

Online registration begins on August 21 at 9:00 am

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY SPECIALS

Online registration at woodlakenaturecenter.org is preferred, walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits, unless otherwise noted. Refund policy: If cancellation is made at least 2 weeks prior to the event, a full refund of 100% will be provided.

Self-Guided Storybook Trail
Discover the wonders of nature on our enchanting Self-Guided Storybook Trail, an experience that invites you to embark on a leisurely stroll through the captivating woodland scenery. Delight in the freedom to set your own pace, immersing yourself in the tranquil sights and soothing sounds of the natural world. Begin your journey at the doorstep of the nature center building, where the trail awaits. As the trail draws to a close, an inviting nature play area awaits your exploration, providing a delightful space to engage in interactive activities. No need to sign up in advance—simply arrive and let your imagination take flight. Every month, a brand-new storybook awaits, adding a touch of excitement and anticipation to your visit. Be sure to mark your calendars for the following dates (all are free of charge).
Saturday, September 30 10:00 am-3:30 pm
Saturday, October 28 10:00 am-3:30 pm
Saturday, November 18 10:00 am-3:30 pm

Honey Harvest **Limit 30**
In a good year, Wood Lake's bees will make over 200 pounds of honey! Discover the active and fascinating life of the honeybee while looking into a beehive and harvesting fresh honey to taste. Learn what you can do at home to maintain healthy bee populations in Minnesota. Online registration at woodlakenaturecenter.org is preferred; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits.
Sunday 1:00-2:30 pm or 3:00-4:30 pm
September 10 \$5/person, 50% off for members

Foraging Fun! **Limit 20**
Join Chick of the Woods for a day of foraging fun! We will begin with a discussion and hands-on learning about fall mushroom identification. Then we will walk the Wood Lake trails (up to 1.5 miles of walking on flat trails) foraging for fungi while learning how to identify trees that are associated with fall mushrooms. This will be a beginner level class and no experience is necessary. It is not guaranteed we will find any mushrooms, but we will learn "how" to find and identify them. If we do find mushrooms, we will split any mushrooms we find with the group. Please note that foraging is not normally allowed in this park, but you will be allowed to pick mushrooms for this event. Registration required at woodlakenaturecenter.org.
Sunday, October 8 2:00-5:00 pm
\$59/person (No FOWL discount)

Family Beginner Archery **Limit 20**
Learn one of the oldest arts still practiced today! Practice archery basics and safety, shoot at stationary targets, and play games. Equipment provided. Everyone attending must register and pay. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by a registered adult. Dress for the weather. Ages 8+ Registration required at woodlakenaturecenter.org.
Sunday 2:30-4:30 pm
September 24 \$10/person, 50% off for members

Live Animal Hour **Limit 25**
Meet Wood Lake Nature Center's animal ambassadors up close! Come learn about the reptiles and amphibians native to Minnesota that call Wood Lake their home. See them slither on the ground, touch their shell, and watch them eat! Make an animal craft to take home. Online registration at woodlakenaturecenter.org is preferred; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits.
Saturday, September 30 12:00-1:00 pm
Saturday, November 4 9:30-10:30 am
\$5/person, 50% off for members

Apple Cidering **Limit 25**
Discover the history and age-old tradition of cidering while mashing and pressing apples into cider. Taste a variety of apples and learn how to blend different kinds of apples together into a delicious mix of cider. Enjoy a short fall hike while the cider sweetens through oxidation! Online registration at woodlakenaturecenter.org is preferred; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits.
Sunday, October 1 12:30-2:00 pm and 3:00-4:30 pm
Saturday, October 7 3:00-4:30 pm
Sunday, October 8 12:00-1:30 pm
\$5/person, 50% off for members

Autumn Bird Migration Hike **Limit 15**
Head out on a fall hike seeking the birds that migrate through Wood Lake. We will discuss the challenges that birds face during migration, as well as where they are headed. Binoculars and field guides will be available for loan. Online registration at woodlakenaturecenter.org is preferred; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits. \$5/person, 50% off for members
Sunday, October 15 12:30-2:00 pm or 3:00-4:30 pm
Sunday, November 19 3:00-4:30 pm

Old-Fashioned Halloween Party **Limit 40**
Come in costume to this old-fashioned Halloween party with games, treats and refreshments! Help make fresh-pressed apple cider, play some games and go on a Halloween-themed scavenger hunt to earn a special "treat"! Arrive anytime between 1:00-2:00 pm; event ends at 3:00 pm. Online registration at woodlakenaturecenter.org is preferred; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits.
Sunday 1:00-3:00 pm
October 29 \$5/person, 50% off for members

