

Blackwater NWR 2023 Eagle Festival Schedule

Time	Activity/Program	Description
8:00 – 9:30 am	Birding With a Guide (approx. 1.5 hrs.)	EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!! Observe resident and migratory birds, including eagles, geese, ducks, herons, and songbirds with expert guide Terry Allen. Bring binoculars. Park at the Education Building on Wildlife Drive.
Tours (Visitor Center Parking Lot)		
10:00 & 11:30 am 1:00 & 2:30 pm	Eagle Prowl (approx. 1 hr. 15 min.)	Join our experienced volunteers and staff as we search for bald eagles on the refuge. Seating is limited. Registration begins at 9:30 am for all prowls. Limit 4 tickets per person. Once tickets are gone, seats will be filled on a stand-by basis. Tickets go fast so plan accordingly.
10:00 & 11:30 am 1:00 & 2:30 pm	Wildlife Drive Bus Tour (approx. 1 hr. 15 min.)	Join refuge staff on a tour of the wildlife drive. Learn how the refuge manages habitat for wildlife from the comforts of a commercial bus. Registration begins at 9:30 am for all tours. Limit 4 tickets per person. Once tickets are gone seats will be filled on a stand-by basis. Tickets go fast so plan accordingly.
Live Bird Programs (in the Program Tent)		
10:00 am	Masters of the Sky	Meet native birds of prey with naturalist Liz Smith and learn about their very successful hunting adaptations that make them masters of the sky!
11:30 am	Raptors Rule!	Mike Callahan of Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center will present an interactive live birds of prey program with fun information about the exciting lives of bald eagles and other native raptors of Maryland!
1:00 pm	Zoo-ological Conservation	Come learn about the role zoos play in conservation and education. The Salisbury Zoo participates in multiple Species Survival Plans, works to spread awareness for environmental issues and educates people of all ages about their ambassador and exhibit animals. Many of these animals play a key role in genetic diversity and are keystone species in their habitat.
2:30 pm	Raptors Rule!	A second chance to see Mike Callahan of Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center present an interactive live birds of prey program with fun information about the exciting lives of bald eagles and other native raptors of Maryland!
Exhibits/Demonstrations/Presentations (Visitor Center)		
All day	Throughout the Visitor Center	View live birds of prey with exhibitors from the Salisbury Zoo, Nanjemoy Creek Education Center, and Raptors Eye. Exhibits from the Friends of Blackwater, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Maryland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, USFWS Wildlife Inspectors, and Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research. 11 am – 3 pm Kids' face painting 11 am – 3 pm Live reptiles from Maryland Park Service's "Scales and Tales"
	Outside the Visitor Center	Check out the telescope recently installed by the Friends of Blackwater that will be used for night sky tours in the near future. Refuge volunteers Harry Heckathorn and Bob Quinn will be available throughout the day for questions.
Kids' Stuff (Activity Tents) – All Day While Supplies Last		
Nest Box Tent	Build a Bird Box	Construct a wren nest box to take home. All materials supplied.
Kids Activity Tent	Owl Pellet Exploration	Learn about the foods owls eat by dissecting an owl pellet.
	Kids' Make-and-Take	Make a wildlife magnet, binoculars, and thumbprint bookmark.
Range Tent	Archery	Kids can try their hand at archery at the indoor "Hoverball" range.
	BB Gun Range	A fun and safe shooting range staffed by the National Wild Turkey Federation.
All Day	Wildlife Drive	Free of Charge!
	Food	Purchase vittles from Boy Scout Troop 532. Visitor Center parking lot.
	Story walk	Families can enjoy a "StoryWalk®" along the Woods Trail with the picture book "Over in A River" by Marianne Berkes.