

A Service of the Union County
Board of Chosen Freeholders



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

Experience Nature at Trailside



February & March 2018

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.

Classes fill quickly, so please register soon.



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 12 - 5 p.m. on**

Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day - January 15

President's Day -
February 19

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Register online at www.ucnj.org/trailside and click the Online Registration tab. A new online registration system, designed to make access to our services easy and convenient, has been adopted. Please visit our new site to create your account and password.

Register in-person 12:00 - 4:45 pm daily at Trailside. Credit card payments cannot be accepted over the phone or by mail.

*We are unable to accept personal checks
as of January 1, 2017.*



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 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.

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.
- 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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- Feb. 8** **Fox Facts** - Discover fun facts about one of the **9 or 10** Reservation's most secretive animals, the fox. Feel fox fur and learn the differences between the red and gray fox. Practice walking like a fox, sniffing for food and pouncing on prey.
- Feb. 15** **Give a Gift to Wildlife** - During winter, food is scarce for **16 or 17** many animals. Learn how our animal neighbors survive the cold winter months. Say "Happy Valentine's Day" to wild life by creating a delicious gift to display in your yard.
- Feb. 22** **Eskimo Time** - Take an imaginary trip to the Arctic to learn **23 or 24** about the native people who inhabit the last frontier. Discover how the traditions of the Eskimo, or Inuit, people have helped them survive in their Arctic environment. Play an Inuit game and make a craft to take home.
- Mar. 1** **Little Stinkers** - Say "hello" to our stinky friend, the skunk. **2 or 3** Practice the "Skunk Shuffle" dance steps that are used to warn other animals to stay away. Find out what these nocturnal animals like to eat and where they sleep.
- Mar. 8** **Four Seasons** - As we shiver with the cold winter winds, **9 or 10** use your imagination to feel the heat of the summer and smell the sweet flowers of spring. Through hands-on activities and special crafts, explore the changes we see in nature all year round.

Toddler Time Continued...

Mar. 15 Cute Chemists - Even our youngest friends can have fun
16 or 17 learning about chemistry. Using household items including corn starch, baking soda, vinegar and food coloring, children will enjoy simple experiments and hands on activities.

Mar. 22 Types of Stripes - Help the tiger find its stripes and discover
23 or 24 how stripes help the tiger survive in the wild. Investigate how animals, such as zebra, use stripes to hide while others, such as bees, use their stripes as a warning. Have fun matching animals to their stripes.

Mar. 29 Rrriinnggg... - Time to wake up! Sunshine, longer days
30 or 31 and warmer temperatures means SPRING! Hike to look for signs of spring and count the birds, mammals, insects and flowers you find.



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.

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

Feb. 6 or 7 **Trail of the Fox** - There are foxes living in the reservation! Learn about the two different kinds that are found here. Take a walk to search for signs of these shy and sly animals.

Feb. 13 or 14 **Wild Valentines** - Winter is a tough time for wildlife. Animals adapt to the cold in different ways. Some animal neighbors sleep all winter while others "vacation" in warmer places. Help the wildlife in your yard by making a special Valentine's gift to give them.

Feb. 20 or 21 **Eskimo Life** - Do you have what it takes to survive in one of the world's harshest climates? Put on your "Imagination Parka" and head north to explore the unique culture of the Inuit. Discover why the Arctic is such a tough place to live, and find out how long these Native Americans have called it home.

Feb. 27 or 28 **Skunk Secrets** - As you are getting ready for bed, skunks are just waking up. Find out how skunks keep warm, find food and protect themselves. Learn the "Skunk Shuffle" and make a cute craft to take home.

Mar. 6 or 7 **Discovering Seasons** - It may be cold now, but warm days are ahead. Learn fun facts about the different seasons and enjoy an imaginary adventure through winter, spring, summer and fall.



Two of Us Continued...

- Mar. 13 or 14** **Let's Mix it Up** - What happens when we mix two things together? This is a question that every preschooler loves to ask! What happens when I put water in the sandbox? What happens when I mix the foods on my plate? Mixing things together *is* chemistry! Explore the world of chemistry with hands on activities and experiments.
- Mar. 20 or 21** **Tiger Treks** - Use your imagination as we visit the Indian jungle in search of tigers. Hike to look for tiger tracks, discover what they eat and how their stripes help them hide.
- Mar. 27 or 28** **Spring's A-Coming** - Spring has finally arrived, and it means more sunshine, warmer temperatures, longer days and animals waking up from long winter naps. Explore the outdoors looking for signs of spring.



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.

Younger and older children will not be permitted to attend this program. Please see Saturday Outdoor Adventures.

WHEN: Tues., 10:00 - 11:15 AM

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

OC - \$12/child

Feb. 6 Fox on the Run - Investigate the differences between red and gray foxes. Discover what they eat and how they live. Search outside for fox tracks, dens and other signs.

