

Nature Programming

Need a shortcut? www.itasca.com/nature

Springbrook Nature Center

Location:
130 Forest Ave.
Itasca, IL 60143
630/773-5572

Building Hours:
Apr/May/Sep/Oct
Tue and Thu ONLY
4-7PM
Sat & Sun: 11AM to 5PM
Nov-Mar
Closed M-F
Sat & Sun: 11AM to 5PM



Nature Center Rentals

NEW!

We now have rentals available at the Nature Center! Rent the classroom, the Picnic Shelter or campfire ring for a fun and unique event. Please fill out a Room Rental Request Application and turn it in to the Registration Desk. We will work with you to schedule a date. (CC)

For more information please call Chris at 630-773-2257.

For more information about...

Nature Programming and Preschool



Please contact:
Chris Carling (CC), CPRP
Nature & Recreation Supervisor
E-mail: chris@itascaparkdistrict.com
Phone: 630-773-2257, ext. 125

■ Resident rates for Nature programming apply to residents of the Itasca Park District and Village of Itasca.

KinderArt Workshop

Join us in this unique, fun and exciting art enrichment class. Your kindergartners will have the opportunity to work with Mr. Whitney as they explore various art mediums while enhancing their creativity and skills. Get ready to draw, point, cut, glue, get messy, and have tons of fun! (CC)

GRADE: Kindergarten

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
6351-0	Wed	Dec 14	4-5pm	\$8/\$10

INSTRUCTOR: Eric Whitney

LOCATION: Nature Center **MIN/MAX:** 8/15

Santa's Workshop!

Join us as we visit Santa's Workshop! The Springbrook Nature Center will be beautifully decorated! We will have cookies and hot chocolate, and do some crafts. There will be a festive display for kids to take pictures with Santa so don't forget your camera! (AB)

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
Fri	Dec 9	5:30-8pm	Free
Sat	Dec 10	11am-1:30pm	Free

LOCATION: Springbrook Nature Center

NEW!

Wonderful Wacky Worms

Yes, those wacky worms have mouths but since they don't have teeth they swallow bits of dirt and rock to grind up their food! Amazing! They also make the earth extra happy by tunneling through the ground and creating room for plant roots to grow! Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to learn about these wiggly creatures and everything they do for us! (CC)

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	AGE
6356-1	Tue	Jan 3	4-5pm	\$6/\$8	6-11
6356-2	Tue	Feb 28	10-11am	\$6/\$8	3-5

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

NEW!

Curious Coyotes

Did you know coyotes yip when they are excited and also as a greeting to say hi? Barking, howling, yipping, and huffing are just a few examples of the ways coyotes communicate. Don't pass up this howling adventure as we explore the life of a coyote! Aoooooo! (CC)

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	AGES
6357-1	Mon	Jan 9	4-5pm	\$6/\$8	6-11
6357-2	Tue	Mar 6	1-2pm	\$6/\$8	3-5*

*With adult at n/c

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

Snowshoeing

Look for signs of winter animals as we take a snowshoe hike around our grounds. You will be surprised at what you can find in the winter; mouse tunnels, deer beds, animal tracks and so much more! Come dressed to be outside. (Weather Permitting) (CC)

AGE: 5-10yrs

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
8382-1	Tue	Jan 10	4-5pm	\$6/\$8
8382-2	Mon	Feb 6	4-5pm	\$6/\$8

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

NEW!

Kiddie Ice-Carving

Winter can get boring for kids at times if they are stuck inside for too long. Get ready for a cool activity! Build colorful ice sculptures and experiment with salt and water to see how it affects the ice. Join us and have a blast sculpting your creations! (CC)

AGE: 8-12yrs

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
8931-1	Mon	Jan 30	4-5pm	\$6/\$8
8931-2	Mon	Feb 27	4-5pm	\$6/\$8

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

NEW!

Scat: What's That?