Make a Mushroom Block **Limit 20**
Join Tony from The Mushroom Block for an exhilarating workshop where you will learn the art of mushroom cultivation and create your own oyster mushroom grow kits to take home! Gain hands-on experience by inoculating straw with grain spawn, acquire knowledge needed to incorporate fungi into your home and garden, and connect with community. Ages 8+. Registration required at woodlakenaturecenter.org.
Sunday 2:30-4:30 pm
November 5 \$15/person (No FOWL discount)

Build a Bird Feeder **Limit 30**
Attract birds to your yard by providing easy winter food. Build your own repurposed cedar seed feeder and learn what kind of seed to offer and where to place it to attract the most birds. Online registration preferred at woodlakenaturecenter.org; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits.
Sunday 12:30-2:00 pm
November 12 \$3/person, 50% off for members + \$8/feeder

Geocaching Basics **Limit 20**
Learn the basics of this family-friendly activity that combines high-tech treasure hunts and nature discovery. Then spend the rest of the program exploring around Wood Lake on a course designed for beginners. Geocaching involves looking for a cache using a global positioning system (GPS) unit. All equipment provided. Registration at woodlakenaturecenter.org is preferred; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits.
Sunday 12:30-2:00 pm
November 26 \$5/person, 50% off for members

Rolled Beeswax Candles **Limit 40**
Enjoy making beautiful candles using sheets of pure beeswax that you roll by hand around a wick. Beeswax is a natural product that burns completely and doesn't drip or smoke. They are fun and easy to make, look and smell great, and make fantastic homemade holiday gifts! Clear plastic gift bags and curly ribbon are included. This is a great adult-child activity. Online registration at woodlakenaturecenter.org is preferred; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits.
Sunday 1:00-2:00, 2:00-3:00 or 3:00-4:00 pm
December 3 \$3/person, 50% off for members + \$2.50 per candle

Make a Gingerbread House **Limit 15 Houses**
Make a sweet holiday memory! Build and decorate a gingerbread and candy house. Colorful houses make a great decoration during the holiday season! Online registration at woodlakenaturecenter.org is preferred; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits.
Saturday 12:30-2:00 or 2:30-4:00 pm
December 9 \$3 per person, free for members, + \$15 per house

Gaming With Nature **Drop In**
Try your hand at a host of nature-based board games. Themes include birds, plants, animals, insects, and more. Games can take anywhere from 15 minutes to 3 hours to play depending on which game you choose. Learn about a variety of nature concepts and topics while having fun with your friends, family, and fellow community members. Drop in whenever works for you, no registration required.
Sunday 12:30-4:30 pm
December 10 FREE

Dragonflies & Butterflies Art Workshop **Limit 20**
Learn how to use alcohol ink, nails, and a little magic to create beautiful dragonflies and butterflies with translucent wings during this class! You will have the opportunity to make 2 dragonflies and 4 butterflies. This is a great gift idea for the holidays! Instructor: Michelle Schick from Phenomenal Lass Designs. Feel free to bring your own snacks and drinks to this class! Registration required at woodlakenaturecenter.org.
Sunday 12:30-2:00 pm
December 17 \$35/person (No FOWL discount) Ages 5+



Bilingual Yin-Yoga **Limit/Maxima 18**
Join us for a relaxing yin yoga class. This will be a gentle and relaxing all-level class that works deeply into the connective tissues working on the hips, pelvis, and lower spine. Come for the one hour yoga practice, stay for a fire and cocoa after class. Bring a water bottle and yoga mat or blanket. Instructor: Wendy Zúñiga. Registration required at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org; walk-ins welcome as spots are available. Únase a nosotros para una relajante clase de yin yoga. Esta será una clase suave y relajante para todos los niveles que trabaja profundamente en los tejidos conectivos que trabajan en las caderas, la pelvis y la parte inferior de la columna. Vengan por la yoga, y quédense por la fogata y el cacao después de clase. 1 hora de duración. Traigan botella de agua y mate de yoga o sabana. Se requiere inscripción en woodlakenaturecenter.org, se aceptan visitas sin cita previa ya que hay lugares disponibles.
Sunday/Domingo 3:00-4:30 pm \$7/person (No FOWL discount)
December 17 \$7/persona sin descuento de miembros



ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Owls and Other Fantasies: Poems and Essays by Mary Oliver
October 2