Feb. 13 Be My Valentine - Winter is a tough time for wildlife for many reasons. Learn how animals survive these cold winter months, and give them a present to say "Happy Valentine's Day!" Make a critter card to give to your friend or family member and spread the Valentine's Day cheer.

Feb. 20 Who Are the Eskimos? - Long ago, the native people of the Arctic were called "Eskimos." Today, the native people of the Arctic regions are known as the Inuit, which means 'the people.' Put on your parka and explore the unique Inuit culture. Find out how they survive in the frozen frontier of the Arctic.

Feb. 27 Skunk-ology - Learn interesting facts about this often misunderstood animal. Discover what skunks eat, where they live and how they defend themselves from predators.

Mar. 6 Seasons Change - What is your favorite season? Find out why the seasons change and take an imaginary journey to experience winter, spring, summer and fall. Have fun exploring each season.

Small Fry Days Continued....

Mar. 13 Chemistry - What's the Solution? - Chemistry is all around us as we cook in the kitchen, look up at colorful fireworks and watch magicians perform tricks. Have fun learning about chemistry through observation and hands on experiments!

Mar. 20 Tiger Stripes - Take a make-believe safari ride through grasslands and jungles of India in search of the mighty tiger and its stripes. Learn interesting facts about these cool cats and the other wildlife that have stripes.

Mar. 27 Spring Tyke Hike - Scrunch up that nose, wiggle your toes and get ready for a hike to find red cardinals, orange rocks, yellow dandelions and green clovers. Search high and low for all the colors of spring, and learn about the exciting things happening during this time of year.



AFTERSCHOOL EXPLORATIONS GRADE SCHOOL PROGRAM

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

WHO: 1st - 3rd graders.

WHEN: Thursdays, 3:30-4:45 PM

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

OC - \$12/child

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- Feb. 1** **Winter Wonders** - Explore the Watchung Reservation in winter. Learn how to identify trees without their leaves and hike near-by trails in search of deer paths, rabbit tracks, squirrel nests and other animal signs.
 - Feb. 8** **Winter Crafts & Creations** - Get ready for Valentine's Day and spend the afternoon making creative crafts out of natural and recycled materials. Give your projects as gifts or use them to decorate your home.
 - Feb. 15** **Maple Sugaring** - See how real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree. Find out what equipment is needed to collect and process the sap. Take part in a taste test and try to identify the real thing.
 - Feb. 22** **Venomous Snakes** - There are 21 different species of snakes that inhabit New Jersey, but only two of them are venomous. Find out which ones they are, how to identify them and where to find them. Meet live (non-venomous) snakes from Trailside's reptile collection.
 - Mar. 1** **Wild Cats** - Big cats are important to the health of the environment. Learn interesting facts about cougars, lynx and bobcats. Discover which cat lives in NJ and find out how their special adaptations make them top predators.

Afterschool Explorations Continued...

- Mar. 8 Eco Artist** - Each season brings new beauty; snowflakes, flowers, rainbows and leaves. Celebrate the changes of nature through arts and crafts that capture the magnificence of each season.
- Mar. 15 The Bear Facts** - Learn about New Jersey's only bear, the black bear. Discover how these bears live, what they eat and if they visit the Watchung Reservation. See a bear skull, feel a bear pelt and compare your foot to the paw print of a bear.
- Mar. 22 Blue Trail Hike** - Hike this scenic trail on the first official day of Spring! Join us as we meander through the hills and along the Blue Brook. Take a look at the old copper mine and see what signs of spring can be found.
- Mar. 29 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.



TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Participants receive six (6) NJDOE credits for each workshop.

Dress: for the weather. Some time may be spent outside.

Fee per workshop: \$20/person. Bring: a lunch.

Project WET

Thursday, March 15

9:00 am - 3:00 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. Curriculum guide included.



Project WILD

Wednesday, May 9

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Whether you are a formal or informal educator, Project WILD can assist you in teaching math, science, social studies, literacy and art to any grade level. You will acquire new teaching skills and practices that translate into more effective teaching. Prepare to get *WILD* in the classroom through a multitude of interdisciplinary, hands-on and educational activities, teacher tested and classroom ready for K-12 students. Project WILD lessons are correlated to NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. Curriculum guide included.

TRAILSIDE TALKS

*Programs for adults and High School Students.
Preregistration preferred. Walk-ins welcomed. Fee: Free.*

Friday, February 16

The History of African Americans in Union County

7:00 - 8:00 pm

John Prescott, History Programs Coordinator of the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, will trace the history, with highlighted stories, of African Americans in our county back to the Revolutionary War. This talk recognizes and celebrates African American contributions to the Union County community. **Free.**



Saturday, March 24

The Solar System

2:00 - 3:00 pm



NASA Solar System Ambassador Paul Cirillo will present a breathtaking photographic tour of the planets, asteroids and comets in our Solar System. The talk will also highlight the current and future space missions that NASA and the Jet Propulsion laboratory have planned to explore these celestial wonders. There will be ample time for questions and answers. **Free.**

FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders presents special programs for families and adults during the Presidents' Day Holiday. Programs are recommended for families with children ages 5 & up. Pre-registration required. Walk-ins will be accommodated as space permits. **Fee: \$5/person IC, \$6/person OC**

Register online at: www.ucnj.org/trailside

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

JOURNEY OF SAP TO SYRUP 11:00 AM - 12:30 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. Dress for the weather. There will be a short walk to the tapped tree.