Who doesn't love learning about scat? Scat is the scientific word for poop! Learning how to identify scat is a significant way to understand where animals hang out, what they eat, and which animal the scat belongs to. Make sure to sign up for this scat-ifying adventure! (CC)

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	AGE
8358-1	Tue	Jan 17	10-11am	\$6/\$8	3-5
8358-2	Mon	Feb 13	4-5pm	\$6/\$8	6-11

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

Animal Tracks

Some animals hibernate or migrate for the winter, while some stick around and rough it through the long, cold winter. Learn which animals to look for and how to identify their tracks as we hike the grounds. Come dressed to be outside. (An indoor rain plan is available!) (CC)

AGE: 5-8yrs

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
8434-0	Mon	Jan 23	5-6pm	\$6/\$8

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Denise MIN/MAX: 10/15

LOCATION: Nature Center

Snack time at the Nature Center

Learn all about what animals eat at the Nature Center. Help feed the animal residents. Then we will make a snack for ourselves. Popcorn will be provided and you can bring one cup of your favorite snack to add to the mix. To end the evening, we will read a story and make a craft. (CC)

AGE: 3-6yrs

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
8442-1	Wed	Jan 18	5-6pm	\$6/\$8
8442-2	Wed	Feb 15	5-6pm	\$6/\$8

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Denise MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

NEW!

Rockin' Robins

We often see these orange breasted cheery birds tugging at worms in our backyards! Even though we consider them familiar town and city birds they're actually quite fond of the deep Alaskan wilderness as well. Feel free to fly out and learn about the neat behaviors of our favorite neighborhood friend the Robin. (CC)

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	AGE
8932-1	Tue	Jan 24	4-5pm	\$6/\$8	4-6
8932-2	Mon	Apr 30	4-5pm	\$6/\$8	7-11

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

Nature Madness Pajama Party

Attention all Nature Lovers! Wear your PJ's and bring your favorite stuffed animal. Together we will watch nature themed movies, munch on snacks, and enjoy related crafts, activities, and games. (CC)

AGE: 5-10yrs

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	THEME	FEE
8420-1	Fri	Jan 20	6-8pm	Penguins	\$12/\$15
8420-2	Fri	Feb 24	6-8pm	Shark Tails	\$12/\$15
8420-3	Fri	Mar 23	6-8pm	Over the Hedge	\$12/\$15
2420-0	Fri	Apr 27	6-8pm	Little Mermaid	\$12/\$15

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Denise MIN/MAX: 10/25

LOCATION: Nature Center

After School Art Club

Students will meet once a week at the Nature Center to participate in unique, fun and exciting art enrichment activities. Each Art Club session will run four weeks and will give students the opportunity to explore various art mediums while enhancing their creativity and skills. The projects worked on during each session will correspond with the current season. (CC)

GRADES: 1st-5th

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
8431-1	Thu	Jan 5-26	4-5pm	\$28/\$32
8431-2	Thu	Feb 2-23	4-5pm	\$28/\$32
8431-3	Thu	Mar 1-22	4-5pm	\$28/\$32

INSTRUCTOR: Eric Whitney MIN/MAX: 6/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

Nature Programming

NEW!

Winter Extravaganza

What's so special about that snow and ice? For one thing, there are no two snowflakes exactly alike. Without ice, where would we ice skate? What would keep our food cold? Take a break from hibernation and come join the winter fun as we examine snowflakes, melt ice, and possibly even make our very own snowstorm! (CC)

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	AGE
8318-1	Mon	Jan 23	4-5pm	\$6/\$8	5-11
8318-2	Tue	Jan 31	1-2pm	\$6/\$8	3-5*

*With adult at n/c

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

NEW!

Hootastic Owl Campfire

Hoot Hoot!! The Barred owl call is just one of the many unique owl hoots you may hear during the night-time hours. As courtship season approaches in early February, we might be fortunate enough to come across some owl vocalizations on our night hike! Come discover the secrets of these mystical night creatures as we get toasty around the campfire, call these intelligent evening predators, and enjoy some roasted marshmallows! (CC)

AGE: All-family event

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
8332-0	Sat	Feb 11	7-9pm	\$6/\$8 per person

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield

MIN/MAX: 10/20

LOCATION: Nature Center

Furry Friends

What is warm-blooded, has fur and drinks milk as a baby? Learn all about our fun furry mammal friends. We will explore different wildlife through games, stories and crafts. A live mammal will take part! (CC)

AGE: 5-8yrs

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
8471-0	Thu	Feb 16	6-7pm	\$6/\$8

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Denise

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

NEW!