The Conscious Closet by Elizabeth Cline
November 6

Through a Window by Jane Goodall
December 4

Wood Lake Nature Book Club
Join other adults to discuss some wonderful environmental and outdoor recreation-based books. Refreshments will be provided. All books are available at local libraries or may be available for loan through the nature center. Pre-registration and payment is required. Register online at woodlakenaturecenter.org or call 612-861-9365.
Mondays 6:30-8:00 pm

ADULT/CHILD PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Nature Adventurers (ages 3-5) **Limit 15**
Young explorers (ages 3-5) accompanied by an adult will have an exciting time exploring a different natural topic each visit based on the season. Together with your child, enjoy stories, crafts, hands-on activities, and outdoor discovery time. Please dress for the weather as we will head outside rain or shine for each session. Online registration at woodlakenaturecenter.org required. \$10/child +1 adult, \$5/additional child.
Wednesdays 10:00-11:15 am
Insects Galore! September 13
Terrific Turtles September 27
Apple Cidering October 11
Fall Colors October 25
Slugs and Bugs November 8
Time to Sleep November 22
Storybook Hike December 6
Winter Wonderland December 20

Community-Led Bird Club **Limit 30**
Wood Lake Nature Center Bird Club was created to provide an opportunity for bird enthusiasts to gather, communicate, and share in their love for birds! This community-led gathering was created to encourage bird watchers, hobbyists, professional photographers, and those who want to learn more about birds to share information related to the birds who visit the park. Participants may use the club to exchange photos and art, encourage and inspire others to learn about birds, and display photos on Wood Lake's social media. The bird club is an informal gathering which is led by the participants. Call 612-861-9365 for more information and visit woodlakenaturecenter.org to register. Ages 16+
FREE
Wednesday, September 6 8:30-9:30 am
Wednesday, October 4 8:30-9:30 am

Bird Hike **Limit 15**
Fall is an exciting time to spot migrating birds. Enjoy an educational and leisurely walk through the nature center on a guided bird hike. Both amateur and advanced bird watchers are welcome! Binoculars and field guides are available for loan. Register online at woodlakenaturecenter.org. Class will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.
Tuesdays 5:30-7:00 pm
September 12 & 19 \$5/person per hike, Free for members

Night Hike **Limit 15**
Come explore different phases of the moon and view the urban night sky. We will keep our eyes and ears open for owls, coyotes, and happenings in the night sky. Register online at woodlakenaturecenter.org.
Wednesday, September 20 7:30-9:00 pm
Tuesday, October 3 7:30-9:00 pm
Thursday, November 9 5:30-7:00 pm
\$5/person per hike, Free for members



WINTER BREAK KIDS CAMPS

Mini Snowflakes Camp (ages 5-7) **Limit 15**
Embrace all the fun a Minnesota winter has to offer in this 3-day winter break camp! Campers will run snowshoe races, build forts in the snow, explore the Nature Play Area in its winter form, and make treats around the fire. Indoors we will meet a few of our animal friends. Online registration required at woodlakenaturecenter.org.
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm
December 27-29 \$65/child per class

Arctic Escapades! (ages 8-12) **Limit 15**
Embrace all the fun a Minnesota winter has to offer in this 3-day sampler! Campers will run snowshoe races, build forts and snow sculptures, find animal tracks, play winter games like tug-o'-war, and make treats around the fire. Indoors we will meet a few of our animal friends and make crafts. Online registration required at woodlakenaturecenter.org.
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm
December 27-29 \$65/child per class

Winter Sampler (ages 6-12) **Limit 30**
Campers will spend a fun-filled afternoon enjoying some of the most popular winter activities Wood Lake has to offer: snowshoeing, building winter forts, and exploring the park looking for tracks! Online registration required at woodlakenaturecenter.org.
Thursday 1:00-4:00 pm
December 28 \$30/child per class

Friends of Wood Lake (FOWL) Fundraising Dinner

Friday, November 3, 6:00 pm (social), 7:00 pm (dinner)

Immerse yourself in an evening filled with camaraderie and support for FOWL's vital mission. Starting with a social gathering at 6:00 pm, followed by a delectable dinner at 7:00 pm, this event promises to be a remarkable experience. Be prepared for an exciting silent auction where you can bid on an array of unique items. Additionally, we are thrilled to welcome **Emily Hall**, a registered nurse and an advocate of holistic well-being as our speaker. Drawing from her extensive knowledge in nursing, energetic therapies, and a profound love for nature, Emily will provide a fresh perspective on discovering our holistic selves through meaningful interactions and the healing aspects of nature. **Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington** will serve as our venue, providing an elegant and comfortable setting for this special occasion. Secure your spot now by purchasing tickets online at woodlakenaturecenter.org. **Tickets are \$75 (\$85 after October 12). Last day to register is October 26, so act swiftly to reserve your place.**

Friends of Wood Lake (FOWL) So many benefits to enjoy as a member!



