



SUMMER 2021 PROGRAMS INCLUDING SUMMER CAMPS



Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division

See a full listing of all the upcoming programs at www.calvertparks.org . Online registration is recommended. *The schedule of events is subject to changed based on the status of the coronavirus response, weather, staffing and other situations that may arise. If Calvert Nature Society or Calvert County Natural Resources Division cancels a program, a full refund will be issued.*

Programs for Families

Families experience the fascinating natural world found in our area. These programs incorporate activities for learners of all ages.

Most programs spend time outdoors: dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org .

Adult participation required unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Recycled Bird Feeders

Ages 4-6

Monday, April 19, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Enjoy a read-aloud story about backyard birds. Bring an empty half gallon paper or plastic screw top jug to paint a bird feeder. Wear clothes that can get messy.

Roots to Shoots

All Ages

Saturday, May 1, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Full)

Saturday, May 1, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Do you know how seeds grow? Join us as we explore the fascinating world of plants and seeds. Experience the variety of seeds in the world and discover how a single seed turns into a plant. Even take home a seedling of your own to start your own at home garden.

Happy Helpful Horseshoe Crabs!

Ages 1.5-5

Thursday, May 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Horseshoe crabs are one of the coolest animals that inhabit the Chesapeake Bay. Come learn all about these amazing prehistoric animals and then take a walk on the beach to look for them!

Horseshoe Crab Walk

Ages 8 and older

Friday, June 4, 9:00-11:30 p.m. (Full)

Friday, June 4, 9:30-11:30 p.m. (Full)

Friday, June 4, 10:00-11:30 p.m. (Full)

Moth Mania!

Ages 8 years old and older

Saturday, June 19, 8:00-9:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Learning to observe our local moths is a fun and easy pastime for families. We will get to know our local moth species up close and personal as we go mothing. Learn to attract moths, identify them and log them on iNaturalist for research purposes. Participants should bring a flashlight and insect spray.

Butterfly Safari (Members Only)

Ages 5 and older

Saturday, July 10, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

We will take a photo safari and hunt for butterflies. Bring your family and your cell phone cameras to "capture" these beautiful creatures. We will get a quick overview of some of our common local butterflies, photography tips, and an intro on how to upload your captures to iNaturalist for documentation. Then head off to explore the meadows on your own for some great photo opportunities.

Animal Olympics

All Ages

Saturday, July 31, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

Are you faster than a deer? Can you jump higher than a grasshopper? Come see how you would fare against some of the best athletes in the animal kingdom in this fun field-day event!

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org .

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.
Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

S'moresgasbord Campfire (Member Only)

All Ages

Saturday, August 14, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Celebrate National S'mores Day with a sweet campfire feast! You bring the makings, and we will provide you with recipes and a toasty campfire to roast up your gourmet s'mores treats. Then enjoy some campfire fun while we eat our sweet creations. You will be provided an ingredients list ahead of the program so that you can come prepared to create some unique s'mores recipes.

Cicada Safari

All Ages

Saturday, August 21, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Hear that buzzing in the trees? Those are cicadas, one of nature's coolest creatures! Some cicadas spend up to 17 years underground before emerging as adults, and they have an awful lot to say about it! Come learn more about that buzzing sound and the animals that make it, and we'll see if we can find any!

Cricket Crawl

Ages 5 and older

Saturday, August 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Join a naturalist for a night hike and a sound census of the late summer crickets and katydids. Learn to identify different species of crickets by their calls and go for a short hike to see what species we can hear.

Pickin' Up Paw Paws

Ages 5 and older

Saturday, September 25, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Come meet Maryland's best kept secret fruit - the native Paw Paw. Take a walk to learning about these delectable, tropical-tasting fruits and view them during their ripening season. Learn about their importance to wildlife, historic peoples of the region - and even get to taste the fruit! Hike is approximately 1 mile and is not stroller-friendly.

Homeschool Fridays

Homeschool First Fridays is a series of environmental education programs developed especially for homeschoolers ages 4 to 12. These classes are a great way to get hands-on science and nature lessons, receive help on projects and research and network with other homeschooling families. Each two-hour program will consist of indoor and outdoor hands-on learning. Depending on the topic, students may observe live animals, collect aquatic creatures, take measurements of water quality or play games. Students will be grouped by age to allow for age appropriate topic exploration. Parents with younger children will stay with the group; parents of older children have the option to stay and participate as mentors and teachers. Siblings younger than 3 are welcome but must be under the care of a parent/guardian at all times and should not distract other participants.

Water is important - in so many ways. During this homeschool series we will explore some of the properties that make water unique and think about how we use water. Zoom meetings will serve as a springboard for at-home, in-your-yard or kitchen experiments. Each month will feature a different watery theme. Naturalist: Tania Gale

**Ages 4-12, with adult
Reservations required.
Free for society members.
Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.
Friday, April 9
Friday, May 7
Friday, June 4
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom**

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org .

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.
Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Events for Adults & Older Children

Adult M.A.P.S. Bird Banding

Adults

Sunday, June 6, 5:30-11:00 a.m.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

Join us for a fun day of bird banding at our Monitoring Avian Production and Survivorship (MAPS) bird banding station. You will learn why bird banding is an important part of bird research and get to see some birds up close and in the hand during the banding process.

Date of program is subject to change depending on the banding schedule.

Teen Birding Hike

Ages 12-18

Saturday, April 17, 7:00-10:00 am Flag Ponds Nature Park

Saturday, May 8, 7:00-10:00 am Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Join us for an early morning birding hike through the park. Members of the Southern Maryland Youth Birders Group will be in attendance so it's a great way to meet other birders your age. We will hike along the trails to try and get a view of an eagle's nest. We will be socially distancing and wearing masks.