Bouncin' Bunnies

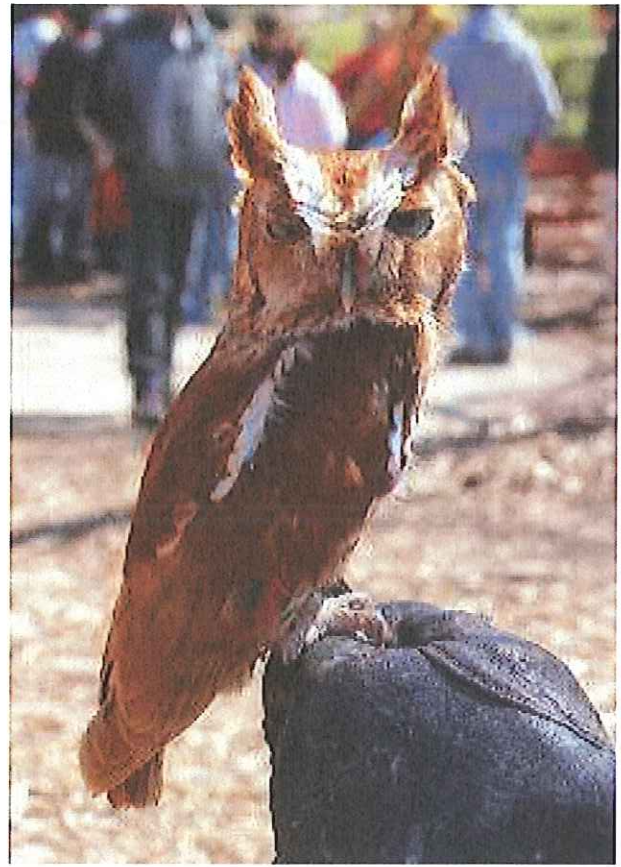
There are many different types of rabbits; one being the familiar cottontail rabbit we see in our backyard! Most rabbits live in burrows but surprisingly cottontails, like their hare relatives live in nests above ground. Rabbit babies are called kits and they are born naked, blind, and helpless. Wow! Hop on over and discover more rabbit fun! (CC)

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	AGE
2306-1	Tue	Mar 13	10-11am	\$6/\$8	3-5
2306-2	Mon	May 7	4-5pm	\$6/\$8	6-11

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center



NEW!

Who's that Owl?

Owl feathers are uniquely designed to help them fly silently so they can sneak up on their prey! The 14 bones in their neck compared to our 7 assist in turning their heads a whole 270 degrees! Owls possess a variety of adaptations making them brilliant birds of prey. Giant eyes, silent feathers, sharp ears, and strong feet all together have created this magnificent creature! Please come join us for a "whoosterical" time! (CC)

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	AGE
8359-0	Tue	Feb 21	1-2pm	\$6/\$8	3-5*
2359-0	Mon	Apr 9	4-5pm	\$6/\$8	6-11

*With adult at n/c

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

NEW!

Bright Night Snowshoe Hike

There's nothing like an illuminated snowshoe hike in the dead of winter! Come unlock winter's secrets as we hike along a magically lit path while we look and listen for signs of life. Dress warmly and be prepared to have an unforgettable bright winter evening! Age 10 & under must be accompanied by a paying adult. (CC)

AGE: 5 & Up

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
8497-1	Sat	Jan 14	7-9pm	\$12/\$15
8497-2	Fri	Feb 3	7-9pm	\$12/\$15

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield

MIN/MAX: 15/20

LOCATION: Nature Center

Nature Craft Hour

If you like nature, you will love these nature craft projects! Experience the great outdoors in a wonderful new way. Some projects include pine cone mobiles, stick vases, pebble mosaics and much more. (CC)

AGE: 5-10yrs

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
2346-1	Wed	Mar 7	5-6pm	\$6/\$8
2346-2	Wed	Apr 4	5-6pm	\$6/\$8
2346-3	Wed	May 2	5-6pm	\$6/\$8

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Denise

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

Turtle Trouble

Join us as we learn all about turtles. See turtles up close; learn what they eat, and how they live. The evening will also include a story, craft, games, and a snack. Don't miss this "turtley" good time! (CC)

AGE: 5-10yrs

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
8405-0	Wed	Mar 21	5-6pm	\$6/\$8

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Denise

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

NEW!

I Heard a Red-Winged Blackbird

Conklareee! Conklareee! You have probably heard this familiar vocalization signaling the beginning of spring. One of the most common birds found in Illinois, the Red-Winged Blackbird, is one of the first birds we hear upon their return from migration. The males fly home earlier than the females and resonate their calls while claiming their territories and waiting in anticipation for a mate! Come out and discover what being a Red-Winged Blackbird is like! (CC)

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	AGE
2373-1	Mon	Mar 26	4-5pm	\$6/\$8	6-11
2373-2	Tue	Apr 24	1-2pm	\$6/\$8	3-5*

*With adult at n/c

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

NEW!

