

# Patuxent Research Refuge



## Winter 2021/2022 Programs

### NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive  
Laurel, MD 20724

#### Scouts BSA Cooking Merit Badge Elsie

Sun., Dec. 19th, 1:00 - 4:00 Intro.  
Sun., Jan. 9th, 1:00 - 4:00 Home Cook  
Sun., Feb. 6th, 1:00 - 4:00 Camp Cook  
Ages 10-17, registration required  
Join us as we work on different portions of the BSA Cooking merit badge. Contact Elsie at [misholler@gmail.com](mailto:misholler@gmail.com) for homework, further instructions, and to discuss dietary/allergy restrictions.

#### Scouts BSA Personal Fitness Merit Badge

Sun., Jan 16th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
Sun., Feb 13th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
Ages 10-17, registration required  
Scouts must have a current BSA physical. Participants attend first or second session. Contact Elsie at [misholler@gmail.com](mailto:misholler@gmail.com) for homework and further instructions.

#### Owl Pellets

Sun, Jan. 23rd, 1:30 -2:30 pm  
Sun, Feb. 27th, 1:30 -2:30 pm  
Ages. 6 - 12, registration required  
What did Mr. Owl eat? We'll find out as we dissect an owl pellet. During the program we'll also get to meet a live Screech Owl.

### SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop  
Laurel, MD 20708

#### Owl & Kestrel

Sun., Dec. 12th, 1:30 - 2:30 pm  
Sun., Jan 9th, 1:30 - 2:30 pm  
Sun., Feb. 13th, 1:30 - 2:30 pm  
All ages, registration required  
Meet two of North America's smallest birds of prey: the American Kestrel and Eastern Screech Owl. Both expert hunters, the American Kestrel uses its acrobatic prowess, while the Eastern Screech Owl is a stealthy hunter. Program will be inside the Visitor Center.

#### B.A.R.K. Ranger Training

Sat. Jan 8th, 2:00 - 3:00 pm  
All ages, registration required  
Does your dog enjoy walking the trails at Patuxent? Bring your dog to our new BARK Ranger training and upon completion your dog can monitor the trails as a certified B.A.R.K. Ranger. (Participating youth must be accompanied by an adult.)

#### Let it snow!

Tues.- Sat., All of January  
9:00 am - 4:30 pm  
All ages, no registration  
Snow, sleet and freezing rain! What's the difference between them? How are they formed? Learn more about winter precipitation and the water cycle through interactive displays, games and crafts for all ages. On display in the Visitor Center lobby area throughout the month of January.



#### Become a Junior Wildlife Ranger!

Sat., Jan 29th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Sat., Feb 19th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Ages 6 - 10, registration required  
Join a Refuge Ranger to explore 5 nature related activities. Complete your Junior Wildlife Ranger activity booklet and earn a JWR badge!

(See Reverse Side)

### REGISTRATION

Programs are **free**. Some programs require advance registration by calling **301-497-5887**. Masks are required for attendees in accordance with State and Federal guidelines. Programs are subject to changes or cancellation due to weather or low participation. Please notify the refuge of any special needs so that you may be accommodated. Join our email list by contacting [timothy\\_parker@fws.gov](mailto:timothy_parker@fws.gov). More information can be found at: [www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent).

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## SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop  
Laurel, MD 20708

### Who was here?

Tues.- Sat., All of February

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

All ages, no registration

Be a wildlife detective! Animal tracks in freshly fallen snow tell a story. Can you identify who made the tracks? Can you figure out what they were doing? Learn more about identifying animals from the clues they leave behind through interactive displays, games and crafts for all ages. On display in the Visitor Center lobby area throughout the month of February.

### Like a Lichen

Sun. Feb. 12th, 1:30-3:00 pm

You know the fauna, you know many of the plants, but do you know the lichen? These symbiotic fungi and algae live on trees and rocks in our forest. Learn to identify some of their species on this short nature walk.

### Kid's Discovery Center

Looking for something to do with your child that is fun, educational, and challenging? Join us at the Kid's Discovery Center in the lobby of the Visitor's Center! Each month, a new wildlife theme will engage pre-k/k aged children and parents using a variety of parent-lead, hands-on activities to learn about nature. A "Thank You for Joining Us!" packet filled with additional home activities will be given to each child at the conclusion of their session.

**Pre-register** by calling our front desk at **301 497-5760** to reserve a 35 minute time slot for you and your child. (please limit reservations to 2 time slots per child & adult per day). NOTE: Parents are required to work with their child at each of the parent-lead activities.

December: Birds in Winter. What do the birds do when winter comes and the weather gets cold? All activities are parent-directed and require advanced registration by calling **301 497-5760**: 9:00 - 9:35, 10:00 - 10:35, 11:00 - 11:35, and 12:00 - 12:35

January- What is torpor? Join us at the Kid's Discovery Center to learn about the mammals and birds in Maryland that experience this metabolic change in winter. All activities are parent-directed and require advanced registration by calling **301 497-5760**: Tues-Sat, 9:00-9:35, 10:00-10:35, 11:00-11:35, or 12:00-12:35.

February- When the leaves fall off, how can you tell what kind of tree or shrub it is? Join us at the Kid's Discovery Center to learn about bark, berries, and tell-tale signs of winter tree identification. All activities are parent-directed and require advanced registration by calling **301 497-5760**: Tues-Sat, 9:00-9:35, 10:00-10:35, 11:00-11:35, or 12:00-12:35.

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## Get to Know Our Friends Group

The Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Patuxent Research Refuge, Inc., is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization, and was formed in 1992 to support the mission and programs of the Patuxent Research Refuge and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland. Friends of Patuxent raise funds for educational programs, exhibits, and research. The focus of the research includes contaminants, migratory birds and studies of endangered species.



FriendsofPatuxent.org

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## Volunteer on the Refuge

Volunteers assist with running the visitor center, maintaining the refuge, and supporting wildlife management. Want to learn more? Go to <https://go.usa.gov/xHMph>

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