Friends of Wood Lake Nature Center (FOWL) memberships help protect vital wildlife habitat, support educational programs and interpretive displays, and come with great benefits for you to enjoy. Memberships are good for one year and include these benefits:

- **50%** admission to Saturday and Sunday Specials
- **Free** admission Half-Haunted Halloween, Candlelight & Ice, and Adult Book Club (members must still register)
- **Free** onsite cross-country ski and snowshoe rental and a 10% discount on select programs and merchandise.

See membership levels for additional benefits.

Individual (\$30) Basic membership benefits (listed above) for one person.

Family (\$50) Basic membership benefits for a maximum of two named adults residing at the same address and their dependent children or grandchildren under age 18.

Sustaining (\$100) Family benefits plus four Wood Lake mugs.

Corporate (\$250) Family benefits for one family plus engraved plaque.

Life (\$1,000) Family benefits plus framed Wood Lake photo.

Where Nature and Community Meet

The City of Richfield's Wood Lake Nature Center is a 150-acre natural area dedicated to environmental education, wildlife observation, and outdoor recreation. Three miles of trails and boardwalks wind through the park. The trails are either blacktop or crushed limestone and most are wheelchair accessible during summer months. To preserve the natural habitat, pets, bikes, rollerblades, and smoking are not allowed. The Interpretive Center offers visitors a chance to learn more about plants, animals, and the environment through live animal displays and interactive exhibits. Naturalists are available to answer questions during building hours. **Online registration begins on August 21 at 9:00 am.** For information about classes, programs, or facilities, visit woodlakenaturecenter.org or call 612-861-9365.

BUILDING HOURS Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am-5:00 pm; Sunday: 12:00-5:00 pm

Building is closed on legal holidays. Trails remain open

PARK HOURS

Daily: 5:00 am-11:00 pm

Assessibility

- 7 accessible parking spaces
- Parking lot bordered by sidewalk with 3 curb cutouts close to ramp entrance and 2 gate entrances
- Automatic door opener at main entrance
- ADA-compliant drinking fountain
- Boardwalk trail combination of paved and crushed limestone
- 2 accessible amphitheaters on the property
- Accessible dock close to nature center
- Accessible picnic tables available in picnic shelter, gateway picnic area by parking lot, and by pollinator garden near the nature center building.
- For specific accommodations, please contact 612-861-9366 with advanced notice
- All-terrain wheelchairs (Grit Freedom Chairs) are available for trail use. These manual, all-terrain wheelchairs have a chain drive system the visitor can operate themselves, or a companion can assist with the handlebars. Adult and youth-sized chairs are available. Visitors can check out the wheelchairs at the front desk for use on site or call ahead to reserve at 612-861-9365.

Group Programs and Fees Interpretive Naturalists have developed engaging, hands-on programs for schools, homeschools, childcare centers, scout groups, seniors, adults with disabilities, & other groups. Cost is \$5 per participant (\$50 minimum). For a program list, visit woodlakenaturecenter.org. Call 612-861-9365 for availability.

Refund Policies Saturday and Sunday Specials: If cancellation is made at least 2 weeks prior to the event, a full refund of 100% will be provided. Cancellations made less than 2 weeks before the event will receive a partial refund of 50%.

Special Events: Please note that special events such as Half-Haunted Halloween and Candlelight & Ice are non-refundable and refunds will not be issued for these events.

Birthday Parties: Refunds are not available for birthday parties; however, you have the option to reschedule the party within six months of the original date.

Room Rentals The nature center offers a wonderful setting and central location in the metro area for meetings, parties, memorials, anniversaries, and receptions. Auditorium rental includes seating for 60-80, tables and chairs, use of the fireplace, and a beautiful view of the marsh. Homemade and/or catered food is allowed. Non-alcoholic beverages only; no helium balloons. Renters are responsible for set-up and take-down of tables and chairs. Rental hours must include any set-up and take-down time. Additional information can be found at woodlakenaturecenter.org. Call 612-861-9365 for availability.