Soil Secrets

Believe it or not, soil is a living breathing thing! There are thousands of different types of soil, all housing quite a variety of insects, plants, animals, and microorganisms. Dirt, surprisingly, has helped make the lunch you are eating today! Come discover the secret ingredients to make soil! (CC)

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	AGE
2374-1	Mon	Apr 2	4-5pm	\$6/\$8	6-11
2374-2	Tue	Apr 3	10-11am	\$6/\$8	3-5

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

Springbrook Birthday Party Packages

We offer a fun and educational alternative to the usual birthday party. Our parties include a naturalist-led program and a party room at the Nature Center. Call Chris at (630)773-2257 or visit www.itasca.com/birthday-parties for more information. (CC)

Choose from one of the following:

■ Treasure Hunting for Geodes \$215

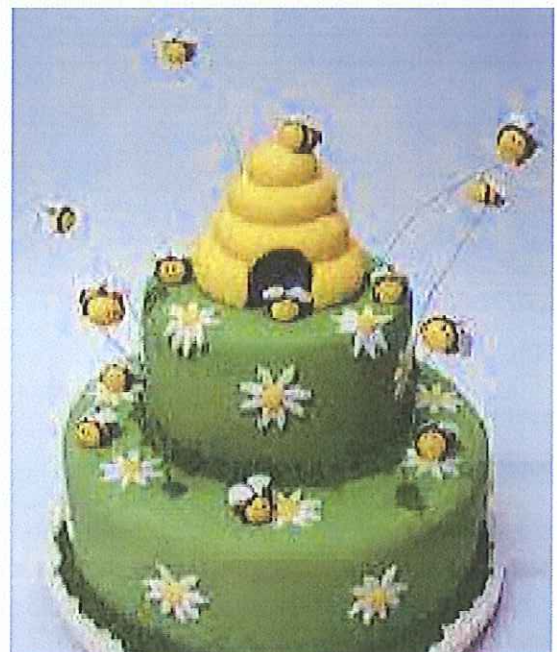
If you want to have the coolest birthday party on the block, then you are at the right place! Join us as we search for a geode, an ordinary-looking rock which, when split apart, reveals a gem-like treasure of sparkling quartz hidden inside. Experience the mystery of holding a million-year-old fossil in the palm of your hand as you learn how geodes are formed. Each child will make their own fossil and will receive their own unique geode.

■ Look What I Made! Nature Crafts \$175

Join the party as we make cool crafts from nature to take home. We'll take a hike outside to gather some craft materials.

■ Astounding Animals \$175

Springbrook has its very own team of superheroes; animals with amazing abilities that any X-Man would envy. Be ready to have a super time as we play games, meet live animals, and make a craft to take home.



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Snakes Alive

What has no legs, smells with its tongue and never blinks? Come and find out all about this fascinating creature. We'll read a story, do a craft, and enjoy a snack. Join us for some slithering good fun. (CC)

AGE: 3-7yrs

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
2935-0	Mon	Apr 16	6-7pm	\$6/\$8

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Denise

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

NEW!

Nature's Secret Basement

It's true my friends; nature has a secret basement! In this basement you can find special critters eating up decomposing materials. Just like we have to help clean up at home and at school, nature has its very own cleaning team. Without these critters we'd be knee deep in rotting wood and old leaves! Come explore nature's basement as we roll over logs and meet this cleanup crew! (CC)

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	AGE
2381-1	Tue	May 1	10-11am	\$6/\$8	3-5
2381-2	Tue	May 8	4-5pm	\$6/\$8	6-11

INSTRUCTOR: Katie Hatfield

MIN/MAX: 8/12

LOCATION: Nature Center

Girl & Cub Scout Programs

We offer fun and educational Scout classes for established troops throughout the year at Springbrook. Programs are interactive and designed to teach an awareness and appreciation for the environment while fulfilling requirements for the achievements, electives, and badges listed on our website at www.itasca.com/nature. Call Chris at (630)773-2257 or visit: www.itasca.com/scouts for more information. (CC)

Spring is Sprung – New Life Begins!

This class is all about baby animals! We will play games and match baby animals to their mothers. Learn what babies eat and when they leave home to be on their own. Take a hike around the grounds in search of all that is new to the Nature Center this spring. (CC)

AGE: 5-10yrs

CODE	DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE
2433-0	Wed	May 16	5-6pm	\$6/\$8

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Denise **MIN/MAX:** 10/20

LOCATION: Nature Center

