible in part by funding from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. **Fee: Free. Donations welcomed.**



International Space Station

Saturday, March 26

2:00 - 3:00 PM

NASA Solar System Ambassador Paul Cirillo delivers a fascinating presentation on living and working on the International Space Station. Internet resources will be demonstrated to show how everyone can see the space station pass overhead from their backyards using just their eyes. **Fee: Free. Donations Welcomed.**

FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

February 13 - 15, 2016

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

1:00 - 2:00 PM Snakes & Turtles of NJ

Find out what turtles and snakes have in common and where they go for the winter months. Learn about the different kinds of snakes and turtles living in New Jersey. Meet live snakes and turtles from Trailside's reptile collection. **Fee:** \$5/person IC, \$6/person OC.

SATURDAY, FEB. 13 & MONDAY, FEB. 15 (President's Day)

The Journey of Sap to Syrup

2:30 - 3:30 PM



See how 100% real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree. Find out what equipment is needed to collect sap and take part in a taste test to see if you can identify the real thing.

Fee: \$5/person IC, \$6/person OC.

PRESIDENTS' DAY, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

1:30 - 2:15 PM Matinee - LASERMANIA



When it's time to just rock-out and have a good time, Lasermania is the perfect rockin' family fun event. Set to positively-themed popular rock/pop music, this laser light show will bring the house down. Have fun and sing along as the colorful laser lights "dance" to the music. **Recommended for children ages 4 and up.** Space is limited. Tickets go on sale at 1:00 PM.

No strollers please. Fee: \$5/person.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT SUMMER!

Trailside 2016 Summer Camp Programs

Register
Online!

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is pleased to announce that registration for Trailside Nature and Science Center's popular Summer Camp and Family Programs will be available online.



Pre-first grade programs

Half & full-day camps for
grades 1-9

Friday Family workshops

Tuesday Evening workshops

Family Evening Campfire

Over-night Beginner Family
Camp-Outs

Online registration for Union County Residents Only, begins on
March 28, 2016 at 8:00 AM.

We highly recommend you create an account and password, if you have not already done so, prior to Monday, March 28, 2016. Visit www.ucnj.org/trailside and select Online Registration.

All residents, including Non-County residents, may register online beginning Wednesday, March 30 at 8:00 AM.

JOIN THE TRAILSIDE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

The Trailside Museum Association (TMA) is Trailside Nature and Science Center's volunteer support group. The mission of this organization is to assist staff in their ongoing efforts to interest and educate people in all phases of nature, science, conservation and related recreation, through funding projects and as volunteers.

TMA was formed in 1956. Members staffed the museum store, provided funds for the construction of a classroom and donated money towards many of the old museum's displays.

More recently TMA funded the construction of the large resin American Beech tree, or "tree of life," and the taxidermy animals associated with it. Additionally funding was provided for a spotting scope for use in birding programs, a condition assessment of Trailside's taxidermy collection, computerized, interactive kiosks and construction of a "backyard" pond that can be viewed from the Visitor's Center.

TMA members will receive a Trailside Newsletter announcing special TMA events, including their annual fall hayride. Articles highlighting seasonal activity in the Watchung Reservation, environmental issues, facility improvements, volunteer achievements and staff biographies are featured in each edition. Members also receive a 20% discount at the museum shop.

Individual membership: \$15/year

Family membership: \$20/year

A gift of \$250 or more will be recognized on an engraved leaf of our Giving Tree, permanently displayed in the renovated Visitor Center.

Checks can be made out to
TRAILSIDE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
and are tax deductible. For a TMA brochure, please call
Trailside at 908-789-3670.

**Celebrate Trailside Nature & Science Center's
75th Anniversary**

Wild Earth Fest

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



Sunday, April 24, 2016
11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Rain or Shine
Ages 6 & under Free



*Live Animal Demonstrations * Educational Displays * Children's Crafts * Music
Eco Art * Free Face Painting * Recycling Olympics
Family Fun For All Ages!*

**Environmental Hero Awards
and Wildlife Photography Contest Winners Announced.**

*For more information on how to participate in these contests, please
call Trailside at 908-789-3670.*



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