OUTRAGEOUS OWLS 1:00-2:00 PM

Find out about the different species of owls that live in the Watchung Reservation. Listen to calls of the screech, great horned and barred owls. View mounted specimens and learn about the special adaptations that make these birds successful hunters.

ANIMAL CLUE WINTER WALK

2:30 - 3:30 PM

Search for buck rubs, animal tracks, nibbled twigs and other signs that tell us our animal neighbors have visited. Warm up around a campfire with hot chocolate and toast marshmallows.



FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

PRESIDENT'S DAY, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

JOURNEY OF SAP TO SYRUP

11:00 AM-12:30 PM

See previous description.



MAD SCIENCE OF WEST NEW JERSEY

Join professional teachers from the Mad Science team to discover how much fun science can be. Through hands-on demonstrations, unique equipment and animated instructors, children are sure to have fun while learning about science. *Recommended for children ages 8 - 12.* Max 25 kids per class. **Fee per class:** \$10/IC, \$12/OC.

CHEM IN A FLASH

Hop on board the chemistry express for a high-speed science experience! Perform instantaneous experiments in this fast-paced class on split-second reactions that go like mad! Pick up an Action Flask and have a blast!

Two sessions: 1:00 & 2:00 pm.



PLANETS AND MOONS

Explore the farthest reaches of our solar system and create a lunar eclipse in this mad planetary tour! Learn how the planets stack up. Build and take home Kepler's Cube, a fun and educational 3-D Solar System puzzle. **Two sessions: 1:00 & 2:00 pm.**

Register online at: www.ucnj.org/trailside

WINTER ART EXTRAVAGANZA

12:30 - 3:30 PM

Drop in anytime to use your artistic abilities by creating crafts that celebrate the season. Let winter and snow be your inspiration for this arts and crafts session. All Ages. **Fee:** \$5/person IC, \$6/person OC. *Pre-registration is not required for this program.*

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. 24 Nature Scavenger Hunt** - Can you find an old bird nest, a red berry and an animal footprint? Have fun learning about nature on a scavenger hunt around Trailside. Work together to find something that is soft, something that flies and an animal that says its name! **2:00 PM.**
- Mar. 17 Searching for Green** - Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in search of all things green. Take a walk to look for budding leaves, evergreen trees, ferns and moss. **2:00 PM.**
- Mar. 31 Sounds of Spring** - Listen for birds chirping, spring peepers peeping and other wonderful sounds of spring. Discover why animals "sing" and learn to identify them by the songs they make. **2:00 PM.**



Trailside 2018 Summer Camp Program Registration Begins March 3rd at 9:00 AM for Union County Residents

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

Visit www.ucnj.org/trailside & select Online Registration tab.

If you have not already done so, we highly recommend you create an account and password on the Union County Online Registration site prior to Saturday, March 3rd. Please make sure you include all family members participating in Trailside's summer programs. The brochure will be available online before registration begins.

Please read all general & cancellation policies before registering.

Pre-first grade programs



Half & full-day camps for
grades 1– 6th

Friday Family programs

Tuesday Evening programs

Family Evening Campfire

Over-night Family Campout for
Beginners

In-person registration is welcome at the Trailside Visitor Center on March 3 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Cash and credit cards accepted. We are unable to accept personal checks.

Non-county residents, may register online or in-person beginning Monday, March 5 at 9:00 AM.

Wild Earth Fest

at Trailside Nature & Science Center

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

Sunday, April 29, 2018
11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



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

Environmental Hero Awards

For more information on how to nominate an environmental hero in your neighborhood, please call Trailside at 908-789-3670.

Touch A Truck

at Watchung Reservation Lower Loop Parking Lot



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 serious emergencies.

Sunday, April 29, 2018
11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

For more information about these Union County special events visit www.ucnj.org.

ASTRONOMY DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018

ADMISSION: FREE

1:00-4:00 PM

Astronomy Presentations at Trailside

Suitable for the entire family. Enjoy children's activities and a presentation on "The Three Planets of Summer: Mars, Jupiter & Saturn."

7:30-10:30PM

Stargazing at Union County College

Visit the William Miller Sperry Observatory for an evening of night sky gazing (weather permitting).

For more information email: info@asterism.org



**Experience
Your Universe
with AAI!**

AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS, INC.



Visit AAI at William Miller Sperry Observatory
Union County College • 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ

www.asterism.org