Rental Fee	\$60/hour for private party rentals
Non-profit Fee	\$42/hour for non-profit groups



6710 Lake Shore Drive
Richfield, Minnesota 55423
www.woodlakenaturecenter.org
612-861-9365

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 2256
TWIN CITIES MN

Wood Lake Nature Center 2023 Fall Programs and Events

HALF-HAUNTED HALLOWEEN

Celebrate the spirit of Halloween without the fright at Wood Lake's Half-Haunted Halloween! This beloved annual event is perfect for families looking for a fun-filled experience. Embark on a delightful journey along the Trick or Treat Trail where you'll encounter exciting activity stations and meet friendly costumed characters. Marvel at the mesmerizing tricks of a magician performing in our outdoor amphitheater while indulging in delicious hot cocoa and cookies. And to cap off the evening, join us for a marvelous barn dance in the scenic picnic area! To ensure a smooth experience, tickets are available for specific entry times, with intervals of every 20 minutes between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Remember, tickets must be purchased in advance at woodlakenaturecenter.org, as no tickets will be sold at the door. All adults and children aged 2 and above need to purchase an admission ticket. Most attendees will spend 1-1.5 hours enjoying the event. While all attendees will have a wonderful time, the event is primarily designed for young children up to the age of 10.



There are no refunds for this event. **No tickets will be available at the door.** Must reserve tickets in advance, including FOWL members.
Saturday, October 21 1:00-5:00 pm (event ends at 6:30 pm)
\$6/person, Free for Friends of Wood Lake members

MUST PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE FOR BOTH OF THESE EVENTS!

CANDLELIGHT & ICE: New Year's Eve Event

Join us for an enchanting New Year's Eve experience. Embark on a captivating journey along a scenic walking trail illuminated by countless flickering candles, nestled amidst cattails and majestic trees. Keep your eyes peeled for glimpses of graceful deer, elusive coyotes, and wise owls that may cross your path. Revel in the invigorating winter evening air as you make your way back to the building, where you can roast marshmallows over a crackling fire and warm your spirits with delightful hot cocoa. To secure your spot at this memorable event, make sure to purchase your tickets in advance at woodlakenaturecenter.org. Admission is \$6 per person, and it's free for members of the Friends of Wood Lake (FOWL). Don't forget, even FOWL members need to reserve their tickets in advance. Please note: **No tickets will be available at the door, there are no refunds for this event.** The doors open at 5:00 pm, but we recommend arriving by 8:15 pm to allow ample time to fully immerse yourself in all the activities offered.

Sunday, December 31

Event entry: 5:00 pm- 9:00 pm
\$6/person, Free for Friends of Wood Lake members

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Wood Lake Nature Center offers a variety of birthday parties that are fun, educational, and the mess stays with us! Wood Lake provides a naturalist-led activity and use of the party room with tables, chairs, and tablecloths. Payment is due when the party is booked; birthday parties start promptly at the scheduled time. In general, parties are offered on Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 am, 12:00-2:00 pm, and 2:30-4:30 pm. Sunday afternoons are also sometimes available. Call 612-861-9365 to check availability and book a party. Refunds are not available for birthday parties. If necessary, you have the option to reschedule the party within six months of the original date.

Time: 2 hours total (first hour with naturalist, second hour in party room without naturalist)
Fee: \$125 for up to 10 children;
\$5 per additional child, 15 children maximum



Optional Add-Ons:

- Treat Bags:** \$4 per bag includes WLNC pencil, magnifying bug box, plastic insect, dinosaur eraser, scratch art animal, and toy snake. (Items in the bag are subject to change.)
- Green Party:** \$10 includes reusable plates, bowls, drinking cups, silverware, and recycled paper napkins.

Choose from the following themes:

- **Critter Hunt (ages 4-5)** Become nature detectives and go outside to look for clues from hidden animals that live at Wood Lake.
- **Treasure Hunt (ages 5-9)** Lead the group in a hunt for hidden treasure. Solve riddles along the trail to receive puzzle-piece clues. Once the puzzle is put together, the treasure can be found!
- **Scaly Tales (ages 5-12)** Meet a live snake, turtle, and salamander to learn all about these amazing creatures! Time permitting, hike outside with a naturalist to look for reptiles and amphibians in their natural habitat.
- **Tracks and Trails (ages 5-12)** Make a plaster track to take home, then hike the trails to look for real animal tracks outside.
- **Games Galore (ages 7-12)** Hawk vs. crows, squirrel tag, everybody's in! Play fun, nature-oriented games chosen by birthday child.
- **Geocache Party (ages 8-12)** Learn the basics of using a GPS and go on a high tech trek through Wood Lake.
- **Survival Birthday (ages 8-12)** Learn the basics of survival and build an outdoor shelter. Work together to see if your group can survive!