M.A.P.S. Bird Banding

For Ages 12-18: Saturday, June 5, 5:30-11:00 a.m.

For Adults: Sunday, June 6, 5:30-11:00 a.m.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

Join us for a fun day of bird banding at our Monitoring Avian Production and Survivorship (MAPS) bird banding station. You will learn why bird banding is an important part of bird research and get to see some birds up close and in the hand during the banding process.

Date of program is subject to change depending on the banding schedule.

Kayaking the Patuxent River

Participants must be at least 9 years old to accompany an adult in a double kayak, and at least 12 years old to ride in a single kayak. Those under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Fee per person: \$15 for Society members per person. \$10 discount if you bring your own kayak.

Marvelous Marsh Kayak Trip (Members Only)

Saturday, June 5, 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 12, 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

A perfect trip for beginners to learn about kayaking and the biology of the marsh. We will focus on basic kayak skills and marsh ecology.

Summer Camp

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org.

Adult participation is not required. Children must be entering the grade indicated for each program by.
Summer camps are held throughout the different nature parks. Check details on the web site.

Marvelous Mud

Grades 3-5

Monday-Friday, June 21-25, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

At the end of a summer day, if a child isn't dirty, there is something missing. Dirt is teeming with life, and is often the sign of a good time. In this camp we will dig into underground ecosystems - exploring different habitats to discover who and what is underfoot. We will investigate different kinds of soil we have in the park and, of course, play in the mud!

Fee per child: \$150 for members; \$180 for nonmembers.

Night Owls

Grades 4-6

Tuesday-Thursday, June 29-July 1, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Summer nights can be magical - with frogs and crickets singing and fireflies glowing in the trees. This camp will get us outdoors to experience the mysteries of the night. Campers will have fun together exploring the beach, swamp, and forest while learning what makes night animals special. We will also play games, build shelters, make a campfire and enjoy campfire snacks!

Fee per child: \$60 for members; \$75 for nonmembers.

River Runners

Grades 6-8

Monday-Friday, July 12-16, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Varies, see description

Each day of this camp will bring campers up-close and personal with the Patuxent River and the creeks that flow into it. Campers will learn paddling fundamentals: safety, strokes, and rescues - as well as learning firsthand about water quality and the natural history of the river.

Fee per child: \$150 for members; \$180 for nonmembers.

Fantastic Forests

Grades 2-3

Monday-Friday, July 26-30, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

In this week-long forest adventure, campers will spend every day in the forest - exploring every nook and cranny. They will hike the trails from the sandy pines near the beach to the tall beeches and maples in the upland forest and everywhere in between. We will have fun wading into wet forests, rolling logs to see what animals live under the dead trees, and playing games to help us learn why forest communities are important.

Fee per child: \$150 for members; \$180 for nonmembers.

Outdoor Skills

Grades 3-5

Monday-Friday, August 2-6, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Varies, see description

Whether your child is already at home outside or needs a little encouragement, this outdoor skills camp introduces campers to some of the basic skills necessary to keep them safe and self-reliant in the "wild." We'll spend the week exploring the natural resources of Calvert County while learning outdoor skills like: navigation, animal tracking, shelter building, and fire safety.

Fee per child: \$150 for members; \$180 for nonmembers.

Nature Photography

Grades 4-6

Monday-Friday, July 19-23, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Varies, see description

Campers will capture the natural wonders of Calvert County Parks on camera. In addition to fun camp activities, they will learn camera basics and picture-taking tips. After camp on Friday, families are invited to a presentation highlighting campers' work. Campers must provide their own digital camera.

Fee per child: \$150 for members; \$180 for nonmembers.

Trailblazers Hiking Camp

Grades 3-5

Monday-Friday, July 5-9, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Varies, see description

Campers will explore the beauty of Calvert County in this beginner hiking camp. In addition to fun camp activities, we will play trail games and learn about basic hiking safety at four different Calvert County parks throughout the week.

Fee per child: \$150 for members; \$180 for nonmembers.

Birding Adventures

Grades 6-8

Monday-Thursday, June 21-24, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Varies, see description

Take your interest in birds to the next level with this camp. From the forest to the shore we will be learning about the many species of birds that call our area home. We will teach you how to identify birds by their song and appearance. You will also get the chance to observe a bird banding research project. Bring your binoculars and your camera for a fun adventure.

Fee per child: \$120 for members; \$150 for nonmembers.

CALVERT STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Assisting at the parks is a rewarding way to raise awareness of the importance of our natural lands. Use your experience to help preserve our future in Calvert County by becoming one of our Calvert Stewards. Some projects are appropriate for families and teens.

How to Become a Calvert Steward?

Explore our Calvert Steward web site <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com> to learn about the different Programs and Opportunities.

Nature Center Garden Work Day

Ages 13 and older, under 18 with adult

Thursday, April 22, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 5, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Volunteers are needed to help our staff with the maintenance and upkeep of the trails and gardens around Battle Creek Nature Center. From invasive plant removal, to routine garden care, to maintaining the nature play space and trails - there is always something to be done. Volunteers must be able to perform moderately strenuous physical tasks.

Kayak Leader Training

18 and up

Saturday, May 22, 9:00a.m.-4:30p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Are you interested in helping out with our kayak trips? This training course will cover getting boats to the water, paddle strokes, rescues, and routes for our trips. While this program is free we expect volunteers to help with two trips during the following season. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old