

Blackwater NWR 2023 Eagle Festival Tentative Schedule

Time	Activity/Program	Description
Tours (Visitor Center Parking Lot)		
8:00 – 9:30 am	Birding With a Guide (approx. 1.5 hrs.)	Observe resident and migratory birds, including eagles, geese, ducks, herons, and songbirds with expert guide Terry Allen. Bring binoculars. Park at Education Building.
10:00 & 11:30 am 1:00 & 2:30 pm	Eagle Prowl (approx. 1 hr. 15 min.)	Join our experienced volunteers and staff in a search for bald eagles on the refuge. Seating is limited. Registration begins at 9:30 am for all prowls. 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 biologists 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. Once tickets are gone seats will be filled on a stand-by basis. Tickets go fast so plan accordingly.
Live Bird Programs (in the Big Tent)		
10:00 am	Raptor Identification and Adaptation	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 Raptor’s Eye. Exhibits from the Friends of Blackwater, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Maryland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, and USFWS Wildlife Inspectors. 11 am – 3 pm Kids’ face painting 11 am – 3 pm Live reptiles from Maryland Park Service’s “Scales and Tales”
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 owls and the foods they like to eat while 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	Food	Purchase vittles from Boy Scout Troop 532. Visitor Center parking lot.